**Postcard responses: Dialogue 1**

**Summary**

**I came today because . . .**

We asked this question to pick up on the motivation behind attendance. Obviously there was a preponderance of expressions of general interest and the wish to know more. However, more specific answers included around the role of criminal justice social work, how government can support the growth of RJ, what is happening here, about hate crime, applications in forensic institutions and also to hear about new research in this and other places.

**What I want say is . . .**

We asked this to pick up on points of view although inevitably some people responded in terms of feedback on the event and several just urged 'us' to get on with it. More specific comments related to the need to focus on quality, the case for investment in RJ to respond to the needs of prisoners to say sorry, to develop RJ as an alternative to the CJS, to learn lessons from other jurisdictions, to enable courts to consider an RJ conditional order (as an alternative to a CPO?), issues around diversion from prosecution, how it works with migrants and refugees and the possibility of drawing on non-western norms, the problem of pre-existing injustice. It was argued that there are already mechanisms in place to make it happen in terms of developing RJ post conviction as well as pre sentence and as part of a CPO. The question of funding came up here, as below, as did the problem of developing political momentum.

**What I want to suggest is . . .**

This section was intended to pick up on specific action points on RJ in Scotland and perhaps inevitably the responses were more diverse and grounded than the previous responses. Some respondents focused on the mechanisms of delivery be it third sector, community planning partnerships, statutory organisations and backed up by legislation or a national strategy with more government commitment, while acknowledging the risks of 'colonisation' by the CJS system as described by Tim.

There were calls for more education and training , as well as better and more information on RJ for the public and communities and a call for more research data including information about good practice in Scotland.

**The question I would like the SUII RJ events to address is . . .**

This section made space for respondents to influence planning across the dialogues and especially the work to prepare for the deliberative conference / summit in the autumn. The expertise that many of the participants are bringing to this dialogue process is most evident in this section. Broadly though we are being challenged to think through how to channel the knowledge and experience from elsewhere to best effect here, the relationship of RJ to CJS processes, mechanisms of and responsibilities for implementation. Some people picked up on the tension between the importance of voluntariness and the delivery of RJ as part of a statutory programme. There are key questions about training and funding.

**Answers (each participant has a unique reference number)**

**I came today because . . .**

[1] I have had very limited involvement in RJ but am convinced of its merits.

[2] I am interested in Tim's research.

[3] I am interested in RJ and am a strong advocate for it and believe in it. I am keen to know what is happening in Scotland.

[4] I a a big supporter of RJ processes and see it as a key way forward in Scotland specifically as an alternative to CJS

[5] I am interested in what I can do to help develop RJ in Scotland.

[6] I am a CJSW and I am interested in RJ.

[7] I am interested in returning to mediation after many years out of practice and am interested in RJ development in Scotland.

[8] I did an RJ training conference in HMP Inverness last year and was fascinated.

[9] RJ is a big part of my work in prisons.

[10] I am a criminal defence solicitor practising in Scotland.

[11] I wanted to find out more about RJ as pretty new to this field.

[12] I wanted to learn more about RJ and how to use it in my role (youth justice)

[13] I was interested in the *criteria (?)*  Tim raised *driving (?) . . .*

[14] I am working on developing RJ interventions for statutory CJ in Edinburgh (?)

[15] I am interested in RJ and it's use for hate offences.

[16] I think in certain circumstances we are losing the fight in criminal justice to ??

[17] I wanted to know about the ? of RJ ? and what research says

[18] I have a direct interest in the topic.

[19] I am a criminal justice social worker in Glasgow and I believe there is a role for restorative justice.

[20] I wanted to know more about RJ especially on hate crime.

[21] I wanted to know more about RJ.

[22] Interest in RJ for young people.

[23] I was interested in knowing more about RJ.

[24] I believe in RJ.

[25] I am interested in how government can support / grow restorative justice in Scotland.

[26] I am interested in RJ as an innovation and an emotionally meaningful response.

[27] I wanted to know more about the principles, practice and outcomes achieved in other jurisdictions.

[28] I am a victim student, want to expand on my knowledge.

[29] I was looking for new studies re the development of RJ with context.

[30] I want to know about what is happening in Scotland about RJ

[31] I am studying forensic psychology and was hoping to learn how this can be applied to practice within forensic institutions.

[32] I wanted to learn more about plans for RJ in Scotland and what role I as a CJSW may have in this.

[33] I am absolutely passionate about RJ

[34] I am fascinated by the contribution of RJ in our justice system

[35] I am a sheriff and believe RJ is worth exploring and developing

[36] I was invited.

[37] I wanted to hear more about RJ progress in Scotland.

**What I want say is . . .**

[1]We must focus on quality

[2] Thank you

[3] We really need to be investing in this. Working with prisoners, there is a strong desire for it from them. The chance to say sorry.

[4] Developing RJ further is key in trying to make it an alternative to CJS and address conflict in a more humane way.

[5] Learn lessons from the countries that are doing it well. National level with support from the judiciary and government.

[6] Thought provoking.

[7] I have very much appreciated coming to a concentrated few hours about RJ and feel very excited about the possibility of being involved in helping to grow this an an alternative approach within criminal justice.

[8] KEEP SPEAKING . . . we need to move in this direction for JUSTICE sake and COMMUNITY HEALTH

[9] We need to practice RJ in Scotland

[10] There is a need for the courts to consider RJ as a condition (alternative to community payback orders).

[11] Found both speakers very interesting.

[12] How does RJ work with 'diversion from prosecution'? Is it a separate model or can they be used together - running parallel?

[13] how will RJ care / deal with migrants and refugees and how it may be able / draw upon non-western norms and values that have been driving or influenced RJ in a non-western context.

[14] This feels exciting and the 'time is right'.

[15] I am even more convinced that we need to develop RJ for adult offenders.

[16] I'd like to be part of change in Scotland.

[17] Is there a plan to import RJ in Scotland?

[18] Can RJ be fully developed alongside a CJS?

[19] I have always believed that RJ could have good outcomes in Scotland.

[20] There are many occasions for RJ to apply but need more facilities.

[21] What is the scope for more RJ programmes in Scotland?

[22] Thank you for inviting me.

[23] What about previous (social) injustices that may have occurred before them main injustice? e.g. injustices towards the offender - food deprivation, inequality, marginalisation, othering.

[24] Let's get started - more RJ etc

[25] Key that approaches demonstrate and manifest benefits to both offenders and victims

[26] To think about how to develop RJ in Scotland. How to develop political momentum?

[27] Very interesting session.

[28] Need more awareness, well done! Keep it up.

[29] The speakers were great, presentations stimulating and most interesting - great event.

[30] Who should fund this, government or local?

[32] I am excited about RJ becoming (more) available in Scotland and seeing how it pans out

[33] Haere tonu = keep going

[34] and I know more now!

[35] We have mechanisms in place to develop RJ post-conviction - pre sentence - part of CPO.

[36] Please just try to start it.

[37] Please update web with all info from sessions as some dates I am not free to attend. This session was very informative.

**What I want to suggest is . . .**

[1] That RJ can be led or positively influenced by Community Planning

Partnerships

[2] More research data detail would be useful. Tim's coverage of this was really intriguing.

[3] More discussion. keeping profile up, engagement with politicians

[4] More focus needs to be put on bottom up RJ approaches in the community.

[5] A national framework / policy/ legislation.

[6] Sheriff Mackie's comment is spot on. In Scotland we have the capacity to do RJ - it's all about effective communication to achieve this and not merely ticking boxes.

[7] That we all do our best to make knowledge of RJ and its positive outcomes known to more of the general public.

[9] More information to be given on RJ in our communities.

[10] Scottish Government to consider RJ as an option in the court context.

[11] More research done in Scotland and shared.

[14] Scottish government makes a commitment to progressing RJ especially for adult offenders.

[15] We continue to develop RJ and have a joined up Scottish approach.

[16] That Scotland adopts a RJ practice, community and system.

[19] That we consider hearing from victims and offenders in person?

[21] More RJ programmes and more direct commitment from government.

[22] I would like to see more RJ interventions for young people to help steer them away from adult CJ.

[23] Perhaps these injustices can also be taken into consideration in RJ process.

[24] Publicising RJ to a wider audience.

[25] Using project/programme to gather and present evidence on what is already happening in Scotland.

[26] There is a dilemma in encouraging RJ and yet also avoiding colonisation by the CJ system.

[27] Can we hear about examples of good practice operating in Scotland?

[28] To look into cases that don't go to court i.e. people with no witness.

[30] Should be third sector led. The third sector can often be more resourceful and better organised than statutory bodies. RJ should be led by independent agencies. There should be a national scheme to ensure all offenders and victims have access to RJ.

[32] Allow more time for discussion at these events and more time for speakers.

[33] Ka mau te wehi = tremendous

[34] We meet up with some experts to see what we can do in Community Justice Scotland

[35] We need much more education and training in practice

[37] Victims organisations assist victims to understand the RJ process when this is fully implemented.

**The question I would like the SUII RJ events to address is . . .**

[2] How can we ensure that policy, practice are informed by evidence across different CJ approaches? Desistance, RJ. RNR etc all have a lot to offer one another. At times I am concerned that RJ/desistance etc is portrayed as the opposite of RNR etc I feel an integrated approach where evidence is critically appraised is more useful in promoting change, rehabilitation, reintegration and public safety.

[3] Risk narrative and RJ. Does 'risk' focus seek to delay and prolong the danger rather than restore? How do we redress the balance?

[4] Why was RJ developed as an alternative initially but is now part of the traditional CJS? Is there any chance of it developing as an alternative again?

[5] How can this be developed more meaningfully for young people involved in offending to prevent criminal records and further offending?

[7] Not so much a question but a hearty 'GO FOR IT' to make everything talked about suggested turn into policy and practice rather than simply rhetoric.

[8] I LIKE WHAT YOU ARE OFFERING!!

[9] What time limit would you think is on RJ becoming practice rather than dialogue?

[10] Bringing Scotland in line with other parts of Europe and considering RJ options at the criminal justice level.

[11] How we move forward and get voluntary and statutory services working towards same goals. Getting away from outcome based.

[14] How do we make RJ an option for all - and a 'normal' part of CJSW and the justice system?

[15] How can we develop RJ and roll it out in the way that NI and Europe has?

[16] OPTIONS?

[17] If there is a universal ? for RJ according to Joanna's definition, that means RJ practice (?) should be voluntary and therefore what Tim suggested is not RJ in Northern Ireland.

[18] How do we make this happen and pay for it?

[19] Who are best placed to chair / convene and how do we ensure RJ is voluntary? RJ conferences?

[20] Tim mentioned that RJ is mainly in Anglo Saxon countries - here is something different. I think we should study how the justice system worked / still working in underdeveloped tribal (or rural) communities where the wisemen of the tribe did just RJ with some authority and the whole system is community based. Maybe there are lessons to be learned?

[22] can we follow footsteps in places like NI, Finland and New Zealand?

[24] How can all different professionals get *onboard (?)* and promote RJ?

[25] What are the main barriers to taking a restorative approach? How and where are these being tackled?

[26] How to develop / offer RJ pre-sentence or pre-prosecution without diluting the core values of RJ especially completely free choice? How to spread the word to the non-converted - especially unlikely converts e.g. victims groups, prosecutors, police.

[28] A more detailed process and assessment. The course fee to waived for people cannot afford. I am a single mother.

[29] RJ in the community sector (or third sector) in Scotland.

[30] Funding!

[31] From a psychological point of view could RJ potentially re-traumatise victims - particularly of serious crimes i.e. sexual offences / serious violence?

[32] How is this going to be implemented and who will be responsible for RJ?

[33] How can an accredited RJ facilitator from NZ become actively and pro-actively contribute to the implementation of RJ in Scotland?

[34] What next for us in Scotland. If there is a ground swell, how do we get behind it. The important part of this is not knowing the research but translating it into action. Is there a zeitgeist around this in Scotland? It is not a 'no cost' option, therefore the evidence base needs to be coherent to convince policy makers at SG to fund and for it to become part of the community justice process. What is mechanism for legislative change to allow it as a PF disposal?

[35] How to influence policy towards *pressuring (?)* the development and *?* of RJ - should it be made ? in all?

[36] How can one set up a series of pilots in different criminal justice stages to see how best to implement in Scotland?

[37] What training will be provided to organisations who support victims - to provide info for them to participate effectively?