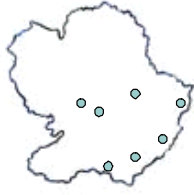


Angus Restorative Justice Service

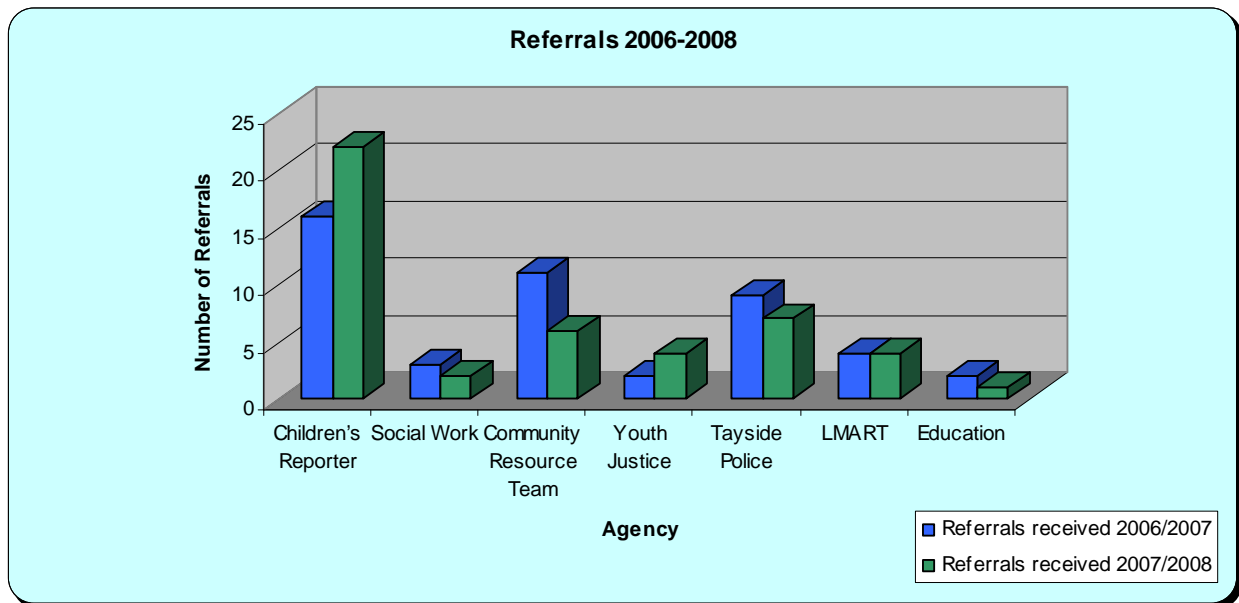
Mediation & Reparation

Annual Report April 2007 – March 2008



Activity Summary

This years' one-to-one activity has been extremely similar to that of year 2006/07 with almost identical numbers of referrals being received overall. Referral sources have remained the same but this year has seen an increase in referrals from the Children's Reporter and a decrease in referrals from the Community Resource Team. This suggests that that young people are being referred to the Restorative Justice Service at the earliest stage, preventing Social Work intervention. In addition to one-to-one referrals, group work has been carried out within youth justice and education services.



Source of Referral	Referrals received 2006/2007	Referrals received 2007/2008
Children's Reporter	16	22
Social Work	3	2
Community Resource Team	11	6
Youth Justice	2	4
Tayside Police	9	7
LMART	4	4
Education	2	1
Total	47	46

47 cases were completed in year 2007/2008 and the remainder of this report is based on those clients.

Category of Referrals:

Category of referrals indicates the number of offences and involvement from statutory services with each young person prior to any referral. The vast majority of young people referred have no statutory involvement. This year has seen a slight increase in referral numbers of young people involved in 4+ offences, an increase from 14 in 2006/2007 to 19 in 2007/2008.

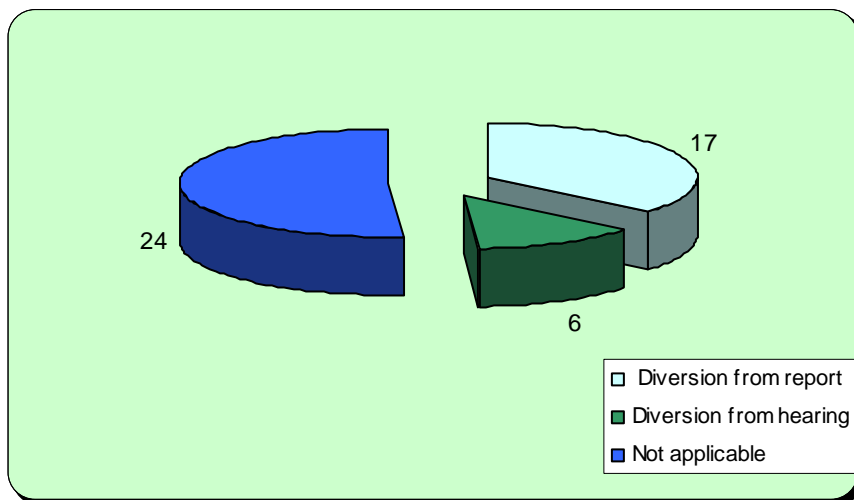
Category of referrals	Number of young offenders
1	6
2	20
3	1
4	10
5	9
6	1

Category:

1. Refused to participate
2. Meets criteria and not involved in statutory services (1-3 offences and no others pending)
3. Meets criteria and/or involved in statutory services (1-3 offences and no others pending)
4. Meets criteria and not involved in statutory services (4+ offences)
5. Meets criteria and/or involved in statutory services (4+ offences)
6. Not applicable

Diversion from Hearing/Report:

Of the 47 completed referrals the pie chart below shows the breakdown:



17 – Diversion from report

6 - Diversion from hearing

24 – Not applicable

This year has seen an increase in the number of referrals being diversions from a Hearing. This is also possibly reflected in the increase in referrals of 4+ offences.

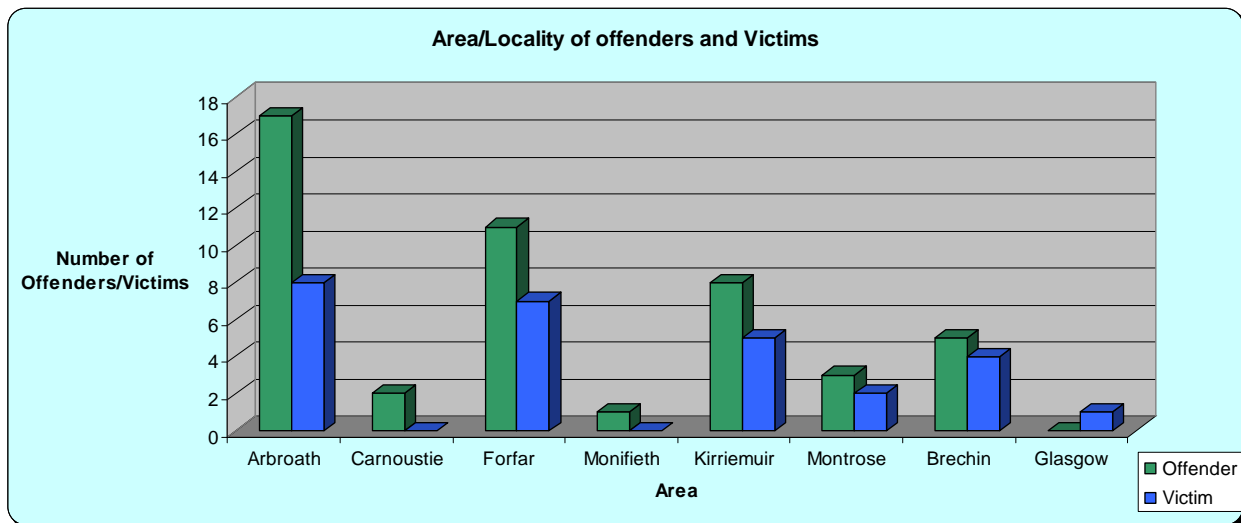
Age Range/Sex of Young Offender:

Ages have ranged from 11-15-years this year. This year similar numbers of 13, 14 and 15-year old males were referred and there was a slight decrease in the number of females referred as compared with last year. The ratio of males referred to females has now increased from 4:1 in 2006/2007 to almost 6:1. Police trends during 2007/2008 showed that four times as many male offenders were recorded as female offenders suggesting that referrals for females to the service seem to be falling behind.

11 years		12 years		13 years		14 years		15 years		16 years	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	0	5	1	10	1	11	3	13	2	0	0

Area/Locality of offenders and Victims:

As with previous years Forfar and Arbroath continue to put forward the majority of referrals. However, this year has seen a decrease in referrals from Carnoustie and an increase in referrals from Kirriemuir. Monifieth, Montrose and Brechin referral numbers have remained consistent with previous years. There has been a slight increase in victim involvement this year with 27 named victims recorded this year compared with 24 in 2006/2007.



Town	Offender	Victim
Arbroath	17	8
Carnoustie	2	0
Forfar	11	7
Monifieth	1	0
Kirriemuir	8	5
Montrose	3	2
Brechin	5	4
Glasgow	0	1

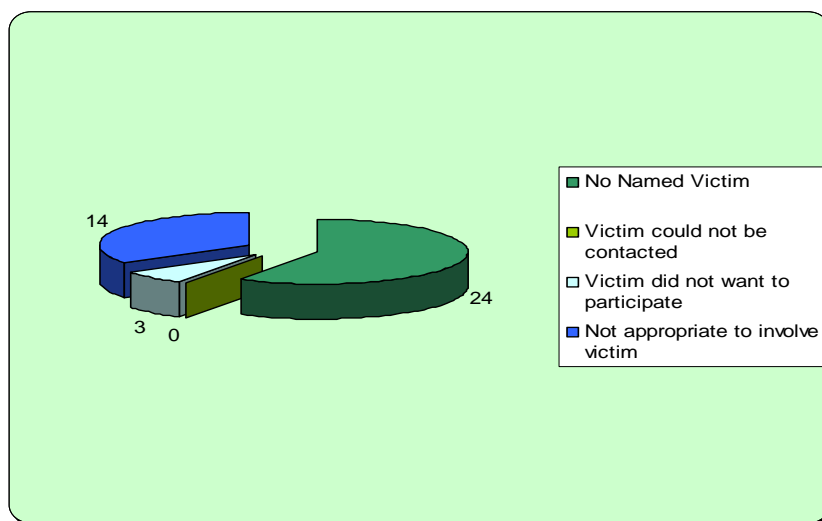
Mediation and Reparation:

Six Week Awareness Raising Programme	27
Twelve Week Awareness Raising Programme	3
Face-to-Face Meeting: With Victim	2
With Victim Support	0
Community Task	0
Letter of Apology	3
Face-to-Face Apology (taken place prior to referral)	4
Letter of Apology (sent prior to referral)	0
Anger Management	3
Alcohol & Drug Awareness Programme	1
Did not complete programme	13
No Contact Made - Returned to Referrer	1
Contact Made – Inappropriate referral	3

Out of the 47 completed referrals, 27 young people completed a 6-week Awareness Raising Programme and 3 completed the more intensive 12-week Programme. 13 young people did not complete a programme and 4 were returned to referrers. This is similar to last year's outcomes. Despite an increase in named victims, there has been a decrease in face-to-face meetings with victims but there has been an increase in victims receiving letters of apology and face-to-face apologies prior to the referral being received.

As it is only the Children's Reporter who can supply victim details a large number of referrals do not have any direct victim involvement. However, victim awareness work is completed as part of the 6 and 12-week offender programmes.

No Named Victim	24
Victim could not be contacted	0
Victim did not want to participate	3
Not appropriate to involve victim	14



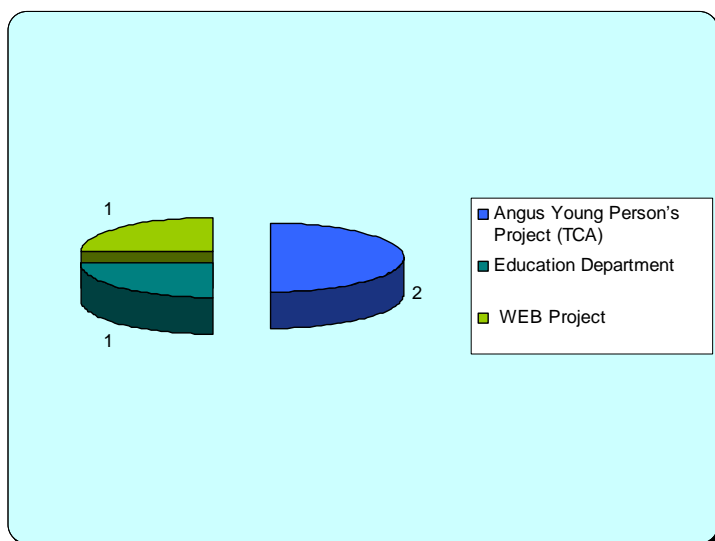
Offences:

Theft by Shoplifting	10
Theft by Housebreaking	5
Theft by Opening Lock fast Place	3
Theft – Personal	8
Breach of the Peace	12
Assault	25
Vandalism	28
Culpable and Reckless Conduct	2
Road Traffic Offences	8
Firearms	1
Wilful Fire raising	4
Attempted Fraud	1
Possession of a Controlled Drug	2
Breaking and Entering/Intent to Steal	2
Carrying an Offensive Weapon	3
Malicious Mischief	1

This year has seen a decrease in Breach of the Peace offences and an increase in vandalism offences. Vandalism and Assault are now the most common offences committed followed by Theft by Shoplifting and Road Traffic Offences. This pattern is consistent with Police statistics, which show that these are the most commonly recorded offences across Angus.

Referrals Passed From Restorative Justice To:

- Angus Young Person's Project (TCA) 2
- Education Department 1
- WEB Project 1



We continue to refer young people on to appropriate services when necessary and are often involved in joint working with Social Work, Education, LMART and Health.

Service Developments:

Awareness raising sessions have regularly been delivered throughout Angus this year and continue to identify important links with professionals and the community.

Presentations to local Community Council's have taken place in an attempt to involve the community in our work with young people and potentially allow reparative work to take place when there are no victims involved in the restorative process.

Angus College has shown a keen interest in developing Restorative Practices within its setting and the restorative justice service has been involved in the planning and training stages of this project.

A National Evaluation of all Restorative Justice Services is to take place from April 2008 and the Angus Restorative Justice Service has been involved in the development of the research process. Training has taken place around the Viewpoint System which will be used to gather all the information required and it is envisaged that the results of this research will shape future Restorative Justice services.

Future Developments:

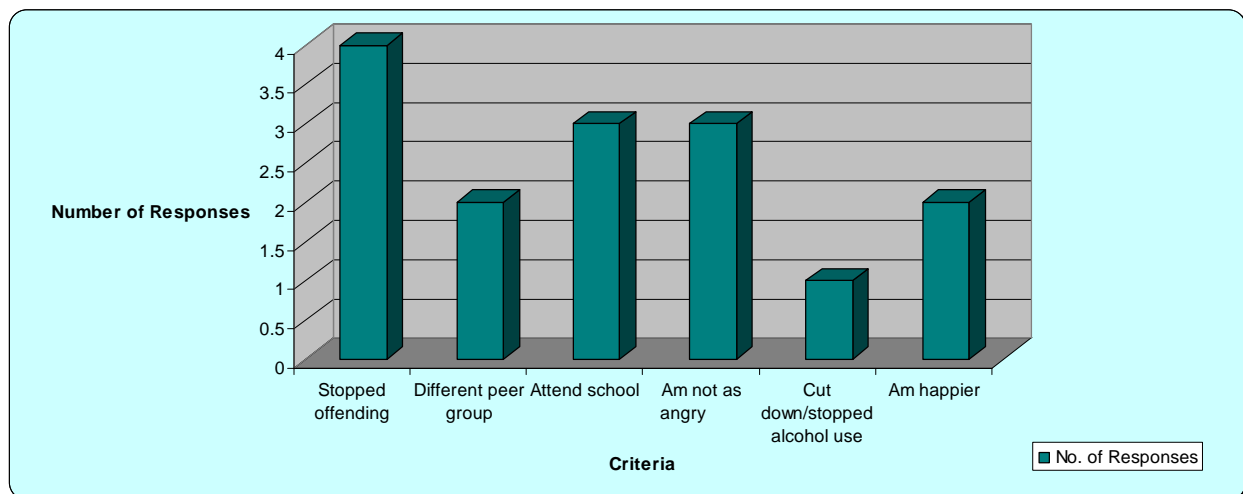
For the coming year the Project will undertake to:

- Provide further training to Angus College staff around Restorative Practices.
- Participate in the National Evaluation of Restorative Justice Projects, also providing feedback at a local level.

Service User Feedback:

Offenders

A total of 7 young people returned service user questionnaires. 5 completed 6-week programmes and 2 completed 12-week programmes. All of them understood the work they were involved in and why they were doing it. All felt that the length of programme was just right. 6 found the work useful and 1 found it very useful.



Positive Changes Identified	No. of Responses
Stopped offending	4
Different peer group	2
Attend school	3
Am not as angry	3
Cut down/stopped alcohol use	1
Am happier	2

Comments about the workers included; “Nice and helpful” “Good” “Easy to work with” “really helpful”. There was nothing identified as being missing from the programme of work.

Parents/Guardians

2 parents/guardians returned questionnaires. Both understood the work their son/daughter was doing and why they were doing it. Both felt informed throughout the process that the length of programme was just right and were very satisfied with the service provided. Since completing the programmes one of the parents identified positive changes in their son/daughters behaviour and one stated that their son/daughter had started to think before he does things.

Victims

3 victims returned questionnaires. All understood the Restorative Justice process; felt they were kept informed and believed they were listened too. They all felt that the process allows the young person to make amends for their offending behaviour. 2 victims were satisfied with the service provided and 1 was very satisfied. One of the victims participated in a face-to-face meeting with an offender and stated, “It was good to hear the comments from the young offender concerned and it was a worthwhile exercise”.

Case Studies:

Outcomes 2006/2007

April 06/March 07 referrals

Of the 50 completed cases, 36 young people completed the programme for this year statistics. 31 of the young people consented to Police record checks.

One referral from the Children’s Reporter, 4 from the Community Resource Team 1 from Social Work and 1 from the Youth Justice Team all consented to Police checks but did not complete programme and for this reason are not represented in the statistics.

LMART Referrals

No of offending episodes 7-12mths prior to RJ	No of offending episodes 6mths prior to referral	No of offending episodes during RJ	No of offending episodes 6mths after RJ	No of offending episodes 7-12mths after RJ
2	2	0	0	2

Social Work Referrals

No of offending episodes 7-12mths prior to RJ	No of offending episodes 6mths prior to referral	No of offending episodes during RJ	No of offending episodes 6mths after RJ	No of offending episodes 7-12mths after RJ
3	0	0	3	0

Children's Reporter Referrals

No of offending episodes 7-12mths prior to RJ	No of offending episodes 6mths prior to RJ	No of offending episodes during RJ	No of offending episodes 6mths after RJ	No of offending episodes 7-12mths after RJ
0	6	0	2	0
1	3	0	0	0
0	3	1	0	0
1	2	0	0	1
0	4	0	1	4
0	2	0	0	0
0	6	1	0	0
0	2	2	0	1
0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	2	5
1	1	0	0	2
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	4	0	0	0
0	3	0	0	0
0	2	0	0	0
0	3	1	0	0
0	3	0	0	0
0	6	0	1	0
0	6	0	2	1
1	1	0	1	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	2	0	1
0	2	2	0	1
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	1	0
2	1	0	0	0
0	4	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1
0	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0
Total 7	Total 75	Total 10	Total 11	Total 19