

## Press Statement - New multi agency launched for Wexford

Wexford Restorative Practices Partnership (WRPP) is a new multi agency body established recently with the objective of developing restorative practices in County Wexford. The new entity was officially launched at a conference in Enniscorthy on 12<sup>th</sup> October where sixty professionals from the areas of education, youth services, criminal justice and community development gathered to hear a panel of experts speaking on the benefits of incorporating restorative practices into their services and work.

Membership of WRPP currently includes: TUSLA Child and Family Agency, County Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee, HSE Suicide Prevention Office, Probation Service, Waterford Wexford Education Training Board, Wexford Education Centre, Wexford Local Development, Slaney Youth Diversion Project, Ferns Diocesan Youth Service, Youth New Ross, SAFE Youth Diversion Project and the Cornmarket Project.

The chairman of the new body, Paul Delaney, explained that this new initiative grew out of an action calling for the development of restorative practices in County Wexford as part of the overall county plan developed by the County Wexford Children and Young Peoples's Services Committee. Wexford Local Development – Cornmarket Project were asked to take the lead on this new development and he stated that he was very encouraged to see the interest shown not just in the conference, but in the information seminars that WRPP had run in County Wexford earlier in the year. He went on to state that restorative practice (RP) is a way of working with people that is based on the philosophy that when people are given ownership and responsibility for their actions, there is a greater likelihood of positive, long-term interaction with other people, the development of empathy with others, and the establishment of healthy and productive communities. We are very fortunate in that we already have a number of accredited restorative practice facilitators and trainers who are part of WRPP and it is our intention to offer training in Wexford next year to those who can benefit from incorporating this approach into their work, he stated.

When asked about the benefits of restorative practice, he stated that the development of R.P. within County Wexford has significant implications for all aspects of our society — in families, classrooms, schools, youth and family services, criminal justice settings, workplaces, associations and the wider community, because by developing more positive, longer-lasting relationships, R.P. aids organisations and their constituents to function more effectively. He concluded by stating that the fundamental premise of R.P is that when relationships between people have been harmed, those involved in repairing that harm are happier, more cooperative and more likely to make long-term, positive changes within that relationship, when things are done by and with them, rather than to or for them.

---

Paul Delaney  
Chairman  
Wexford Restorative Practices Partnership  
0879544697  
wexfordrpp@gmail.com