

# **Restorative Justice Protocol**

**A Protocol for Community-Based and non-Statutory Restorative Justice  
Organisations and Independent Restorative Practitioners in Northern Ireland**

**Published: 21 July 2023**

## **Protocol for Community-Based and non-Statutory Restorative Justice Organisations and Independent Restorative Practitioners**

### **Background and Context**

1. In 2007, the Northern Ireland Office put in place a [Protocol](#) to govern relations between the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System and community-based restorative justice (CBRJ) organisations in recognition of the role that such organisations can play in dealing with the types of low-level crimes that most commonly concern local communities.
2. The 2007 Protocol set out the core principles, identified by the United Nations, that serve to underpin restorative justice work; identified ways in which the community-based restorative justice organisations might work in partnership with the Criminal Justice System; and outlined basic standards expected of the CBRJ organisations that might be accredited to undertake such work.
3. A Review of the 2007 Protocol was commissioned by the Minister of Justice in February 2022, in part to reflect on the work undertaken under the auspices of the 2007 Protocol, and in part to reflect the changed criminal justice landscape where restorative justice has developed a much higher profile through the sustained use of restorative approaches and in a wider variety of contexts. These include use of restorative approaches by the Youth Justice Agency since 2003, restorative work undertaken by the PSNI, the Northern Ireland Prison Service, and the Probation Board NI, both through the work of staff and through work carried out in partnership with other organisations.
4. The Department of Justice is also aiming to expand the scope of utilising restorative justice within the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland through the implementation of the Adult Restorative Justice Strategy. This development will probably provide further opportunities for criminal justice agencies to work in partnership with community-based and non-statutory organisations, as well as with individual restorative practitioners, and will require greater numbers of people to be trained in restorative justice in order to

ensure that restorative approaches to criminal justice work are available equitably to people in all parts of Northern Ireland.

5. Following publication of the Review Panel's report on 27 February 2023, this revised Protocol will apply to community-based restorative justice schemes as well as any other non-statutory organisation or independent restorative practitioner that may provide restorative justice services to the Criminal Justice System (see paragraph 34 for more detail on the scope of this Protocol). Aspects of the Protocol will also apply to statutory sector organisations and their staff engaged in delivering restorative justice. These are highlighted, where applicable.
6. The Protocol has been designed to outline the processes to be followed and thus to provide the guarantees and assurances that any non-statutory organisation or individual working in partnership with the Criminal Justice System will be of an appropriate quality and standard. It also aims to ensure that the work of the non-statutory restorative justice providers promotes confidence in the Criminal Justice System and the rule of law within the wider community.

### **Statement of Purpose**

7. People who choose to participate in restorative justice will be confident that they will be safe from further harm, will be treated ethically, and will experience a high-quality service.
8. Restorative justice has been described as: *'any process which enables those harmed by crime, and those responsible for that harm, if they freely consent, to participate actively in the resolution of matters arising from the offence, through the help of a trained and impartial third party (hereinafter the 'facilitator')*'.<sup>1</sup> The definitions used by the Review Panel in their report are attached at **Annex A** for information.

---

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation CM/Rec (2018) 8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning restorative justice in criminal matters", Council of Europe (October 2018);

## **Fundamental Principles and Roles Underpinning Restorative Justice**

### ***Rule of Law***

9. It is a fundamental condition of achieving and sustaining accreditation that organisations and independent restorative practitioners must operate within the rule of law and have a proven track record of working with criminal justice agencies in Northern Ireland, in particular with PSNI. Organisations and independent restorative practitioners accredited under the Protocol will work to uphold the rule of law and promote confidence in the Criminal Justice System among the wider community.
  
10. If any of the criminal justice agencies have evidence-based concerns about the commitment, actual or perceived, to the rule of law by an accredited restorative justice organisation or practitioner, they shall report the matter to the Interim Protocol Lead, who shall review the situation and make recommendations where appropriate to the Minister of Justice. This is further dealt with in paragraphs 70 and 71.

### ***Human Rights***

11. All accredited restorative justice organisations and practitioners shall work to international human rights standards, including the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
  
12. It will be necessary for guidance to be prepared by the Department, in consultation with the NIHRC, setting out relevant human rights standards pertaining to the work of accredited restorative justice organisations and independent restorative practitioners.

### ***Restorative Justice***

13. The definition of Restorative Justice for the purpose of this Protocol is set out in paragraph 8 above. This should be a common vision for all statutory and non-statutory organisations and independent restorative practitioners involved in restorative justice.

14. Subject to the other provisions of this Protocol, statutory organisations and accredited restorative justice organisations and practitioners will adhere to the relevant sections of the UN Basic Principles on the use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters, in particular the following:

- restorative processes should be used only with the free and voluntary consent of the parties (which may be withdrawn at any time);
- agreements should be arrived at voluntarily and should be reasonable and proportionate;
- disparities leading to power imbalances, and the safety of the parties, should be taken into consideration in referring a case to, and during, a restorative process;
- parties should have the right to legal advice about the process;
- before agreeing to participate, parties should be fully informed of their rights, the nature of the process, and the possible consequences of their decision;
- neither victim nor perpetrator of harm should be coerced, or induced by unfair means, to participate in the process or to accept the outcome.

***Restorative Justice and the Criminal Justice System***

15. The Police Service of Northern Ireland has responsibility for the investigation of crime, and carries out its functions with the aim of securing the support of, and acting in cooperation with, the local community. Organisations and independent restorative practitioners accredited under the Protocol share the responsibility of helping to promote confidence in the Criminal Justice System, including the police.

16. It is important that crime is reported to the police. Non-statutory accredited restorative justice organisations and individuals must not only comply with the provisions of Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 in respect of those crimes deemed to be relevant offences, but they should report **any** offence to the police where they are aware of such information, for further investigation where necessary.

### **Interim Protocol Lead**

17. To facilitate the implementation of the revised Protocol and the effective expansion of restorative justice within the Criminal Justice System, the Minister of Justice should appoint an independent individual who can lead on all aspects of the work pertaining to the revised Protocol, on an interim basis.
18. The Interim Protocol Lead will be responsible for promoting and overseeing work relating to restorative justice within the Department; within the criminal justice agencies; with non-statutory restorative justice providers and with the wider public.
19. The Interim Protocol Lead should have responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Protocol, the work of the accredited restorative justice organisations, independent restorative practitioners and of departmental restorative justice initiatives. This will include: responsibility for undertaking formal accreditation work of non-statutory restorative justice organisations and independent restorative practitioners (perhaps assisted by an advisory expert panel); helping to determine standards of training and practice and ensure they are met; responsibility for dealing with any complaints about restorative justice work; work to raise awareness of restorative justice among the wider public; and promoting departmental work on restorative justice.

### **A Victim-Centred Approach**

20. The Protocol should promote a victim-centred approach, as outlined in the Adult Restorative Justice Strategy, and should work with the principles and framework set out in the Victim Charter. As such, it should provide opportunities for victims and communities affected by anti-social or criminal behaviour to play a role in the process, whether direct or indirect, in a safe, structured and supported environment.
21. Restorative justice should provide victims with a voice to express the harm felt and to help shape the redress an individual should make as a result. In doing so, restorative approaches should increase victims' confidence in the justice system. Wherever possible,

victims should be proactively engaged in restorative justice, rather than being asked to take part in a justice-driven process

22. There should be a supportive system for victims to refer themselves for a restorative intervention at any stage of the criminal justice process and regardless of when the offence occurred. All victims should be informed about what restorative justice is, its availability and how to gain access to support to consider whether it would be appropriate for their circumstances. Victims should be provided with a description of the restorative justice organisation or practitioner; their standards of practice; their range of experience and interventions; the restorative process that they will be participating in; and a summary of the Protocol in order that their agreement to participate is an informed choice.
  
23. All Protocol work should be mindful of a number of issues to ensure the safety and satisfaction of victims:
  - victim involvement, and indeed that of any party, in restorative practices must be voluntary in nature;
  - there should be no compunction to take part in a process, nor should victims ever be pressurised to do so; and there should be no adverse consequence should they decide not to do so;
  - where victims are engaged, they should be given the opportunity to withdraw their consent at any stage;
  - the process should aim to address their needs as victims of crime in addition to any rehabilitative effects it may be seeking to deliver for the offender;
  - victims should be informed of any potential impact a restorative engagement may have for the perpetrator, in terms of court, parole or other formal decision-making in the case;
  - victims may request a restorative engagement with the perpetrator at any time and at any stage of the perpetrator's involvement with the Criminal Justice System; and
  - the capacity (linguistic competence, disability, neurodiversity) of the victim to participate in the process and the availability of support to address such problems.

24. Due to the imbalance of power and the impact of trauma, some victims will be especially vulnerable and greater care and sensitivity will be required in enabling them to engage and participate in restorative justice practices. To work in these cases, facilitators will need to receive specialist training including trauma informed practice.
25. There will be a need for risk assessment and management in each case, to ensure appropriate safeguards are applied where necessary. Dependent on the specific nature or dynamics of the case, there may even be examples where a restorative approach is considered to be unsuitable, despite the willingness of all parties to engage. This highlights the importance of professionally trained individuals working to agreed standards of practice, to ensure the safety of all involved.

### **Perpetrators**

26. Perpetrators must admit responsibility for the commission of a criminal offence and must give their free and informed consent to participate in a restorative process.
27. When making a referral of a perpetrator for restorative justice, the following factors should be taken into consideration:
- the risks and opportunities that participation in a restorative justice process presents to the victim and the public and whether the risks can be managed;
  - the vulnerability of the perpetrator which may be associated with the impact of trauma or mental illness in their life;
  - power imbalances between the victim and the perpetrator; and
  - the capacity (linguistic competence, disability, neurodiversity) of the perpetrator to participate in the process and the availability of support to address such problems.

As already stated in paragraph 23, the process can only proceed if the victim agrees. The accredited restorative justice organisation or practitioner should therefore consider engagement with the victim at the most appropriate stage of the restorative justice process, to seek their views and consider how they might be supported to participate.



28. The perpetrator not consenting to participate or being assessed as unsuitable should not disadvantage him or her in any decision that a court or parole commissioner shall make.
29. The accredited restorative justice organisation or practitioner must make a perpetrator aware of all information on them and their offence that has been brought to their attention and all allegations made against them. Perpetrators must also be provided with appropriate levels of support during the restorative justice process.
30. Perpetrators will be provided with a description of the restorative justice organisation or practitioner; their standards of practice; their range of experience and interventions; the restorative process that they will be participating in; and a summary of the Protocol in order that their agreement to participate is an informed choice.
31. If, at any time, a perpetrator indicates that he or she wishes to withdraw from engagement with the restorative justice process the accredited restorative justice organisation or practitioner will immediately stop any formal engagement and will inform the referring criminal justice agency of this development, which will then take over responsibility for the case. Again, where a perpetrator withdraws from the restorative justice process, they should not be disadvantaged as a result.

### **Raising Awareness of Restorative Justice**

32. In aiming to increase the use of restorative justice within the Criminal Justice System it will be important to undertake work to promote awareness of the aims, scope and extent of restorative justice, as well as to acknowledge its limitations. This work should be led by the Interim Protocol Lead and will involve engaging with all sectors which may be impacted by the use of restorative approaches.
33. Particular work may need to be done in raising awareness of restorative approaches within the wider public and particularly within minority ethnic and migrant communities

and other sectors which might have limited prior engagement with the Criminal Justice System or understanding of restorative justice and restorative approaches.

### **Scope of the 2023 Restorative Justice Protocol**

34. This Protocol applies to all types of formal engagements between criminal justice agencies and accredited non-statutory restorative justice schemes and accredited independent restorative practitioners. These may include:

- Level One accredited restorative justice work below the criminal justice threshold;
- Level Two accredited restorative justice work relating to formal criminal justice cases; and
- Level Three accredited restorative justice work relating to gender-based violence and other complex and sensitive crimes.

35. Activities below these levels (Base level) will involve individuals and organisations working at community level and informally with PSNI and other statutory agencies. This may include, for example, preventative and diversionary activities; work in education or social welfare settings; and family or community mediation. There is no requirement for formal accreditation to undertake this work, although practitioners may choose to work within the same principles, standards and training as accredited organisations.

36. Level One activities are those undertaken in response to incidents that fall beneath the criminal justice threshold and which have the potential to cause significant impact on the local community or to escalate to criminal activities without the intervention of the PSNI and an accredited restorative justice organisation or individual, working together in partnership. These include cases relating to community tensions, community and neighbour-neighbour mediation and similar. Where there is potential for a case to fall within either the Base level or Level One, a decision on whether a referral is made under the Protocol, and to whom, will be a matter of discretion for the referring statutory agency.

37. Level Two work involves any work relating to formal criminal justice cases. These may include:

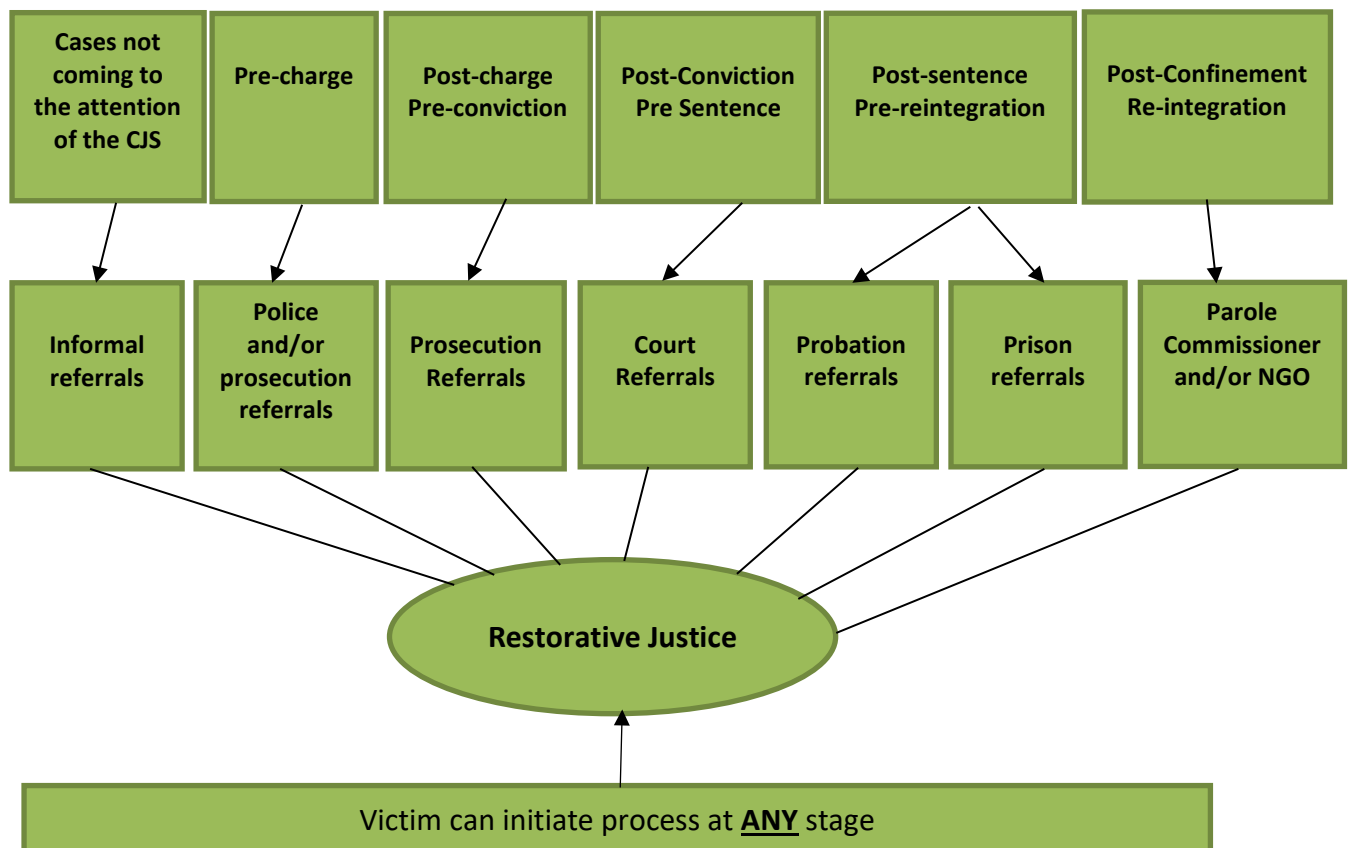
- criminal cases where the perpetrator has admitted their guilt and the case is referred by the PSNI with the agreement of the Public Prosecution Service to be dealt with by an accredited restorative justice organisation;
- cases referred by the PSNI that have been subject to a Community Resolution Notice (CRN) or other diversionary procedure;
- cases referred by the PSNI that involve expressions of prejudice or hatred, as outlined in the Marrinan Report 2020;
- cases referred by the Probation Board NI as part of an Enhanced Combination Order (ECO);
- cases referred as part of a court process;
- cases referred by the Youth Justice Agency as part of a restorative Youth Conference; and
- any other offences or processes as outlined in, or developed through, the Adult Restorative Justice Strategy.

38. Level Three work relates to gender-based violence and other complex and sensitive crimes. Should any cases be considered for referral to an accredited restorative justice organisation or practitioner by a criminal justice agency that involves dealing with serious sexual offences, as specified in the Gillen Review 2019, then it may only be dealt with by a practitioner who has specialised training and the appropriate levels of experience. We acknowledge that there are multifaceted risks in the area of complex and sensitive crimes and the selection of practitioners who deal with these types of offences requires the utmost care.

39. In addition, the Protocol covers any other work or situations where a criminal justice agency might wish to employ a non-statutory restorative justice provider for any other form of service.

40. Figure 1, which is adapted from the UNODC Handbook of Restorative Justice, illustrates the opportunities to apply restorative justice at every stage of the criminal justice processes. It includes the opportunity for victims to refer themselves at any stage of the criminal justice process.

**Figure 1: Opportunities to apply restorative justice**



41. In any formal criminal justice case referred to an accredited restorative justice organisation or individual, the organisation or practitioner will agree at the outset with the referring criminal justice agency a written outline of the proposed programme of work to be undertaken with the perpetrator. This should be proportionate to the case referred, and include an indicative timeline. When the programme of work has been completed, the organisation or practitioner will provide a written record of the activities undertaken to the referring criminal justice agency and indicate whether the agreed programme has been successfully completed. If the participant fails to complete the agreed programme

of work, the organisation or practitioner shall report this to the referring criminal justice agency.

### **Accreditation Process and Requirements<sup>2</sup>**

42. To be eligible to undertake work with and for the Department of Justice and any criminal justice agency in Northern Ireland, organisations and individuals will be subject to a process of accreditation to ensure that they meet and are able to maintain the required standards of practice<sup>3</sup>.

43. Organisations, their staff members and independent restorative practitioners that wish to undertake restorative justice work with, or on behalf of, a statutory criminal justice organisation must be formally approved and accredited by the Department of Justice. The following paragraphs outline the requirements for each of the three categories.

44. To apply for accreditation an **organisation** must be:

- registered as a legal entity with / by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland;
- able to evidence that all staff have been subject to appropriate screening (see paragraph 53);
- able to evidence that relevant staff have received appropriate levels of training and experience;
- able to evidence their implementation of documentation, reporting and recording procedures and Data Protection standards as defined by the Department of Justice;
- able to evidence 3 years' experience of restorative practice work; and

---

<sup>2</sup> In her report Cathy Gormley-Heenan recommends using the term 'approved provider' in place of the current term 'accredited organisation' in relation to organisations determined by the Department of Justice to meet the required standards, with the term accreditation only being used to refer to training qualifications. The Panel was not convinced by this argument and believe that the term 'accredited organisation' is widely used and understood and there would be no great benefit from making a change.

<sup>3</sup> This broadly follows the Restorative Justice Council's system for having separate processes for accrediting organisations and practitioners. Organisations can be accredited as registered restorative organisation, e.g. a school which uses restorative practices internally but does not provide services externally, or as registered service providers which can be statutory, charitable or private agencies that offer services externally. For practitioners, there are three levels of accreditation, Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced corresponding to the competence required for cases of different levels of sensitivity and complexity.

- able to evidence 3 years' experience of working with the PSNI and criminal justice agencies, or if based outside of NI, an equivalent police organisation. Evidence may include a written reference from a senior PSNI officer, or equivalent.

45. To apply for accreditation a **restorative justice practitioner** must be:

- an employee or sub-contractor of an accredited restorative justice organisation; and
- able to evidence that they have received appropriate levels of training and experience.

46. To apply for accreditation an **independent restorative justice practitioner** must be:

- a sole trader fully compliant with all relevant UK legal requirements;<sup>4</sup>
- able to evidence that they have been subject to appropriate screening;
- able to evidence that they have received appropriate levels of training;
- able to evidence their implementation of documentation, reporting and recording procedures and Data Protection standards as defined by the Department of Justice;
- able to evidence 3 years' experience of restorative practice work; and
- able to evidence 3 years' experience of working with the PSNI and criminal justice agencies, or if based outside of NI, an equivalent police organisation. Evidence may include a written reference from a senior PSNI officer, or equivalent.

47. Organisations and independent restorative practitioners wishing to seek accreditation shall submit the relevant information to the Interim Protocol Lead. The Interim Protocol Lead may engage with the applicant to clarify that data that has been submitted and/or to request further information.

48. The Interim Protocol Lead, who may be assisted by a panel with relevant expertise and experience, will review the documentation and make a recommendation of approval or rejection to the Minister of Justice. Recommendations shall be made to the Minister of Justice within 13 weeks of receipt of the application.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/set-up-sole-trader>

49. The Minister of Justice will make her or his decision to accept or reject the recommendation of the Interim Protocol Lead within 13 weeks of its receipt and will inform the applicant body of the decision with reasons.

50. If an application for accreditation is rejected by the Minister of Justice, the applicant has a right to appeal. An appeal should be made to the Minister of Justice within 13 weeks of the original decision. Appeals should be made in writing, to allow the applicant to provide any further information they deem relevant. The Minister shall publish her or his decision on the appeal outlining the reasons within 13 weeks of receipt of the appeal. An applicant will not be precluded from reapplying for accreditation if they can demonstrate that they have addressed the issues set out in the Minister's decision.

### **Renewal of Accreditation**

51. All accredited organisations, their staff members and accredited independent restorative practitioners will be required to reapply for accreditation every three years.

### **Staffing Standards**

52. All accredited restorative practice organisations and practitioners wishing to undertake work for the Department of Justice or any criminal justice agency will be required to operate to high standards to promote confidence in the Criminal Justice System and comply with all legal requirements.

53. All staff working for an accredited organisation and all accredited independent restorative practitioners will be required to undertake an Enhanced Access NI check and undertake repeat checks every three years thereafter. This is in accordance with similar standards already in place for comparable statutory bodies or agencies within the Criminal Justice System.

## **Training Standards**

54. The Department of Justice, drawing on the advice of the Interim Protocol Lead, shall determine the appropriate standards of training required of staff working for accredited restorative justice organisations and independent restorative practitioners, as well as those staff within criminal justice agencies who are delivering restorative interventions. It is expected that training standards will be in line with those set by the Restorative Justice Council or similar advisory body.
55. Criminal justice agencies and those who are accredited under the Protocol shall be responsible for ensuring that all practitioners are appropriately trained, supervised and mentored and receive regular refresher training and opportunities for professional development.
56. The agreed restorative justice training standards will be applicable to all those undertaking work for the Department of Justice or a criminal justice agency in Northern Ireland, including staff employed by a criminal justice agency, a non-statutory restorative justice provider or an independent restorative justice practitioner.
57. The Interim Protocol Lead shall be responsible for monitoring and reviewing training and practice standards of all restorative justice providers and independent restorative practitioners.

## **Specialised Training**

58. Criminal justice agency staff, and restorative justice organisations and practitioners accredited under the Protocol who might wish to work on complex and sensitive issues will be required to evidence additional skills and experience appropriate to the nature of the area of work. This may include having:
- recognised training for serious and complex cases, practice-based shadowing and staff supervised delivery;
  - appropriate levels of cultural awareness and competences;



- understanding of trauma informed practice;
- relevant linguistic skills or access to appropriate translation services;
- appropriate understanding of issues relating to working with people with disabilities;  
and
- appropriate understanding of issues relating to relationships of power, coercion and control.

### **Organisational Standards**

59. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland shall be responsible for ensuring that accredited restorative justice organisations adhere to all appropriate standards relating to organisational and financial management and fulfilling all obligations required by their legal status.

60. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland shall inform the Interim Protocol Lead of any concerns that might be raised in relation to organisational and/or financial management of an accredited restorative justice organisation.

### **Annual Reports**

61. All restorative justice organisations and independent restorative practitioners accredited under the Protocol will submit an annual report of work undertaken under the accreditation procedure. This report will include information on the outcomes of all referrals and partnership work undertaken with criminal justice agencies, to the Interim Protocol Lead.

62. It shall be the responsibility of the Interim Protocol Lead to maintain records of restorative practice work and referrals, and their outcome, and to consider the effectiveness of specific interventions for particular categories of offences. Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland may seek the views of the Interim Protocol Lead when undertaking inspections of individual schemes.

63. The Interim Protocol Lead will provide an annual report on the implementation of the revised Protocol to the Minister of Justice and which will include details of the number of referrals, the effectiveness of restorative interventions, and any other relevant issues. Once approved by the Minister, this report would be made available to other key stakeholders.

### **Record Keeping and Data Protection**

64. The Department of Justice will issue guidance in relation to required records of activities by accredited schemes. All restorative justice organisations and independent restorative practitioners accredited under the Protocol should maintain records of all their criminal justice referrals in accordance with standards and guidance determined by the Department of Justice. Such records may be accessed on request by Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland. Records will be held securely and in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. Schemes will have regard to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act in relation to disclosure of information.

65. Data protection regulations present particular difficulties to restorative services which need to gain access to victims' and perpetrators' details. This poses a significant obstacle to making victims front and centre in restorative justice. The problem may be solved by working in close collaboration with victims' organisations such as Victim Support Northern Ireland and the development of data sharing agreements between them and criminal justice organisations.

### **Inspection**

66. Restorative justice organisations and independent restorative practitioners accredited under the Protocol shall be subject to inspection and review of their working practices by the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland. CJINI will undertake inspections as appropriate using its statutory functions.

67. Inspections by CJINI will include, as appropriate:

- examination of records of offenders and offences dealt with;

- examination of digital and written evidence held by the Interim Protocol Lead;
- all work that has been undertaken in partnership with a criminal justice agency;
- systems for ensuring that agreed programmes are completed and reported on;
- complaints mechanisms and actual complaints received;
- training and mentoring programmes and initiatives;
- compliance with the decisions of the PSNI and PPS on appropriate cases;
- up-to-date awareness of human rights issues;
- procedures for ensuring compliance with standard pertaining to the rights of victims and offenders; and
- any other matters or practices deemed appropriate by the Criminal Justice Inspector.

### **Complaints**

68. All complaints shall be addressed through a restorative approach wherever possible and dealt with within a reasonable timeframe. Accredited organisations and individuals should establish mechanisms for dealing with operational complaints against them in the first instance, whether through internal and/or external means (e.g. Mediation NI). However, if it is not possible to resolve a complaint through these routes, the Interim Protocol Lead will be responsible for responding to any complaints made regarding any of the accredited restorative justice organisations and individuals.

69. The Interim Protocol Lead will report the findings of any complaints made regarding accredited restorative justice organisations and independent restorative practitioners to the Minister of Justice.

### **Removing Accreditation**

70. If any restorative justice organisation or independent restorative practitioner accredited under the Protocol is found to have failed to maintain the standards required of them in relation to organisational professionalism, quality of practice, adherence to the rule of law, or has failed to address concerns raised by the Interim Protocol Lead, the Minister of Justice may remove their accreditation.

71. In such cases, the applicant has a right to appeal using the same process as set out in paragraph 50. Where accreditation has been removed, an organisation or individual can reapply for accreditation no sooner than 1 year after the decision has been made to remove their accreditation.

## Definitions used by Review Panel

1. **Restorative practices** refers to a range of practices based upon restorative principles which can be applied in an expanding variety of contexts and sectors including families, schools, communities, organisations and criminal justice.
2. **Restorative principles** include:
  - the voluntary inclusion of those most directly affected by the issue, conflict or harm that is being addressed;
  - active participation usually through direct dialogue; and
  - facilitation by a competent practitioner, to address and resolve or restore what matters to the participants to their satisfaction.
3. **Restorative justice** refers to the application of restorative practices with victims of crime and with people who have admitted responsibility for committing a criminal offence. Restorative justice is not an alternative to the formal Criminal Justice System. It is not designed to decide whether a person is guilty of a crime or to sentence a convicted person. It does however enhance people's personal experience of justice through a process of accountability by perpetrators for the harm that they have caused directly to their victims.
4. **Victim** is used to denote a person against whom a specific criminal offence has been committed.
5. **Perpetrator** is used to denote a person who has been convicted of, or has admitted responsibility for, committing a criminal offence.
6. An **accredited** individual or organisation is a person or body that has received formal accreditation under the 2023 Protocol. Accreditation is open to organisations from all sectors, including community, voluntary and non-statutory.