

# ONE MINUTE GUIDE TO...

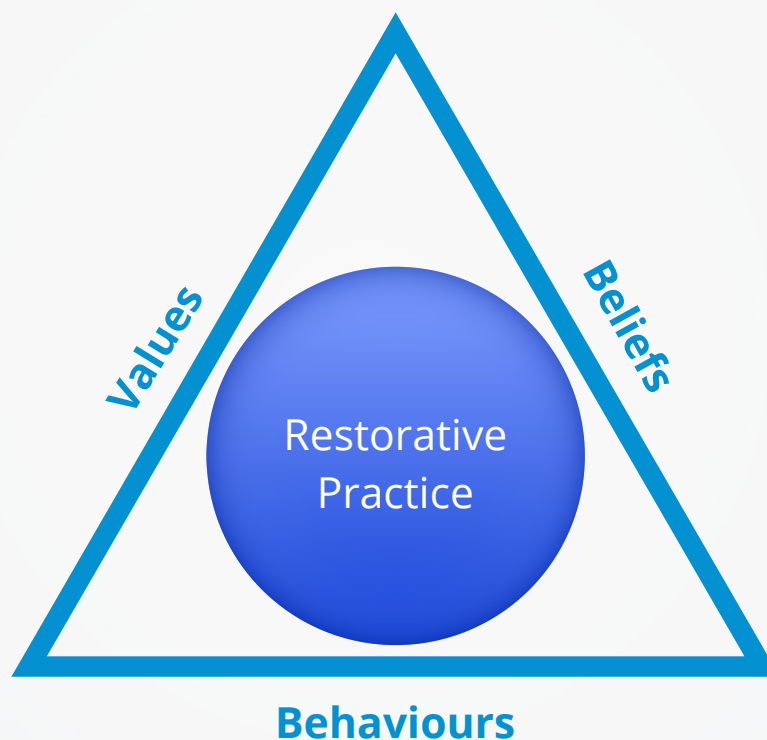


# RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

## WHAT IS IT?

**Restorative practice** is a **way of being** that is **value-based**, **needs led**, and **strengths focused**.

**Restorative Practice** is based on a core set of **beliefs**, **values** and **behaviours** that focuses on the **building**, **maintaining** and **repairing relationships**.



Restorative Practices can be informal or formal processes that allow us to proactively build relationships through the investment of social capital to achieve change through participatory learning and decision-making.

When we work with and alongside people, families and communities, there is strong evidence to say that outcomes for children are improved. Restorative Practice enables us to work in relational ways **WITH children** and **families** to create and **inspire positive change**. This enables change to occur through **building relationships that offer high support and high challenge**.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO US IN DUDLEY?

Our vision for a Child Friendly Dudley is built on the principles of Restorative Practice and provides us with the foundations for our organisational culture and a structured framework for our practice.

Restorative Practice can be broadly applied across the partnership of agencies working with children, families, and communities. Using restorative principles and behaviours with our colleagues and partners, as well as children and families, enables us to develop positive working relationships. The use of 'solution circles' and 'checking-in' at the beginning of meetings are examples of how we use Restorative Practice in Dudley to connect, solve problems and support each other.

## HOW ARE WE DOING RESTORATIVE PRACTICE IN DUDLEY?

Restorative Practice provides a framework for us to work with and support families to become better equipped to solve their difficulties and address the challenges they may be facing.

In Dudley we believe that the **'people best placed to solve problems are the people directly affected by the problem'** Our model of **'Family Led Practice'** works on the fundamental idea that families and their networks are of primary importance and the most important influence on improving outcomes for children. By connecting with and understanding whole family networks, we can work with families in strengths-based ways using Family Meetings and Family Group Conferencing to support family networks achieve improved outcomes for their children. We do this based on an understanding of the impact of trauma on children and families and an awareness of the importance of attachment.

If we work with families in restorative ways, keeping children at the heart of decisions that affect them, we can enable families to focus on their difficulties earlier. In this way we can more effectively provide the right amount of support to the right children at the right time. This will ensure that the local authority's intervention in family life only occurs when necessary but is timely, appropriate, and proportionate.

## KEY CONTACT AND MORE INFORMATION

For more information about how we are using restorative approaches in Dudley please contact:

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**LISTEN WITH THE INTENTION TO  
UNDERSTAND RATHER THAN REPLY**

Quote by Stephen R. Covey