

Mentions of Restorative Approaches in the recently published HMIP report following inspection of the women's prison at HMP Peterborough in September 2017:

The prison had launched a well-managed Restorative Approaches project six months prior to the inspection. It focused on resolving disputes and violence within the prison, supported by Restorative Solutions, a specialist voluntary organisation. Steps were being taken to embed the project throughout the prison. It was developing well, but needed to be better promoted. In the previous six months, 26 interventions had taken place, including 17 formal case conferences.

A variety of less well-established programmes, including a restorative victim awareness course, also ran from time to time. Restorative Approaches (see paragraph 1.17) was being introduced across the prison. A few successful victim and offender conferences had taken place, and staff were keen to build on them.

The rate of adjudications was higher than we would expect in a women's prison and some issues could have been dealt with through mediation or the IEP scheme. Hearings were fair, women understood the process and could participate fully. The use of restorative justice approaches in adjudications was positive.

The Family Matters team also helped women rebuild family relationships. The manager had recently been trained in Restorative Approaches (see paragraph 1.17) and, during the inspection, facilitated a conference on restoring family relationships.