

# Trustees' Annual Report for CRJI Newry/Armagh - Year Ending 2024

## 1. Introduction

This Trustees' Annual Report covers the period from April 1st, 2023 to March 31st, 2024. It provides an overview of the activities, achievements, and challenges faced by **CRJI Newry/Armagh** during this period. As a key part of **Community Restorative Justice Ireland Newry/Armagh** continues its commitment to providing Restorative Justice services to the community, fostering reconciliation, and promoting social cohesion in line with our mission.

## 2. Our Vision and Mission

**CRJI Newry/Armagh** aims to promote restorative justice as an alternative approach to dealing with conflict and harm. We seek to empower individuals and communities to address wrongdoing and conflict through dialogue, mutual understanding, and accountability. Our mission is rooted in the belief that restorative justice can build stronger, more cohesive communities while supporting victims and offenders to move forward in a positive manner.

## 3. Key Activities and Achievements

Throughout 2024, **CRJI Newry/Armagh** has continued to offer restorative justice services to a wide range of individuals and groups. Our core activities have included:

- **Restorative Cases:** This year, we facilitated over 100 restorative mediation cases, bringing together parties to seek understanding, and agree on a way forward. These cases have shown significant positive outcomes, including enhanced victim satisfaction and reduced reoffending rates.
- **Community Engagement:** Our outreach efforts have been expanded to ensure that the community understands and engages with restorative justice principles. This has included workshops, information sessions, and presentations in local schools, youth groups, and community organisations.
- **Support for Victims:** We have provided continued support to victims of crime through tailored services, including helping victims navigate the justice system and access relevant support services.
- **Training and Development:** CRJI Newry/Armagh has invested in continuous professional development for staff and volunteers, with a focus on restorative justice practice, conflict resolution, and community mediation. We held 12 specialised training sessions in 2024.

#### 4. Financial Overview

The financial year of 2024 has seen continued stability in our financial position. Our funding sources remain diverse, including grants from government bodies, local authorities, charitable donations, and fundraising efforts.

Funds were allocated to support service delivery, including staffing costs, training, outreach activities, and the development of restorative justice programs. We are grateful to our funders and donors, whose contributions ensure the continued success of our operations.

#### 5. Challenges and Risks

2024 presented several challenges for **CRJI Newry/Armagh**, which include:

- **Increased Demand for Services:** The demand for restorative justice services continues to grow, and while this is a positive reflection of our success, it places pressure on resources and staff. We are working to develop sustainable solutions to meet this increasing demand.
- **Securing Long-Term Funding:** While we have received consistent funding, the need to secure long-term and sustainable funding remains critical to the future of the organisation. We are committed to exploring new funding avenues and building stronger relationships with current and potential supporters.
- **Community Awareness:** Although there is growing recognition of restorative justice, there is still a need to increase awareness and understanding within the broader community. We continue to focus on outreach and education to address this gap.

#### 6. Governance and Leadership

The trustees continue to play an essential role in the strategic direction of the organisation. In 2024, we welcomed two new members to the board, bringing diverse expertise. The leadership team remains committed to the principles of accountability, transparency, and community-centred practice.

#### 7. Looking Ahead

Looking to the future, **CRJI Newry/Armagh** is focused on the following key areas:

- Expanding outreach and training opportunities across the Newry and Armagh regions.

- Increasing engagement with the local criminal justice system to ensure restorative justice is incorporated as a recognised tool for dealing with harm and conflict.
- Developing additional funding streams to ensure long-term sustainability and programme growth.

We will also continue to work closely with partners in the criminal justice system, statutory agencies, and other community-based organisations to ensure that restorative justice practices are accessible to all who need them.

## **8. Conclusion**

The past year has been one of growth and progress for **CRJI Newry/Armagh**. Despite facing challenges, the organisation has remained steadfast in its mission to provide restorative justice services to those in need. We remain committed to our values of community empowerment, respect, and accountability. We would like to thank our staff, volunteers, partners, and funders for their ongoing support.

### **Signed:**

Annette Hughes  
Chairperson  
CRJI Newry/Armagh

01/10/2024