

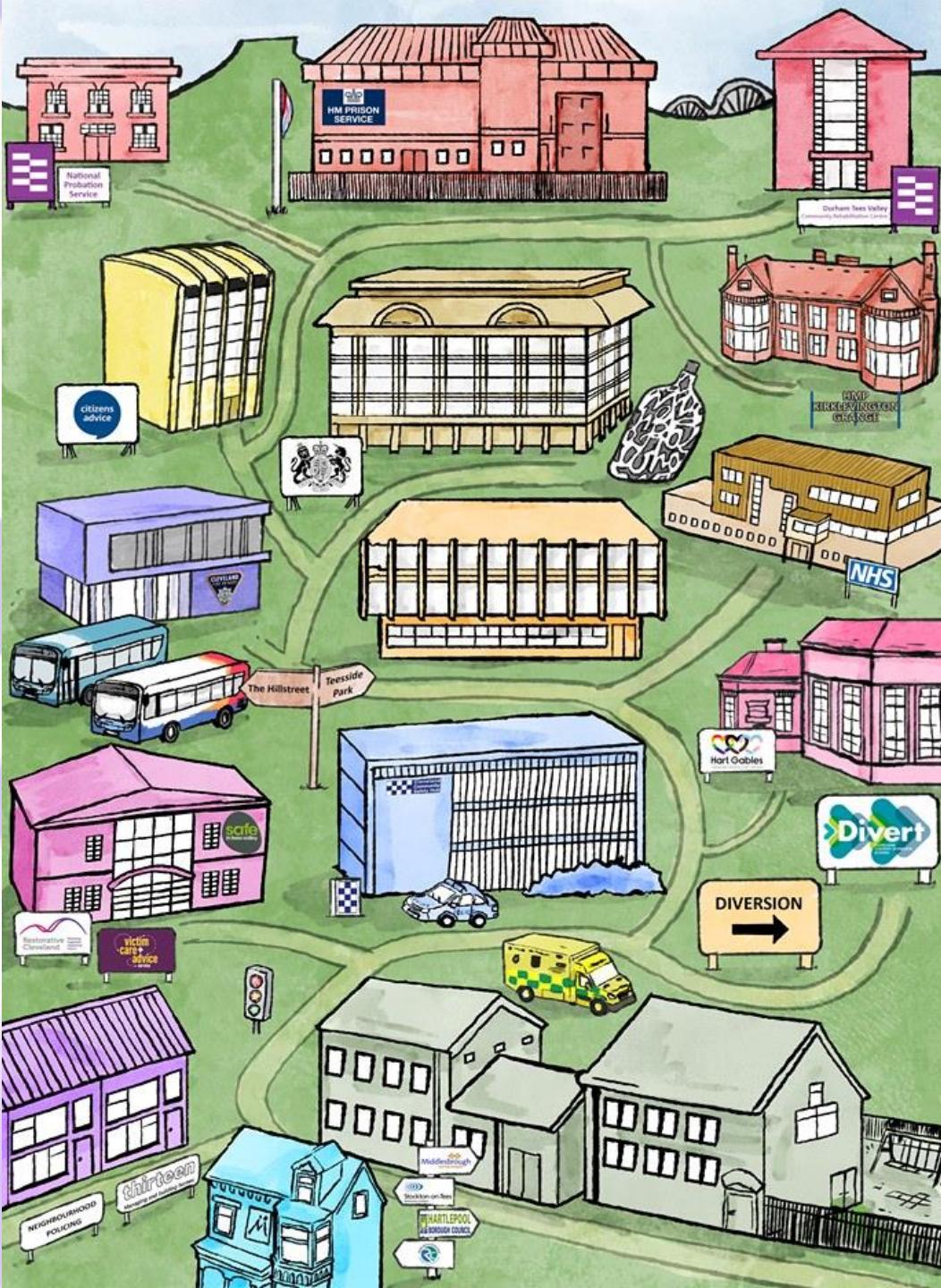
Developing a Restorative Borough: #Hartlepool:a **restorative** borough

Becky Childs

Restorative Approaches Development Consultant
Advanced Registered RJ Practitioner & Case Supervisor



Hartlepool
Borough Council



The Vision:



To create a Borough where restorative approaches are embedded and used to address:

- Crime.
- Anti Social Behaviour.
- Community Tensions.
- Community Grievances.
- Neighbourhood Disputes.
- Education and Misinformation.
- Internal Grievances.



Restorative Approaches will:

- Provide a non-judgemental platform.
 - Ensure that voices are heard.
 - Prevent escalation.
 - Deal with conflict.
- Identify shared values and beliefs.
 - Recognise competing views.
 - Drive Community Cohesion.
 - Support the 'Belong' initiative.
- Address disinformation & misinformation.

The Vision:

Addressing Disinformation & Misinformation

"Beware of false information, it's more damaging than ignorance"

George Bernard Shaw 1903

Restorative Approaches will seek to:

- Listen and understand.
- Educate and inform.
- Create cohesion.
- Deal with conflict at the lowest level.



Hopes and Aspirations:

Developing a Restorative Borough

- Increased profile within the Hartlepool area.
- Proof of concept RA and Brownsdale.
- Scalability of the project to other LA areas in Teesside.
- Organisational development.
- Personal development.
- National Recognition.



Hartlepool
Borough Council



Supporting the 'Belong Network'

Aligning the development of Hartlepool as a 'Restorative Borough,' with the Public Health Impact Assessment & Community Cohesion Strategy.

Restorative Approaches will:

- Provide a non-judgemental platform.
- Ensure that voices are heard.
- Prevent escalation.
- Deal with conflict.
- Identify shared values and beliefs.
- Recognise competing views.
- **Drive Community Cohesion.**
- **Support the 'Belong' initiative.**
- Address disinformation & misinformation.

Belong Network - September Update:

Restorative Justice is highlighted as a **key theme** within Hartlepool's **Community Cohesion Strategy**.

"Hartlepool example (along with **restorative justice**) of **national good practice**: one of a relatively small number of areas to handle issues from 2024 rioting positively through a 'health' lens.

understanding of psychological aspects of poor social relations -and health benefits of good relations."

Supporting the Regeneration of Hartlepool:



Hartlepool
Borough Council



Regeneration Plan – Pride in Place Programme Delivery will:

- Strengthen Hartlepool's communities.
- Expand opportunities for residents.
- Build on sustainable regeneration.

The Plan is a **shared commitment** to:

- Listening, remaining community-focused and demonstrating responsibility to local needs, shaped by community priorities - **Use of RJ/RA. Restorative Circles.**
- Use of evidence-based approaches. Utilising RJC Restorative Principles, Relational Approaches, Trauma-Informed Practice. Sequencing training and partnership-working.
- Shaping a brighter future together – scalability of a Restorative Borough.
- Working **together**, as the Hartlepool Board, HBC & local community (residents, businesses & community partners), to delivery of long-term, strategic and **transformative change**.

Working Together to Strengthen Community: Listening & Community-Focus

“I’m so happy. I’ve been telling everyone and sent them pictures of how it looks.”

Harmed Party.

“Thank you again for your involvement and for carrying out this work as a charitable act. Your efforts are making a meaningful difference in the community, and we truly appreciate the time and care you’ve committed to getting this done.”

This effort truly makes a difference not just to the physical space but to the sense of calm and support felt by members of the BAME community. It sends a powerful message that we are seen, supported, and not alone.”

Harmed Party’s Supporter.

“They felt that they were giving something back to the community rather than just litter-picking.”

Community Payback Supervisor.



Commitment to Responsive Support:

Aligning the Regeneration Plan's Investment Themes through Focused Action, Projects and Investments

Every intervention delivered will align with 1, or more, investment themes:

- Responsively adapting support to meet Ben's key needs and risks, throughout his journey towards positive change & community reintegration.
- Commencing restorative intervention in custody, supporting impacted community members & addressing mis/disinformation re. causation, as part of the wider recovery effort.



Cohesion



Work, Productivity & Skills



Health & Wellbeing



Safety & Security



Education & Opportunity

- Continuing to work **restoratively** with Ben, following his prison recall.
 - **Cohesion** – Violent Disorder RA – PCC meetings & Police re. recall arrest.
 - **Work, Productivity & Skills** - Clean Slate Solutions. Work-based Trauma. Employability.
 - **Health & Well-being** – DART liaison, drug-free Prison Wing. Psychological well-being.
 - **Safety & Security. Education & Opportunity** – managing re-offending risk, using restorative approaches.



Ben Judge, from Hartlepool, was identified as throwing bricks at officers and a metal object from the ground.

The 28-year-old was also pulling boards from a boarded-up window and was seen to kick through the window behind during violent disorder in the Hartlepool area on July 31.

At Teesside Crown Court on Thursday, he was sentenced to three years in prison.



Ben Judge (Image: CLEVELAND POLICE)

Pride in Place - Summerhill Visitors Centre:



Working together to meet community need, improve safety & security and address ASB & criminality on-site.

- Community-driven – concerns raised by visitors to the Centre and staff. Responsive - site walk-around.
- Offer of Restorative Circle.
- Pride in Place Programme – project review (e.g. VAWG, Mental Health Walks).

Use of Restorative Approaches to work WITH the local community and HBC employees:.

- Memorial following death by suicide, indirect further incidents of Criminal Damage & harm. Dedicated memorial sites with mutually agreed artwork/design.
- Memorial garden.
- Mindfulness spaces.
- RA/RJ re.fire-setting analysis.



Summarising Progress - Achievements Made:

Key Themes in the First Year of the RA Pilot & Scoping Exercise



- **RJ/RA Intervention Delivery** - Ongoing work with convicted harmers of the Violent Disorder.
- Core **restorative principles** informing the basis of safe community support, establishing effective partnerships & referral pathways, shaping strategic approaches to increase cohesion. Utilising opportunities to prioritise relationship-building, foster empathy & understanding, inclusion & participation, empowerment & opportunities to repair harm. Shared **social vocabulary** through use of restorative dialogue.
- **RA Awareness Training & Learning Evaluation** - Hartlepool Probation, Cleveland Police – Local Policing & Hartlepool Adult Social Care. Applied learning.
- **Promoting Access to, & the Benefits of, RA** - Production of 'lived experience' film, sharing the accounts of a couple harmed through Burglary and the responsible male. Illustration of a restorative process and the benefits gained in meeting.
- Support to local **Sports & Visitors Centres**, managing ASB/criminality, using restorative circles, Police & Community Safety.
- **Hartlepool 6th Form (College of Sanctuary)** – Challenging mis/disinformation through credible voices of other young people. RJ planned between students and those working with Youth Justice, to shape understanding, challenge hate..
- **Reparative Activities** - Pride in Place & sense of belonging/shared identity. Opportunities to make amends in the community/repair harm & reintegrate harmers. Coordinating partners for efficiency & increased engagement in RA/RJ.

What Next?



Hartlepool
Borough Council



- Integral component in the delivery of the **Regeneration Plan for Pride in Place**.
- Integral component in the delivery of Hartlepool's local **Community Cohesion Strategy**.
- Building on the **Health Impact Assessment** through the ongoing **partnership** development with North Tees & Hartlepool and South Tees **NHS Foundation Trusts** (now one group) – embedding of restorative principles and practice within organisational culture, via delivery of RA training, building and repairing relationships, managing conflict & establishing a local restorative network.
- Development of **Hartlepool 6th Form** as a **Restorative College**.
- RA **training** within Hartlepool's **Local Policing** teams - Proactive, Neighbourhood & Response.
- RA **training film** launched as part of International RJ Week.
- Exploration of **opportunities** for **broader training delivery** and the development of **HBC** as a registered **Restorative Organisation**, with the Restorative Justice Council.



#OurRestorativeHartlepool

Our Vision:

To embed Restorative Approaches within local policy and procedures, and establish a network of invested professionals, partners, agencies, and community groups, each committed to maintaining a restorative community.

Sign to Pledge your Support:

Organisation/Group Represented:

Together We Will:

- Seek opportunity to build unity by listening, sharing our views and values, and in understanding one another - providing space for all voices to be heard.
- Educate each other on our differences, celebrate our similarities and value how we come together to make one community.
- Embrace the restorative principles of restoration, impartiality, accessibility and respect in all that we do.
- Promote access for all members of the community to engage in restorative interventions, to address conflict, challenge mis/disinformation, and prevent the escalation of harmful behaviour.
- Identify Champions within supporting partners, agencies, and community groups, to help in promoting and understanding Restorative Approaches.
- Identify good practice and recommend positive action to drive ongoing unity, in the longer-term.