Theory of Change – RJ4All International Institute

1 Situation

The criminal justice system as well as current models of social justice have considerable limitations , which impact on performance and equality. These limitations are exacerbated when it comes to disadvantaged groups and young people, whose experience and perception of justice are deteriorating leading to social divisions. Restorative justice offers an alternative approach based on the principles of power sharing, individual empowerment and responsibility. Further evidence is needed.

2 Aims

RJ4All aims to provide evidence-based, psycho-social interventions that work *with* rather than *for* local communities in order to build a sustainable alternative to the established criminal and social justice systems. The organisation hereby uses user-led initiatives to re-direct a person's trajectory at risk of being drawn into violence, while empowering individuals to lead in getting the justice that they seek. In addition, RJ4All's publishing activities and CPD courses aim to raise the awareness and scientific foundation of its positive approach internationally.

Process

7 Inputs

- Permanent staff
- Fixed-term interns, staff, volunteers
- Time
- External resources via funding calls
- Topical expertise and reputation
- External buy-in
- Promotional material
- RJ4All Publications
- Two academic journals and collaborators

5 Activities

- Educational and CPD ecourses, courses and workshops
- Skills development sessions
- Crime-prevention activities
- Social action projects
- internships and opportunities for people to get what they need
- Publication of academic journals promoting and growing the evidence base on restorative justice
- High quality volunteering
- FRED youth-led campaign
- Providing sports, art and cultural workshops to children, young people and their families

6 Outputs

- Increased awareness of RJ approaches as an alternative to punitive justice practices
- Increased collaboration with likeminded organisations and individuals
- Improved professional skills for practitioners in the sector
- Increased awareness and development of life skills among participants
- Increased confidence and sense of purpose among participants
- Building positive relations with peers/support network/ carers/parents among participants
- Increased dialogue with key stakeholders in community

Impact

3 Outcomes

- Increased use of RJ approaches as an alternative to punitive justice processes
- RJ4All to influence /inform wider social policy on restorative justice via user-led models of delivery
- Increased social networks/sense of belonging to community with positive role models guiding positive life-choices
- Empowered individuals able to apply and identify their strengths and potential
- Sustained engagement with RJ4All services
- Better sense and experience of social justice

4 Impact

- RJ4All as an established source of expertise on restorative justice for academics and practitioners
- Individuals have a sustained, improved sense of control over their own life/achievements leading to decreased risk of becoming the victim or perpetrator of violence (again)
- RJ4All as an established partner within local communities representing and amplifying local concerns to policy level
- Increased civic engagement driven by people
- Rebalance power in society

8 Rationale & Assumptions

- Sustainable funding for RJ4All to ensure ongoing capacity to deliver the activities; diverse income sources; appropriate infrastructure.
- Target groups are identified accurately and timely and engage in the RJ4All programmes.
- Restorative justice initiatives are an effective alternative to established punitive justice practices and current social justice models that can help reduce and proactively prevent involvement with crime among participants, while improving the sense and experience of justice.