

10 Restorative Justice Asks for Police & Crime Commissioners

The ten asks campaign aims to strengthen access to Restorative Justice for people affected by crime, by supporting Police and Crime Commissioners to dismantle barriers and promote good practice in their area. The ten asks can act as a self-audit tool, where PCCs can check whether they are meeting our recommendations through a checklist. Why me? are also offering one-to-one meetings with all PCCs to discuss the checklist and how you can improve the provision of Restorative Justice in your area. If you'd like to check how you're doing and have a discussion about your service, reach out to Communications and Campaigns Manager, Keeva Baxter, at keeva.baxter@why-me.org.

How many of the following do you meet?

- 1 Ringfenced funding
- 2 Flexible funding requirements
- 3 No blanket bans
- 4 Better data
- 5 Working together
- 6 Restorative Justice champions
- 7 Regular training
- 8 Public awareness
- 9 Partnerships
- 10 Accessibility

Read on to see what each of these look like in practice...

1. Ringfenced funding for a specialist Restorative Justice service. This funding needs to be adequate to support the running of a fully staffed service.
2. Funding requirements should allow for flexibility in how the Restorative Justice budget is used. Funding should allow for police and the RJ service to proactively reach out to marginalised communities, ensuring the service is accessible to all. It should also cover training and accreditation for the service. Finally, funding requirements should not limit delivery of Restorative Justice only to cases that involve a prosecution.
3. No blanket bans, including cultural bans. Services should not exclude entire crime types or groups of people. This includes bans stated within a policy, or 'cultural bans' where there is an organisational understanding that certain types of crime aren't accepted, even if it isn't in writing. Suitability should be assessed on a case by case basis.
4. The service should collect and report meaningful data on their provision of Restorative Justice, using both qualitative and quantitative measures. This should include dip-sampling of cases to create a holistic view of the service and its work. A variety of restorative outcomes should be recognised in the data you collect, rather than just counting face to face meetings. Data should also capture the value of the process for all parties involved, not just the direct victims of crime.
5. There should be regular communication between the OPCC, the RJ service and the police. This includes having a defined data sharing policy and an established referral pathway.
6. Have a designated RJ Champion in a senior position within the OPCC or police. This is someone who can spread the word about Restorative Justice, act as a key point of contact and can maintain a strong referral pathway to the local service.
7. Regular RJ training for police staff and the OPCC should be provided. In particular, this training should explain how they can make the offer of Restorative Justice to people affected by crime.

8. Restorative Justice should be publicly promoted through a variety of accessible communications channels (leaflets, website, social media, videos, etc.). The PCC should publicly declare their support for RJ and their commitment to ensure people in their area can access it, for example by signing [Why me?'s Restorative Justice pledge](#).
9. There should be strong, ongoing partnerships between the RJ service and other support organisations in your area (e.g., sexual violence support organisations, refugee charities, victim support services).
10. Actively consider whether your RJ service is accessible to the communities in your area and take steps to improve its accessibility. This includes proactive outreach and ensuring information is given to people in a format or language that they understand. For some communities this may also involve providing pathways that do not involve contact with police.

Use the table on the next page to assess your own service. Share the completed table with us so we can understand how best to support you.



Why me? works with people affected by crime and conflict. We build greater access to Restorative Justice through campaigns, communications, and a direct service, so that people can recover and rebuild their lives. For any questions about this campaign or to arrange a meeting with us, please contact: keeva.baxter@why-me.org.



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Ask	Evidence	Steps we need to take	
My area has ringfenced funding for Restorative Justice			
Our funding requirements are flexible			
We have no blanket bans			
We collect meaningful data			
There is regular communication between our service, police and PCC			
We have an RJ Champion			
We have regular RJ training			
We publicly promote Restorative Justice			
We have strong partnerships with other local services			
Our RJ service is accessible to the communities in our area			