Restorative Practices Ireland
Web
The Potental role of Restorative Practices in Supporting Reform
Restorative Practices (RP) are both a way of thinking and behaving, and a set of skills for building strong relationships and resolving conflict in a simple and emotionally healthy manner, so helping the development and sustainability of strong and happy relationships. Integrating these skills and approaches could enhance many of the areas identified as part of the reform process including staff recruitment; training and supervision; management supports and systems, including supervision; and fundamentally the culture and ethos of An Garda Siochána.

It has been demonstrated in many settings, communities and organisations that the effective use of RP can stop conflict escalating out of control, and repair harm caused by serious wrongdoing. Both are relevant to the current context within which Gardaí operate.

Restorative Practices Ireland (RPI) which includes representation from the Gardaí, Probation service, academic institutions, community and training organisations, is working towards the following vision:

The island of Ireland as a restorative society which embraces restorative approaches as a philosophy and practice, integral to all relationships.

Restorative practices are already utilised by many Gardaí, particularly JLOs and community police, and the approach has been found to be effective in this context. A wider, more integrated implementation would build on the existing skills and understandings, be readily embraced by many Gardai, and offer an approach to the supervision and management of staff which would develop trust; de-escalate or resolve conflict; provide support alongside challenge to drive the continual improvement of service delivery, and promote a culture of engagement and respect.