

Hello everyone,

Well we're into the summer season, schools are closed, most workplaces are easing off slightly, but the restorative news keeps on coming. In this month's edition we hear about some amazing work going on north of the border with the Education Authority of Northern Ireland. We also learn about what's been happening in the world of Restorative Justice in Ireland (by which we mean in the criminal justice sector). There's also details of the CDI Training of Trainers programs, which are now going to run through the academic year and a new podcast for those who like to consume information that way.

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News from NI about Restorative Practices in Education

(report from Roisin Doran DCEWO Lead for Restorative Practice)



“Six Restorative Practitioner posts have been advertised within the Education Authority, showing a commitment by the organisation to promoting restorative practices in schools and education provisions. This recognises the impact

restorative practices has on building relationships and supporting positive behaviour, while fostering a culture of understanding and accountability across educational settings.

31 Northern Teachers have registered for the CDI summer school. Their involvement indicates a strong commitment to professional development in RP that promotes healthy relationships and conflict resolution. 15 new schools are preparing to embark on their own restorative journey. The leaders of these schools will create a more collaborative and supportive atmosphere for all members of their school community.

The Restorative Peer Mentor programme has received recognition from the Open College Network NI. This Level 2 award, is a national qualification, providing young people with restorative skills and knowledge. By empowering peers to support each other, schools are creating a culture of accountability and empathy.

Collaboration with community organizations has also been a focal point of the EA restorative initiative. EA RP practitioners are working with colleagues from these organizations to share knowledge and expertise. This exchange of ideas is vital in enhancing the skills and understanding needed to implement restorative practices effectively.

As the academic year ends, it is essential to reflect on the progress made in supporting schools and educators on their restorative journeys. There has been a concerted effort to foster a more nurturing and inclusive environment for both students and educators”.

New CDI Training of RP Trainers Courses

There was some disappointment in the schools sector this month with the cancellation of Training for Trainers (ToT) courses for the first time. This however appears to have had less to do with a lack of interest from teachers and SNA’s and more to do with an overall sense of tiredness and the ongoing pressure experienced by those working in schools. Thankfully CDI have responded quickly and are now offering ToT courses (in Dublin and Limerick) during term time, starting in October and running on Saturdays. This is sure to be a big hit come September so, if you are interested and/or know anyone who might be, we suggest checking out the details in the attached flyer and signing up asap.

What’s new in the Restorative Justice arena



Last month the Probation Service published The Restorative Justice Action Plan 2025 – 2027; “Restoring Relationships: Repairing Harm and Empowering Voices through Restorative Justice”

“This three-year Action Plan is designed to systematically implement restorative justice interventions, ensuring they become a cornerstone of our rehabilitative efforts. It also contains a detailed overview of key developments, the principles and the delivery of Restorative Justice and its importance within the criminal justice system.

The Action Plan is in line with the Department of Justice’s policy of supporting and promoting the delivery of high quality Restorative Justice interventions at all stages of the Criminal Justice System. It is underpinned by core restorative justice principles that emphasises restoration, voluntarism, neutrality, safety, accessibility and respect.

Whilst the Probation Service’s dedicated Restorative Justice and Victims Service Unit will lead out on the delivery of the Action Plan, it’s objectives dovetails with a number of other relevant initiatives underway within the Probation Service, in line with its strategic direction, including the Judicial Engagement Strategy, the rollout of the Irish Probation Framework, and progressing national penal policy priorities.

The implementation of the Action Plan will be further supported by an Implementation Steering Committee. The composition of this Steering Committee will expand over of the course of the Action Plan to respond to the incremental objectives

“Aligned with the Department of Justice's vision, the Restorative Justice Action Plan supports a comprehensive and victim sensitive approach to addressing harm, rehabilitation and reintegration,

ensuring restorative justice remains central to our mission of promoting public safety and reducing reoffending and providing victims with a voice,” said [Rachel Lillis](#), Assistant Principal Probation Officer, Restorative Justice and Victim Services & Social Inclusion & Reintegration”.

You can read the Action Plan in full here: <https://lnkd.in/diyHtuw3> You can also read an assessment of the plan and the overall state of restorative justice by Dr. Ian Marder [here](#).

Podcast Corner



(From Dan O’Sullivan and Eamon Stack UL School of Education)

“What if the key to transforming schools isn’t more discipline—but deeper connection? In this episode, we sit down with Joe Power, a restorative practice trainer and former residential care worker, to explore:

- How early intervention can change lives
- Why “What happened?” is more powerful than “Why did you do that?”
- The real stories behind so-called “challenging” behaviour
- What schools, prisons, and sports teams can learn from each other

This is a must-listen for educators, youth workers, and anyone who believes in second chances.

- 🎧 Tune in now on your favourite platform”
- 📺 Watch on YouTube <https://lnkd.in/epVic2xF>
- 🎧 Listen on Acast <https://lnkd.in/eUV7V4We>
- 🎵 Stream on Spotify <https://lnkd.in/ezgZYcZR>

Training

Anyone looking for information on possible training available, check out

- **CDI** <https://www.cdi.ie/our-programmes/restorative-practices/> (schools and non-school)
- **restorativeliving.ie** (schools and non-schools)
- **OIDE** (formally PDST) schools only
- **Local Education Support Centre** (schools only)
- **Connect RP** (schools only)

That’s all for now Folks. Please also remember to send in information, photos, updates and events you may be running and we’ll spread the word for you. Also, do get in touch via info@restorativepracticesireland.ie or on X [@RP_Ireland](#) if you would like to get involved in RPI activities as a volunteer.

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Childhood Development Initiative



Restorative Practices – Training of Trainers 2025–26

Restorative Practices (RP) are both a philosophy and a set of skills that have the core aim of building strong relationships and transforming conflict in a simple and emotionally healthy manner.

These courses consists of seven days training (10am to 3pm) on Saturdays between October 2025 and March 2026. In addition, trainee Trainers are paired up to co-deliver CDI's "Getting Started With RP" course sometime between November and March, and they are observed and supported while doing so by one of CDI's RP Quality Specialists. Participants are issued with reading material before and during the course that they are required to read.

Course Objectives:

- This Course will provide Participants with the skills and materials to deliver training in the use of RP to their chosen target groups.
- Participants will learn how to train others in the implementation of RP as an individual, organisation, and community.
- Participants will gain the skills and expertise for training others to embed RP as "business as usual" in their lives, organisations, and communities.
- The course will include learning for participants about Quality Assurance of the use of RP in organisations and communities.
- Participants will be provided with a full list of references and the resources they will need for the delivery of RP training to their chosen target groups.

Some Examples of What People Have Said about CDI's Training of RP Trainers Course:

- "This has been by far my favourite course I've done." Rachel Considine, Primary School Teacher.
- "This has been such a fulfilling and enjoyable experience for me. You will learn so much about yourself and how to relate to other people." Lara Willims, Community Development Officer.
- "By far the best training I have ever received. Applicable to everyone in all arenas, it supports any person working/existing with people of all ages." Joy Coleman, Post-Primary Deputy Principal.



Entry Requirements:

Participants in this Course are required to:

- Have undertaken CDI's training in Restorative Practices i.e. "Getting Started with RP" and "RP Facilitation Skills" **OR** "Restorative Practices Skills for Promoting Wellbeing in Classrooms and Schools" (Summer Course);
- Have experience of using restorative practices in their lives and work; and
- Have organised to deliver RP Training to their chosen target group between November 2025 and February 2026 at which they will be observed and supported by a CDI RP Quality Specialist.

Application for this Course is via an application form, a copy of which can be obtained from claire@cdi.ie.

Fees:

The Course Fee is €975 which must be paid in full before the Course starts. This Course will be delivered by a team of RP Trainers with extensive experience of implementing RP in their lives and in work settings and of delivering RP training to a variety of target groups.

**For further information and/or application enquires please contact:
Claire Casey on 087 280 6450 or claire@cdi.ie**

Course venues and dates 2025-26

Dates and Venue
10am–3pm October 4th, 11th and 18th, November 8th and 15th 2025, January 24th and February 28th 2026. Childhood Development Initiative, Tallaght, D24 PK6P
10am–3pm October 11th and 18th, November 8th, 15th, and 22nd, February 28th and March 28th 2026. Villiers School, N Circular Rd, Kilrush, Limerick, V94 F983

