Restorative Approaches

@choiceolderppl
#choiceop
Restorative practice supports people to recognise that all of their activities affect others and that people are responsible for their choices and actions and can be held accountable for them. It enables people to reflect on how they interact with each other and consider how best to prevent harm and conflict.

Provides an opportunity to repair harm
Restorative Approaches provide a range of methods and strategies to prevent relationship damaging incidents or help to resolve them. Can provide participants with life skills to help pre-empt future conflict and pro-actively build community social cohesion and social capital. Can react or respond when things go wrong.
Restorative Justice or RJ emphasises repairing harm primarily caused by criminal or anti-social activity.

The process aims to give answers to those who have been harmed to try to repair the harm done.

It is not designed as an alternative to criminal justice proceedings but rather to deliver benefits that traditional CJS alone cannot.
Restorative Justice

- It holds those who have harmed others to account directly and personally
- Provides an insight to harmers into the real impact of their behaviour
- Creates an opportunity to repair the harm caused
- Can provide those harmed with closure and the opportunity to move on with their lives
- Vitally provides the possibility of re-integration

Can offer the opportunity to bring the harmer back into the family and for the older person to feel safe at home
Formal or Informal?

Formal models fall into 4 main categories:

1. Victim/Offender Conference

Meeting between the harmed and harmer and their supporters. A trained facilitator leads the meeting.
2. Family Group Conference

A group meeting attended by the harmer and their family/friends are invited to come together to resolve conflict or challenge behaviour. Can involve a wide range of professionals who can offer support to the family. Those harmed can also be invited to attend if appropriate.
3. Mediation
Following an incident a mediator speaks to each side, communicating what each person wants to say to the other. A mediator helps both sides to consider the problem as a shared one that needs a joint solution.

4. Circles
Participants arrange themselves in a circle. They pass a “talking piece” around the circle to allow people to speak one at a time.
Informal Approaches

Informal approaches tend to be more preventative than reactive and include:

- Using restorative questions
- Develop an understanding of our own and others thoughts and feelings – e.g. Restorative Thinking Programmes for offenders
- Developing empathic thinking
It is a safe space that enables all those involved to speak about the harm that has been caused.

It offers an opportunity for re-integration.

Provides safety and support through the process and beyond.
What Can it Offer in Terms of Elder Abuse?

- An alternative to the Criminal Justice System route
- The opportunity to address the harm whilst maintaining family relationships and staying in their own home
- Acknowledges the complexity of family relationships and breakdown

- CHOICE – DEWIS
Any Questions?