

Community Restorative Justice Ireland

Annual Report 2011



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***“Through a process of empowerment to build a just restorative
community that is tolerant, responsive and inclusive”***

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Chairperson's Report

2011 was a landmark year for CRJI as concepts such as accreditation, due recognition, more stable funding environments and changes in personnel, meant that we had “stepped up to the plate” to use the baseball analogy.

CRJI has been determined to take the lead on many matters that fall within its wide remit and this in turn has sometimes resulted in accusations of spreading ourselves too thin. Our counter to that has always been that the role of CRJI impinges on everything from community safety to victim support. As a result we necessarily touch on areas where others provide services. We do this with a view to complementing such services as we are often the trusted first port of call or de-facto agency co-ordinator for our users.

The year has seen our organisation subject to reviews, evaluations, inspections and numerous other forms of scrutiny and we have emerged from them all with our reputation and integrity enhanced. In these straitened financial times we are constantly under pressure to ensure we “deliver” for our stakeholders and invariably this means some form of governance.

For CRJI governance can mean – vocational, financial, corporate or otherwise – and we, as an organisation, are constantly being asked to demonstrate our ‘Value for Money’ or how we provide a ‘Return on Social Investment’ and where the ‘Community Pound’ actually goes. To many people these are governmental sound bites but they reflect the professional environment in which we operate.

The CRJI Board and Senior Management Team has striven to change corporate strategy and relevant operational protocols to satisfy the requests of key stakeholder bodies. At the same time we have tried to steer the organisation through what seems at times to be an endless series of labyrinthine criteria in order for us to simply do our work on the ground in our communities.

In practical terms we are now in an environment, which requires many things of us from perfect record keeping to clear audit trails. And even though what we are doing on the ground has not changed much there is an industry of bureaucracy that insists we justify, account, comply with or explain every operational or corporate decision.

The CRJI Board commend the staff and volunteers who are the very fabric of what CRJI is and stands for. We commend too the work that has been put in over the last 12 months and more. It is a credit to them all.

The Board is determined to ensure that CRJI are social policy leaders and to this extent we are making ourselves a voice to be heard with each and every relevant consultation that emanates from the Assembly.

Our Operational Plan for 2012 and our rolling Corporate Plan (until 2013) sets out our strategy for the next 12 months. Hopefully everyone at all levels within CRJI will be able to identify where they fit in and how they contribute towards attaining our objectives. The Board is conscious that our volunteers know that a lot is expected from us in the way that we expect a lot from staff and volunteers.

That is why initiatives such as restructuring, acquiring Investors in People, the newly structured team and board meetings and governance protocols, mean that we are ready for the challenges ahead. We will continue to strive towards continuous improvement and meet and better the expectations of stakeholders and funders alike.

On behalf of CRJI I would like to thank all those organisations who have worked in partnership with us over the year and who will continue to do so to benefit our communities.

Mark McAllister
(CRJI Chair 2011)

Acting Director's Report

This has proved to be another successful year for Community Restorative Justice Ireland and our organisation has grown from strength to strength.

During 2011 we were again inspected by the Criminal Justice Inspection Unit and as with previous inspections, the inspection team was meticulous, thorough and professional. The result, in my view was positive and more importantly a reinforcement of what we are doing right. There are few community organisations that will undergo this level of scrutiny and it is a credit to our practitioners and staff that the report was so positive. In the coming year we will implement in full the recommendations contained in the report.

Community Restorative Justice Ireland now looks forward to the future. I said in last year's report that we had begun a process of building a team approach to developing the organisation. We have been successful in this as we have developed our central office and the necessary framework and structure from which to push the Restorative agenda forward. We have started on the Investors in People Award process, which is focussed on improving what we do.

Improving what we deliver will be a key theme for the coming year. We should always remember that our core area of work is community safety. We must work to achieve this and that means we must be creative, professional and most importantly stay true to the restorative values, which inform and direct this organisation on a daily basis. This approach has served us well as we now enjoy open, working and successful partnerships with the many agencies that make up the Criminal Justice System. We look forward to strengthening these partnerships in the coming year.

The focus we have placed on partnership working is clearly the way forward, particularly in economically challenging times. If we develop together, share ideas and resources we believe that not only do we become more effective but we can make funding stretch further. The reality is there is less money to do more work.

The issues we face in our communities remain static in some respect. Fear of crime, burglary, drugs, violent crime, alcohol-related crime and anti-community activity remain with us and need to be tackled at all levels. Community Restorative Justice Ireland remains committed to do all we can.

Unfortunately we are still witnessing punishment shootings and beatings. Community Restorative Justice Ireland remains completely opposed to these attacks, which in recent times have become increasingly more violent. We must work to tackle the culture, which sustains these actions, and convince those who carry out such actions that rather than solving the problem they have become part of the problem.

Equally the organised crime, where armed groups, their members or those who are using the names of these groups, are extorting money from criminals or drug dealers must stop. Those behind these activities care nothing for our community and are prepared to sink our community into a mire, which will take us years to reverse.

Looking forward to 2012 we have refreshed and updated our operational plan. This year will see us continue to develop and implement the core aspects of our plan.

To conclude, last year was a good year for our organisation and we move forward with confidence that we will build on that success. As ever, I would like to thank our Board of Directors, our staff, and most importantly our volunteer practitioners, who contribute so much.

Harry Maguire
Acting Director



November 2011: *Acting Director Harry Maguire and Matt Bagott Chief Constable PSNI attending the 'Change and Challenge Policing Conference' held at the University of Ulster Jordanstown.*

Belfast Co-ordinator's Report (Jim McCarthy)

This year has been a difficult one for Community Restorative Justice Ireland as each of our successes bring new demands. And while we welcome new challenges we have had to constantly stretch ourselves to deliver a first-class service to our clients. It is clear that Community Restorative Justice/practices are needed in all aspects of our daily lives. CRJI will continue to bring this message to decision makers.

In Belfast a new office opened in South/East Belfast (non-funded) and all those involved must be congratulated for their dedication and commitment.

Our project with Northern Ireland Probation Board is now entering its fourth year and is regarded by many observers as a model of best practice. Along with Northern Ireland Alternatives, we met with Serbet Cox (OBE) chairman of the Probation Board in England and Wales and senior probation and mediation officers from the Czech Republic.

Our relationship with the Belfast Trust continues to develop. The importance of this piece of work is immense. It gives us the opportunity to intervene formally at an early stage in a young person's life providing community support for their families, encouraging the community to view these people as families with problems and not problem families.

I continue to work as part of a consortium with the Northern Ireland Policing Board to provide an understanding of our communities' needs. This has seen recommendations made by CRJI being put into practice by the PSNI.

I also have been invited to sit on the Youth advisory group of the NIPB and I see this as a great opportunity to enable young people from our community to air their views. I invited members of the Policing Board Community Engagement Committee to come to our community and meet with young people.

I continue to work with NIACRO around the resettling of offenders. This provides a great opportunity to bring together all the agencies with responsibility to ensure that offenders are given all the support possible to help them reintegrate.

I have continued to work with the loyalist CARE project and Seymour Hill residents. At our last AGM ten of their group received their OCN level 2 in Restorative Practices. I am delighted to report that some of that group have now completed a Certificate in Restorative Practices from the University of Ulster Jordanstown. This enables us to move to the next stage of our project, which would see a joint office opening. This would be a tremendous achievement and I would see it as the foundations of our Justice House model.

I have worked with Belfast City Councils Travellers' Liaison Officer Frank O'Hagan and also with Martin Sloane of Belfast Trust to set up a forum where Travellers' issues can be addressed. We have held numerous meetings with BCC, LCC, PSNI, Travellers and housing associations and while this work is ongoing I feel significant progress has been made.

One highlight of the year was the recognition by the Department of Justice of work undertaken by CRJI. This came in the form of Jane Young (CRJI Colin Coordinator) and myself being presented with an award by Justice Minister David Ford. We were nominated by both the Probation Board and members of our community.

We have continued to highlight gaps within the current protocols that guide us from the Department of Justice. We have raised the issue of the protocol at each and every meeting we have had with the department. While there is a general consensus in the justice world that the protocols are restrictive, they have been the biggest obstacle to date that CRJI has had to deal with.

Acting Director Harry Maguire and I have been involved in outreach programs nationally and internationally over this last year. We have hosted a delegation from Nepal.

These meetings have once again proven to be extremely productive. It's still striking however, that visitors seek out Community Restorative Justice Ireland and never fail to ask the same question "How do we get community involvement?" Yet still within the wider Justice family there are those that fail to grasp the opportunities. Let us hope that in the ever-changing world we live in we can help both our community and our justice system build a model that will be fit for purpose.

I have also dealt with 200 plus 'Under Threat' cases, which is a significant increase on last year. This figure alone demonstrates just how difficult the year has been and unfortunately this looks set to remain a problem in the years ahead. I am totally convinced that given the resources Community Restorative Justice Ireland will have a significant part to play in helping to remove this scourge from our community.

MACS Project/Housing Associations

Over the last few years CRJI has established and maintained the Mediation and Community Support Project (MACS). It has gone from strength to strength throughout West Belfast. Many clients who have engaged in the MACS project have resolved their differences through restorative practises.

We would like to thank NIHE, PSNI, and Atlantic Philanthropies along with community agencies and statutory bodies for backing CRJI over the last few years in delivering this vital resolution service.

It has enabled neighbours and families to live together again in a stress-free environment without the fear of harm or hurt. The programme has also been offered to owner occupiers who may have been affected by anti-community behaviour or issues.

Many who were affected by ASB/Disputes felt they could no longer live in their homes. Some had applied to their housing provider to move, transfer or exchange to other areas.

Through CRJI's focus on resolution this project has enabled many of those tenants/families and owner occupiers to continue to live in their own homes.

This project has also enabled housing providers and statutory bodies to benefit from our services, freeing up vital time in putting their energies into other priorities within their organisations.

CRJI's input to MACS is unique as we work at resolving an issue at hours that statutory agencies cannot offer. CRJI practitioners facilitate clients who may only be available after normal working hours or weekends due to their work or family commitments.

The MACS project has seen a rise on the last year of referrals from community and statutory bodies. The good working relationships enjoyed with the PSNI has seen referrals coming from all police stations in the area. The project has also brought young people, supported by their families face to face with the PSNI and with other families within the communities to help address community concerns about the impact of some of their actions.

CRJI practitioners have also encouraged a number of young people and their families to get help with addictions enabling them to take part in more constructive activity within the community.

Confidential community support is a vital ingredient of MACS. Support may continue after our cases have been closed and referrals to professional bodies have included counselling bodies, Social Services, PSNI, CNPT, Life line, Solicitors, Sure Start, Health Agencies, GPs, Hospital A&E and the NIFRS.

The professionalism of CRJI practitioners working on the MACS project has enabled all parties to our processes to be confident that our services are completely impartial to all.

We have facilitated meetings through an interpreter for ethnic families with language barriers to keep them updated on the CRJI process throughout their case. This project has been delivered on a cross-community basis to NIHE tenants.

CRJI believes the success of the NIHE-MACS project demonstrates clearly that it should be extended to benefit other communities outside the Greater West Belfast Area. Our statistics show that mediations have also been facilitated for NIHE tenants outside the MACS project area.

Housing Associations

CRJI have continued to work over the last three years with Helm Housing Association. We have established and maintained a good working relationship with housing officers right up to management level.

All issues relating to Helm tenants and their communities have been addressed in our offices throughout Belfast. Our offices have facilitated multi-agency meetings with community groups, residents' associations, PSNI, BCC, and LCC along with direct and indirect mediation with those residents who engaged with CRJI.

This year CRJI has committed to develop working relationships with the following Housing Providers: Fold, Clanmil, Oaklee, Habinteg, Flax Housing, N&E Housing and Ark Housing Association and look forward to the coming year.

Marie Hamill
Project Worker

CRJI Intervention/Mentoring Programme

Community Restorative Justice Ireland has been working on programmes to encourage positive engagement in the management of challenging behaviours through youth mentoring and early interventions.

CRJI has been working on this project from October 2010 – December 2011. To date we have had 22 young people referred from Social Services. This project entails working with Health & Social Care, schools, the Youth Justice Agency and the PSNI.

CRJI provide young people who are experiencing, anxiety/stress, with coping skills, through one-to-one and family group sessions, giving them relevant information on programmes to help boost their confidence and self-esteem.

The Early Intervention work includes home visits, and visits to schools, youth centres, the Youth Justice Agency or CRJI offices, and offers individual support to the young people. It raises awareness about risky behaviour and the support services available to young people and their families.

CRJI recognise that many of the youth find themselves on the periphery of anti-community and other negative behaviour. Our programme is based on Restorative Principles, which provides a positive alternative to such behaviour and the opportunity to address some of the issues that impact on the lives of others.

Restorative Plan

CRJI draws up a Restorative plan with young people tailored to individual needs, focussing on; behaviour, family intervention, mediation/advocacy in community, role in community, problem solving. Personal plans take several factors into consideration; building relationships, victim awareness, activity, risky behaviour sessions, restorative practice, goal setting & decision making. This also involves the Youth Justice Agency and the PSNI explaining their roles.

CRJI will support the young person during the process to identify their own personal goals and how they can realistically achieve these. CRJI helps the young person to identify priorities for change and build new actions into their personal plan.

The advantages in this Restorative approach is that it offers parents support through crisis stigma, helps develop an understanding of their child, enables positive thinking and empowers parents with the skills to address and deal with tough issues.

Child Protection Training – Keeping Safe Project

This year I organised Child Protection Training for CRJI Staff. Nine CRJI staff completed and received their certificates for this course.

2011 also saw some of the young people taking part in a PPS programme where the young people met with the PSNI over two sessions to look at risky behaviours. Another group will start this training next month. This year will also see the completion of a leaflet in Restorative Practice designed by the young people through an art project they are taking part in.

Karen Clarke
Project Worker

Derry Regional Report

Derry has had another successful year and we have maintained all our staff on a full-time basis thanks to continued funding from DSD. We continue to have three co-ordinators, a manager and a full-time administrator. CRJI agreed a programme of work with DSD and we exceeded all of the targets. Below is some of what we achieved: lock-out scheme including purchasing and installation of cameras for victims of crime (funded by PSNI), OCN RJ Training, OCN Child Protection, OCN Mediation Training for local residents and support for victims of crime.

CRJI also worked on other initiatives along with a number of agencies and community groups: Youth Education in Safety involving over 1,000 school children, Community Safety Bulletins, Off Road Misuse billboard, (which included the PSNI at Free Derry corner for the first time at a community event), Mentoring project alongside Co-operation Ireland with 15 young people who are at risk of falling into the Criminal Justice System and an Oil Theft Initiative where CRJI inscribed oil burners for residents using an engraver provided by NIHE.

We have just been invited by DSD to “apply for three-year funding” and we are confident that we will be successful. For the third year in a row CRJI entered into a Service Level Agreement with PBNI to work with 15 (minimum) of their clients. CRJI have built on relationships with Social Services and the Youth Justice Agency and participated in many case conferences.

CRJI, on our own, engaged directly with nearly 2,000 people over the past year either through mediation, community safety or crime prevention initiatives and over 2,000 people in partnership with other organisations. CRJI also have excellent working relationships with all levels of the PSNI and NIHE and consistently work with their wardens. I am member of the DPP and Derry City Council Community Safety Partnership and Colm Barton the Chair of CRJI in Derry is a member of the CSP.

CRJI continue to play an instrumental role in Outer North, Outer West and Triax Community Safety Forums in the local neighbourhood areas. Sean Collins (CRJI) is Chair of the Triax Community Safety Team, Martin Connolly (CRJI) chairs Outer North Neighbourhood Safety Team and Mark Doherty (CRJI) chairs OW NST and I chair Outer West CSF. Recently CRJI joined the Waterside Community Safety Initiative and we advise them on dealing with anti-community complaints and we also take referrals from them. Derry, as part of the Senior Management Team, has also been involved in most of the meetings at CRJI’s central office.

Finally I, on behalf of CRJI in Derry, would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Tony O’Doherty who left the organisation in the latter part of 2011 for all his work over the past ten years. I would also like to thank Stella McCauley for her excellent work as ON Co-ordinator, a post she resigned from last year. Stella is still with CRJI as a practitioner.

Noel McCartney
Manager



Launch of Off Road Vehicles' Misuse Billboard at Free Derry Corner. Charlie Murray DSD, Mark Doherty CRJ, Insp Trevor McKeown PSNI, John Boyle SDLP Cllr, Maeve Mc Laughlin SF Cllr and Eddie Doherty Manager NIHE.

Newry/Armagh Regional Report

This was another busy year for CRJI in Newry/Armagh. The awarding of money from the Community Safety Partnership towards office running costs for the financial year enabled our region to operate in a more secure environment.

Much of the first three months entailed organising the first-ever community safety conference to be held in the Newry & Mourne District Council area. The one-day conference included panels made up of representatives from N&MDC, NIHE, PSNI, PBNI and CRJI. A police officer who recently completed CRJI training also addressed the conference and Dr John Topping delivered the keynote speech. The resulting feedback, post-conference, was extremely positive both on the event itself and the ability of a community-based organisation (CRJI) to undertake such a task.

CRJI in Newry/Armagh has further developed good working practices with all statutory agencies. We have a very good relationship with the PSNI and especially with the Neighbourhood Policing Team in South Armagh.

We have also honoured our commitments to the Probation Board in accordance with the service level agreement throughout 2011.



CRJI co-ordinator Ewan Morgan (right) pictured before a community safety event, held in the Newry Office

Over the August 9th weekend CRJI supplied leadership and participation in the Derrybeg estate at a difficult time, which impacted directly on a minimum of 250 people. This helped resolve a tense situation in a calm, peaceful way. Derrybeg has since been identified as a 'Hotspot area' by the Community Safety Partnership and will be able to access much-needed resources from designated funds to address the issues associated with 'hotspots'.

In the Mourneview Park area, we supported the community association and intervened early in a developing problem by engaging with disaffected youth. A least 300 to 400 residents in the Greater Linenhall/Armagh Rd areas benefited from this intervention which helped improve their quality of life.

The casework referrals for the CRJI office in Newry/Armagh totalled 50 for the year. We decided this year to record the number of community referrals to our office, which accounts for a large portion of our time and resources. At the end of December these totalled 80.

On behalf of CRJI in Newry/Armagh we would like to thank our volunteer caseworkers for their continued support and commitment throughout the year.

Ewan Morgan

CRJI Co-ordinator Newry/Armagh

Photo Gallery - 2010 AGM



Presentation of UU Certificates in Restorative Practices Janet Donnelly, Tommy Farrell, Martha Farrell and Marie Hamill of CRJI receiving their certificates



Harry Maguire (CRJI), David Ford (Justice Minister), Tom Winston (NIA)



Candidates receive their certificates OCN Level 2 CRJI Training



Mark McAllister (CRJI Board of Directors), Gerry McConville (CRJI Board of Directors), David Ford (Justice Minister), Harry Maguire (CRJI)



Joe Quinn (CRJI Board of Directors), Jackie McDonald



Justice Minister – David Ford mingles at CRJI AGM



CRJI 2010 - CRJI Staff are presented with their UoU certificates in Restorative Practices



CRJI 2010 AGM – Mark McAllister (CRJI Board of Directors), Gerry Kelly, Gerry McConville (CRJI Board of Directors)

Photo Gallery



Czech visitors at PBNI Antrim Road to see the working relationship with CRJI & PBNI
 L-R: Christine Hunter; PBNI, Jim McCarthy CRJI, Milan Morava, Michaela Niesnerov, Barbora Kholova and Ondrej Stantejsky



Oct 11 – DOJ 'Justice in the Community Awards 2011 – Rewarding Justice Champions' Jim McCarthy and Jane Young CRJI received their award. Pictured are Mike Connolly (PBNI), Jim McCarthy (CRJI), David Ford (Justice Minister) & Jane Young (CRJI)



9th March 2011
 NIA & CRJI prepare to meet DOJ.
 Harry Maguire CRJI, Debbie Watters NIA, Jim McCarthy CRJI



November 2011
 Acting Director Harry Maguire and Matt Bagott Chief Constable PSNI attending the 'Change and Challenge Policing Conference' held at the University of Ulster Jordanstown.



November 2011
 Tom Winston (Northern Ireland Alternatives) with Harry Maguire Acting Director CRJI



Lord Mayor visits the Greater Andersonstown CRJI Office. The event was the introduction of Belfast City Council Wardens into the Upper Falls Area.

Photo Gallery



Reps from KDSM 'Concern World Wide' with rep from Glencree Centre - Wicklow visit CRJI in June 2011. Haitian Visit - Dominique Charistin, Jim McCarthy, Jean Claude Joseph, Desire Tonny, Harry Maguire, Sean O'Boyle



7th March 2011 - Tom Kenny interviews Paula Kerr (Colin Office Administrator) and Nicola Kelly (Falls Office Administrator) for Investors In People Standard Assessment



Nepal Delegation Nov 2011 - Nepal Police (DIG Kesh Bahadur Shahi, SSP Ganesh K C, Inspector Kiran Janga Kunwar and Inspector Rajkumar Siluwal), MoHA official (Mr Uddhav Prasad Bhattarai, Under Secretary), Saferworld Nepal (Julie Brethfeld, Nepal Programme Manager and Ojaswi Shah, Policy & Advocacy Officer)



2nd March 2011 - CRJI staff attend in house training on CRJI's updated Stats recording systems



29th November 2011
Harry Maguire giving a presentation to 3rd level social science students attending Queen's University Belfast. Also attending was Dr Azrini Wahidin.



Photo Gallery



2011 – CRJI & NIA – Group Presentation



Jim McCarthy CRJI with PBNI representatives



9th March 2011 – NIA & CRJI facilitate session with the Youth Justice Review Team and victims, parents, RJ practitioners & volunteers



December 2011
Jim McCarthy (Belfast Co-ordinator) CRJI & Harry Maguire (Acting Director) CRJI at Newry & Mourne Council giving a presentation on CRJI.



12th April 2011 – Presentation on the work of CRJI to the School of Sociology, Social Policy & Social Work Facility at QUB – Facilitated by Harry Maguire (CRJI) & Tom Winston (NIA)
Tom Winston (NIA), Harry Maguire (CRJI), Teresa Degenhardt (QUB)



May 2011
Tom Winston, Debbie Watters NIA, Jim McCarthy and Harry Maguire CRJI meet with Mary Brannigan Acting Director of the Youth Justice Agency

Training Report

2011 was a relatively quiet year for us on the training front. This was due mainly to my doubling up in two roles with my duties as acting director superceding all else. However, we managed to run a number of programmes.

I trained a Belfast group successfully through our OCN Level 2 Introduction to Restorative Justice. I also liaised with OCN ensuring that CRJI remained an accredited centre to deliver OCN-registered courses.

I also organised media training for our Belfast Co-ordinators which was delivered in-house.

I attended two training sessions organised for us by Atlantic Philanthropies. The first was on 'Principled Negotiations' and developing an understanding of the 7 element model. The second training session was also supplied by AP and based around media with the focus on the skills needed for radio and television interviews.

Jim McCarthy and I attended a Restorative Management course, which was facilitated by the Ulster University Jordanstown. We have also had discussions with the university team on how we can develop the path way for us to take a Masters in Restorative Justice.

I have attended a number of meetings to identify a way forward on this. The ultimate decision will be determined by the value this would add to our organisation.

Staying with the university theme, we attended a number of events on Restorative Approaches within the area of education. At one such event a representative of the Scottish Government explained that the Scottish Executive is serious about introducing restorative approaches within the school arena and that a number of pilots are up and running.

In the North we have much more practical experience at working through Restorative Approaches in the school context, what we don't have is an education department focused on how to move restorative approaches forward. This issue is something I am committed to develop in the coming year.

We have also been offered a number of places on a Restorative Justice Diploma course facilitated by Dr Mary Magee. Candidates have been selected to enroll on the course, which will even further develop the skill set in our organisation.

In the coming year I will be investigating how CRJI and Northern Ireland Alternatives can begin to think about working together in the development of training materials. This could be one way of strengthening our relationship with NIA but also at consolidating our position as leaders in developing Restorative Approaches.

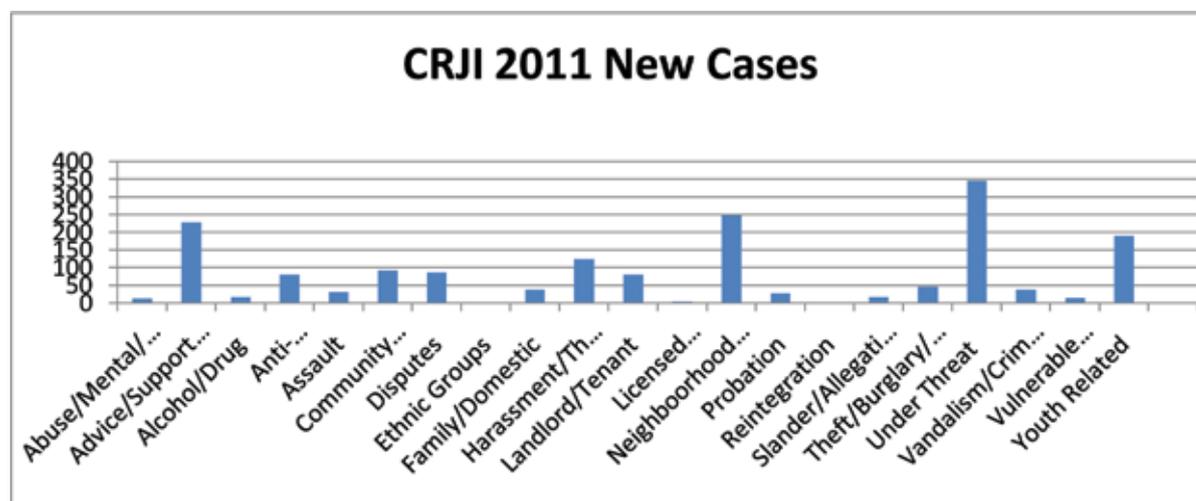
I have been central to the establishment of an office in the Short Strand, from training a number of local people to supporting funding efforts. This will also be a focus for me in the coming year as we seek to build across the north.

I have also been involved in the delivery of a number of key presentations, three of which were co presented with NIA. These presentations were to the Quaker Service and Queen's University faculty of Social Science. The other presentation of particular note was to a group Nepalese police and judicial figures.

Harry Maguire

CRJI 2011 - Statistics

Community Restorative Justice Ireland produces a report on the cases it has closed each year. This report includes, the number of cases each office closed, the type of case, the volunteer practitioner hours involved, and the agencies who referred to CRJI and the agencies that CRJI referred to. The Stats Report covers the period January to December 2011 and is available in early 2012. For this annual report we have reported on new cases for the period January 2011 to December 2011 to give a total for 12 months. Below is a breakdown of which type of cases CRJI offices worked on throughout 2011. This is based on the 1,707 new cases in the period January 2011 to December 2011.



Categories	No Of Cases	%
Abuse/Mental/Sexual/Verbal	12	1
Advice/Support/Suicide Intervention	228	13
Alcohol/Drug	16	1
Anti Community Behaviour	79	4
Assault	30	1
Community Concerns	91	5
Disputes	86	3
Ethnic Group	1	.05
Family/Domestic	38	2
Harassment/Threats/Intimidation	124	7
Landlord/Tenant	80	10
Licensed Premises	2	.05
Neighbourhood Disputes	247	14
Probation	26	14
Reintegration	0	0
Slander/Allegations	16	1
Theft/Burglary/Robbery	45	2
Under Threat	345	8
Vandalism/Criminal Damage	38	2
Vulnerable Adults/Children	13	1
Youth Related	190	11
Total	1707	100

North Belfast CRJI Office

2011 was a year of consolidation for CRJI in the north of the city. The volume of clients presenting to our project continued at a high level with over 270 cases referred and dealt with. This is testament to the work of CRJI and the need locally for a community-based justice project. The research is unambiguous: effective community safety and crime prevention requires the involvement of the local community. Consequently all our initiatives to address crime and anti-social behaviour were based on a collaborative model of working with local people, families, residents associations, community groups and relevant statutory agencies.

Over the past year CRJI has hosted meetings between residents and the police, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Belfast City Council and social services to ensure our clients get the best possible service to which they're entitled. We also enjoyed a very beneficial relationship with our elected representatives from local councillors to MLAs and ministers in the Executive.

A theme that has emerged over the last 12 months has been the development of CRJI as not only a link between the community and statutory bodies – but also as a conduit between government agencies such as police, social services and NIHE; promoting a holistic multi-agency approach to the delivery of services to our clients. CRJI can assess the multi-faceted needs of our clients and has the links in north Belfast to access the full range of services needed.

As our restorative approach to community safety involves bringing people together to solve problems, which are detrimental to the community, it is fitting that CRJI has played a key role in the organisation and operation of the Ardoyne-Marrowbone Multi-Agency Meetings.

The north Belfast office has developed a progressive and very effective working relationship with the main housing providers in our area, particularly Flax Housing. Throughout the year we worked in partnership to improve the safety and quality of life of tenants. CRJI also enjoys a productive relationship with local businesses, schools, clergy and community organisations; coming together throughout 2011 to address crime in a comprehensive, peaceful fashion.

Like many areas our community remains beset by the problem of illegal drugs and CRJI has played a leading role in addressing this. Our standing in the community means a constant flow of information about drug dealing came to our office. This has been diligently reported to the PSNI and helped impact on the local drug trade. This level of professionalism has led to local people handing over drugs to the north Belfast office who have passed it onto the police.

In 2011 CRJI took £5,500 worth of illegal drugs directly out of circulation. We have also worked with those consuming drugs (illegal and non-prescribed) supporting their move away from dependence. In cases where children have been abusing substances we have worked with their families and a wide range of agencies to ensure a holistic approach was adopted.

It is easy for a community like ours, still dealing with the legacy of the conflict and beset by multi-levelled deprivation, to adopt a position of helplessness when confronted by extensive crime and community safety concerns. Throughout 2011 CRJI has worked with the people of north Belfast to counter this sense of hopelessness and shown that these challenges, however daunting, can be overcome by working in partnership.

Garrett Gorman
North Belfast Co-ordinator

Community Restorative Justice Ireland

Colin Office Report

Since its formation in 1999 CRJI in Colin has worked firmly at the grassroots level of the area. The Colin office operates an open-door policy for our community. In 2011 our Colin office dealt with 251 cases, knowledge of the availability of resources and excellent working relationships with the community, statutory and voluntary sector has ensured that these cases were dealt with in a holistic, inclusive and restorative manner.

CRJI in Colin are represented on a number of forums within the area. In response to the cluster of deaths in the Colin Area (21 deaths from March 2010 to July 2011), we currently sit on the Suicide Task Group, the Domestic Violence Forum, Community Safety Forum, and Housing Providers Forum. We are committed to working collectively in partnership to improve provision and increase community confidence in all service providers.

Concerns raised in our area in 2011, led the Colin Office to develop through consultation with youth, youth providers and parents, community safety leaflets aimed at young people/parents to highlight the issues of knife crime, drugs, alcohol, warning signs for suicide, self-harming, bullying, cyber bullying, and text talk slang for parents.

Evidence indicates that the levels of deprivation experienced in the Colin are linked to poor health, education need, lack of employment opportunities, break down in relationships, (community neighbour and personal), parenting, and anti-social behaviour issues.

CRJI in Colin exclusively offer a holistic approach in addressing presenting issues, offering family support, intervention and preventative packages.

The benefits for the promotion of restorative practices will in the long term ensure social benefits for all of those involved in the Colin Area.

In 2011 CRJI in Colin were nominated and awarded a Highly Commended Recommendation from the Justice in the Community Awards, for the work we do within the community.



Oct 11 – DOJ 'Justice in the Community Awards 2011 – Rewarding Justice Champions' Jim McCarthy and Jane Young CRJI received a 'Highly Commended' award in recognition of their effort in helping others and the wider community.
Mike Connolly (PBNi), Jim McCarthy (CRJI), David Ford (Justice Minister) & Jane Young (CRJI)

The Minister for Justice, David Ford MLA stated at the awards ceremony at Stormont:

“All of them work tirelessly, often away from the glare of publicity to help others and we should never take their investment in making a difference for granted.”

This recommendation is an acknowledgment of the work of all our staff.

I would also like to thank the practitioners for their commitment, enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year; they are an invaluable asset to our organisation. I look forward to the year ahead and will continue to ensure that the Colin Office will provide the highest standard of service to the local community.

Jane Young
Project Coordinator

Greater Andersonstown CRJI Office

Throughout the past year CRJI in Greater Andersonstown has continued to support the community through our restorative practices and multi-agency work.

We have worked in partnership with all relevant statutory and community bodies to tackle the issues of crime and community safety in the Upper Falls area. The ethos of restorative practice is central to our core work. Case records for 2011 show the continuing need for our services and the success of our restorative approaches.

This year we continue to advise and support those people in our community under threat from armed groups, and work alongside the appropriate agencies to give help to these vulnerable people.

We have supported people on issues of domestic violence, sexual abuse and at risk from suicide. In many of these cases, we are the first point of contact. We worked with them in a sensitive, confidential and supportive manner to build their confidence and establish relationships with the relevant agencies.

This year we have continued to support and advise members of the community who have been victims of crime, again looking at the underlying issues affecting individuals. We have also been supportive of offenders in the community and encouraging them to deal with issues at the core of their offending referring them to agencies if needed.

Throughout the year we have developed relationships with the local parish committee. They are keen to work with us on community safety and also refer cases to us.

We delivered CRJI presentations to statutory agencies and community groups, including medical staff at Windsor House City hospital, at the request of Dr Bridget O’Rawe, who has contacted our services on a number of occasions.

To address community concerns that require a multi-agency approach, we hold monthly meetings bringing together statutory and community & voluntary agencies. Through these meetings we have identified hotspot areas of anti-community behaviour and set up action plans to address these issues.

As a member of the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Partnership CRJI heads the community safety sub-group.

This year we organised a community safety/crime prevention event funded by the DPP in the Upper Andersonstown Community Forum, and invited approx 20 organisations involved in community safety to set up stalls. Crime prevention officer Pete Connolly spoke at this very successful event.

We give regular input to the West Belfast Community Safety Forum. We collated information regarding events being held in area throughout the year. This shaped multi-agency plans for particularly difficult times of the year eg. 12th July marches, Halloween, St Patrick’s Day and 9th August Bonfires.

In response to burglaries we designed and delivered leaflets to the local community and businesses on general security, and keeping safe, and more recently a joint poster with the PSNI was distributed to the local business community.

To highlight the arrival of the BCC Warden Scheme in the Upper Falls, we arranged a launch in our offices for the local statutory agencies, community groups, resident groups, politicians and the city mayor. A presentation was delivered by Michael Burns BCC Community Safety Officer. The wardens worked with CRJI and the forum on local issues, referring cases to us. We also held a similar event when wardens left the area, and Michael Burns extended his thanks to CRJI.

Finally, I would like to thank our volunteers. I commend and praise them for the amount of effort and hours they have put in this year. They are very important to our organisation. They have attended courses and their added commitment and energy positively impacts on the services we are able to deliver.

Teresa Clarke - *Andersonstown Co-ordinator*

Falls CRJI Report

At the beginning of 2011, CRJI in the Falls moved to new premises at 111a Springfield Road, Belfast. We feel this is in a better location than the previous office as it is easy to access especially for disabled/elderly clients as the new premises are ground floor and wheel chair accessible. The new office is also more central to our management area.

Throughout 2011 CRJI in the Falls has continued to strengthen its relationship with the PSNI and have recently held mediations in the office, which included police officers. The Falls CRJI Coordinator facilitated a mediation/meeting in October 2011, between the PSNI Inspector and a community officer and a number of parents and youths from the Clonard area.

The purpose of the mediation/meeting was to highlight the effects of the youths' activities in the local area and the PSNI's response to this. Everyone attending was able to participate and air their views. At the end of the mediation/meeting all agreed that this had been very successful and benefited all involved.

Falls CRJI also continue to work with housing bodies such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Oaklee, Helm and private landlords.

We continue to build on mediation referrals from these bodies. We are also working with these agencies in conjunction with the PSNI and a number of residents' groups within the area.

The Falls office holds monthly meetings with the local PSNI Inspector, which gives us the opportunity to discuss cases and matters affecting the community.

Falls CRJI continue to build on our relationship with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service in relation to a number of schemes:

- The LIFE (Local Intervention Fire Education) Scheme
- The RACE (Road Accident Consequences Education) Scheme
- Schools' Declaration Programme

All involved agreed that the above have been very successful and beneficial.

Falls CRJI Coordinator attended the launch of the 'bin it now' programme in October in Stormont. CRJI have and continue to work with people on drug and alcohol issues, recently we have helped and supported a number of youths accessing our services.

We have set up a referral system with a local counselling project. We are also in the process of arranging a drug and alcohol programme in 2012, which will educate and create awareness in relation to the above issues.

Reflecting back on the year 2011, Falls CRJI will continue to be involved in the multi-agency approach on community safety issues and strive towards successfully resolving disputes and disagreements within the wider community.

Tommy Farrell
Falls Co-ordinator

Financial Report

CRJ Ireland Financial Report for year ended 31.03.2011

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31.03.2011

Incoming Resources £s

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	B/fwd	Rec'd	Owed	Pre Paid		Totals
	09/10	10/11	10/11	11/12	10/11	09/10
Atlantic Philanthropies	44855	51398	0	35696	60557	58429
BCC	0	2069	0		2069	0
Oak Foundation	0	0	0		0	9003
NIH&SSEB	0	20000	0		20000	19000
DOJ	0	62954	0		62954	87520
CFNI	0	0	0		0	15000
BRO	0	0	0		0	77888
DSD	0	214832	0		214832	5986
PBNI	0	45000	0		45000	40000
NIHE	0	97888	0	43683	54205	50000
An Munia Tober	0	0	0		0	650
Diversity Challenge	0	49359	11459		60818	900
Fáilte Abhaile	0	2566	0		2566	2563
Bank interest	0	92	0		92	66
Asset Training	0	337	0		337	0
Volunteer Now (Colin)	0	935	0		935	0
Sundry income & donations	0	11201	0	468	10733	65
	44855	558631	11459	79847	535098	367070

Operating Costs

	A/town	Colin	Falls	C/office	Total	
Staff costs				363042	363042	234352
Rent & Water rates	0	0	0	37590	37590	16420
Heat & Light	0	0	216	13271	13487	9669
Maintenance	192	100	0	2662	2954	0
Stationery, postage printing	224	0	21	20782	21027	4585
Telephone, internet	0	0	0	10690	10690	6127
Audit fee	0	0	0	3447	3447	3447
Legal fees	0	0	0	1175	1175	0
Hospitality	250	0	0	3458	3708	2072
Staff training & conferences	0	0	0	5091	5091	9881
PBNI grant	0	0	0	15000	15000	0
Consultancy & professional fees	0	0	0	7724	7724	0
Bank charges	42	30	40	280	392	223
Grants to CRJ's	0	0	0	0	0	30512
Diversity Challenge	0	0	0	0	0	15000
Insurance	485	0	0	1383	1868	1246
Adverts	0	0	0	652	652	1061
Volunteer expenses	850	275	0	400	1525	200
Fishing Trip (Youth Grp)	399	0	0	0	399	0
General & petty cash	917	700	270	2892	4779	4169
Depreciation note 1	0	0	319	6036	<u>6355</u>	<u>7856</u>
Total Expenses	3359	1105	866	495575	<u>500905</u>	<u>346820</u>
Surplus in year					<u>34193</u>	<u>20250</u>

Full Set of Accounts is available from the CRJI Central Office

CRJI OFFICES

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www.crji.ie

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