“...a place cannot produce poems: it can only not prevent them...”

Philip Larkin
The Restorative City: Emperor’s new clothes or an achievable paradigm shift?

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UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017
“I wish I didn’t know now what I didn’t know then”

Bob Seger – “Against the Wind”
Restorative...?

• **Justice** – reactionary – repairing harm and relationships when something has gone wrong

• **Practice** – proactive – how we do what we do, anything that builds connections, develops relationships and brings people together.

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Words in storytelling

Challenge

Justice

Support

Practice

Approach

Partnership

Values

NOT

TO

WITH

FOR

Restorative City

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Mmmm, I think this building/repairing metaphor maybe a bit overdone?

Straker’s

COCAIN TOOTHACHE DROPS

&

Restorative Compound.*

Efficacious in every way.

*Terms and conditions apply.
Tell me what *you* need me to know

NOT

Tell me what *I* want to hear.

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There are no Eagles...understanding your organisation and its culture is the start...

Sam: (thinks) if it was this easy to be rescued why did we walk?
Values

• Respect
• Equality
• Tolerance
• Honesty
• Responsibility
• Etc.
• Etc.

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Activity 1 - Partnerships

• Look at the 10 cards you have on the table.

• Select three you feel are the most important for you as a group.

• Feedback.

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“Hull’s original vision for a restorative city was an emancipatory one.”
“We want to make **Bristol** the national leader for restorative approaches and become a city that sets the benchmark for their uses.”

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“Norfolk restorative approaches support emotional, social development, literacy and equips people with the ability to manage conflicts when it occurs. Restorative approaches help build responsibility, resolution and reintegration.”
“We work collaboratively...I am unhappy with the word restorative...I was always uncomfortable with the assumption that something that made sense in a justice context could simply be applied uniformly...”

Wokingham

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91% of our families have stopped offending and that includes offenders who were persistent and prolific offenders...

We have 64% of our kids back into education attending, engaging and attaining, and of those
  20% were children who were missing from education for at least two years...

41% of our families returned to work...

Wokingham

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“Is it a word that we should try to define [restorative] the behaviours of rather than denote it into a tight definition?

There is something valuable about the vision of a restorative city but I wonder if there is something about context.”

Wokingham
• Between April and June last year [2013] we had 106 children come into care...
• between April and June this year [2014] we have 54...

When we looked at the data the numbers of children in care went down quite significantly...but the trend of children coming into care didn’t.
That says we were just removing them from care...what has started to happen is Family Group Conferences have been offered [and that is having a positive impact on children entering the system in the first place].

Leeds
• Changing the narrative:

“...looking within case files to see what sorts of narrative is being written ...what I am seeing now as I audit files is more evidence that families are more involved

this is a long term change...the narratives of the visits tell the story...this shows that the conditions for continuing improvement are becoming embedded...this is positive...this is starting to grip...”

Leeds
“We...use restorative approaches in different ways and use it to shape what the organisation stands for and the behaviours we expect...”

Leeds

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What are the benefits of RSQM?

- Recognition & pride.
- Protection against bad practice.
- Public confidence.
- Benchmark & continuous improvement.
- Commitment to quality.
Restorative advocates...

“tend to confuse exhortations and expressions of ideals with useful models of intervention...

and offer us the former as if they were the latter.”

(Johnstone)
“an exercise in first stepping into a desired future in imagination, then consciously elaborating the structures needed to maintain it, and finally imagining the future history that would get [us] there, [to do so] is a very liberating experience for people who feel trapped in an unyielding present...” (Harris).
It is important to have information before the new policy or legislation is introduced, to compare it with the situation subsequently.

You therefore have to decide which measures will be compared.

You may also need to compare instances where changes have been made, with instances where they have not.

Semmens and Crowe
At the time it starts something new, it also continues something. It will keep the memory of the past, while incorporating something absolutely new.
“It is mandatory that we establish reflective review practices to provide a constant vigil over ethical life.

This takes seriously the contention that few decisions or courses of action are free from dangerous possibilities.”

(Pavlich).
“...citizens take back their responsibilities, steer their own process, resolve with whom they want to cooperate and decide their own solutions...

This transition implies a repositioning for governments and professional organisations...

Self-management and self-government become more and more important.” (Clarijs and Malmberg).
We should move...

“with cautious urgency...”

but with cautious knowledge

that ill-considered change may be

worse than no change at all” (Lofton, emphasis in the original).

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“[restorative practice] seemingly works to undermine the reforms it wishes to promote...

[restorative practice] is bound to repeat institutional failures without strategies to guard against it.” (Erbe).
“I think it is imperative to evaluate programs on their understanding of fundamental restorative justice principles and not assume these programs are ideal because they exist.

Restorative justice accepts ambiguity and paradox and requires diversity. Colonization begins to standardize restorative justice in a way that threatens its autonomy...[restorative justice must be] rooted in its context.” (Wonshé).
“The greatness of intentions is not matched by the reality of experience, where the perversity of incentives undermines the chance of achieving good, and where coalitions have distorted the very aims they have proclaimed...” (Clear).
Activity 2.

• On the table is an envelope with 2 or 3 quotations from other conversations I have had.

• On your table discuss what they have to say.

• If you were sitting chatting to these people, represented through their words, what would you say to them?
“[e]ventually, though, the sense of dysfunction becomes so great that the model breaks down and is replaced by another...
a variety of building blocks must be in place before a new synthesis is possible and a new common sense emerges.”
(Zehr)

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Children live in families (however you define family). Families create communities and communities create cities... *the idea of 'family' must be seen as the most important utility - yet it is currently the most undervalued and underused* - 

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The present paradigm local authority working... must change if we are serious about understanding the importance of relationships in how children grow up...

Families will create communities and communities will create cities and those connections are the things that you need to invest in...

Investing in those connections has to be about relationships, language and values, how I want to treat you and how you expect me to treat you...
I’m not sure this constitutes a new paradigm, mum!
• Passing on a smile clip — available on youtube.
It is important for us to think intentionally and deliberately about creating social-emotional, relational-enriched curriculums...

as it is to develop curriculum around science, maths and engineering.

(Apologies to George Graham/Bruce Perry).
It is important for us to think intentionally and deliberately about creating social-emotional, relational-enriched curriculums. OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR COLLEAGUES, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES. As it is to develop curriculum around science, maths and engineering. POLICIES AND PRACTICE ABOUT THE WAY WE WORK WITH THEM.
Ask yourself: does what is intended,

“translate into practice guided by compassion, understanding, healing or recognition of our common humanity?”

(Wonshé).
Thank you.

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