

Building Bridges: An Independent Evaluation of Le Chéile's Restorative Justice Project. Research Findings¹

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Summary: The Le Chéile Justice Project in Limerick is Ireland's only non-statutory service providing formal restorative justice interventions to young offenders. Established in 2010, the project co-operates closely with Young Persons' Probation, which refers children and young people in conflict with the law to the Project. This article presents the main findings from an Evaluation and Social Return on Investment analysis of the Project, conducted over six months in 2014 by the authors, working under the auspices of Quality Matters. It describes the impact and outcomes for young people, family members, victims of crime and the wider community, as well as making a brief comment on the Project's cost effectiveness.

Keywords: restorative justice, youth justice, Young Persons' Probation, rehabilitation, evaluation, social return on investment, reintegration services, management of offenders.