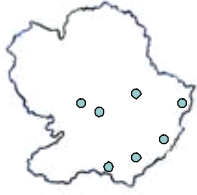


Angus Restorative Justice Service



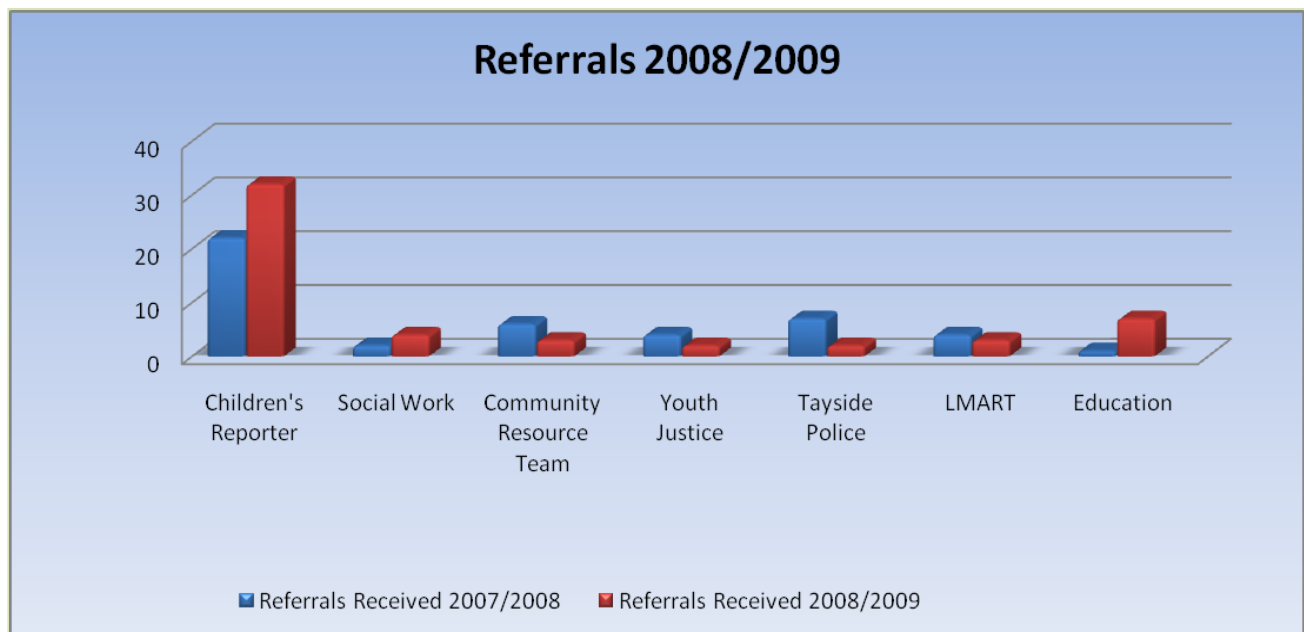
Mediation & Reparation

Annual Report March 2008 – April 2009

Activity Summary

The Project year 2008-2009 has seen an increase in referrals to the service, as compared to the previous year. Referrals from the Children's Reporter have continued to increase, continuing an upward trend from 2007-08. There has been a decrease in referrals from Tayside Police. This may suggest that the Police are forwarding offences to the Children's Reporter directly, or may be indicative of a falling number of young offenders across Angus. There has been a significant increase in referrals from Education, which would suggest a continued commitment to early intervention. There has been a decrease in referrals from Youth Justice and Community Resource Team, but an increase from other Social Work teams overall.

Continued support in group work, involving one off sessions, has been delivered in a variety of settings including Education and Youth Justice.



Source of Referral	Referrals received 2007/2008	Referrals received 2008/2009
Children's Reporter	22	32
Social Work	2	4
Community Resource Team	6	3
Youth Justice	4	2
Tayside Police	7	2
LMART	4	3
Education	1	7
Total	46	53

50 cases were completed in year 2008/2009 and the remainder of this report is based on those clients.

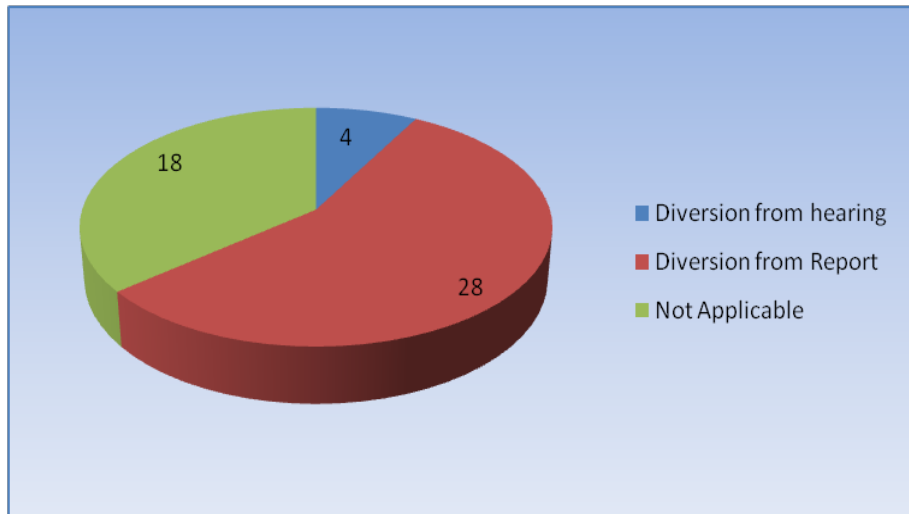
Diversion from Hearing/Report:

Of the 50 completed referrals the pie chart below shows the breakdown:

4 - Diversion from hearing

28-Diversion from Report

18 -Not applicable (not referred through the Children's Reporter)



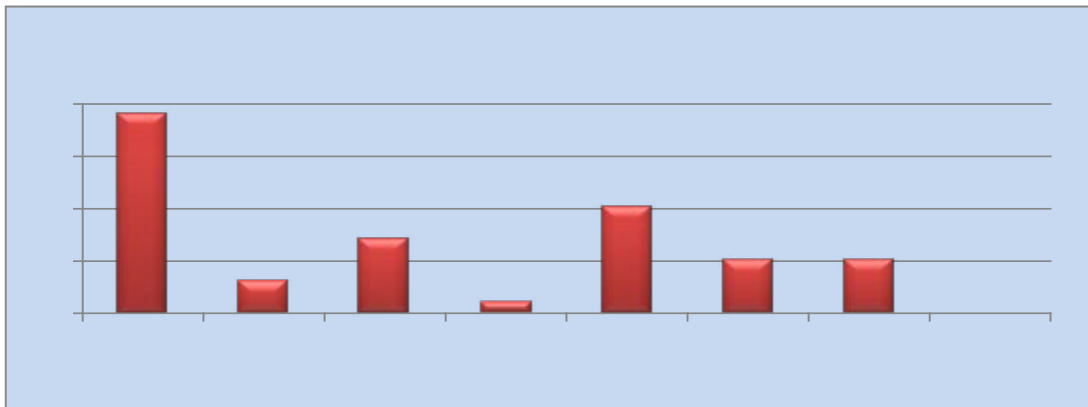
Age Range/Sex of Young Offender:

Ages have ranged from 11-16-years this year. Similar to last year the majority of referrals were aged between 13 and 15 years. Overall, males make up the majority of referrals. There was a decrease in females referred this year. The ratio of males referred to females has now increased from 6:1 in 2007/2008 to almost 7:1 in 2008/2009. This is reflective of an Angus wide decrease in female offending, and not particular to this service.

11 years		12 years		13 years		14 years		15 years		16 years	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
3	0	2	0	8	1	14	3	16	2	1	0

Area/Locality of offenders and Victims:

The area of Arbroath provided the majority of referrals to the Service. However Brechin/Montrose Area had the majority of Victim participation. This year has also seen a decrease in referrals from Forfar and an increase in referrals from Montrose and Brechin. Referral numbers in all other areas have remained consistent with previous years. There has been a decrease in victim involvement this year, with a number of victims using the opt out scheme. This is in addition to referrals where there were no named victims. In total 37 victims were not named. Of the 13 named victims contacted 9 chose to participate in the scheme.



Town	Offender
Arbroath	19
Carnoustie	3
Forfar	7
Monifieth	1
Kirriemuir	10
Montrose	5
Brechin	5

Offender Participation

Six Week Awareness Raising Programme	27
Twelve Week Awareness Raising Programme	3
Anger Management (as part of the 6 or 12 week programme)	3
Did not complete Six Week Programme	16
No Contact Made - Returned to Referrer	1
Contact Made – Inappropriate referral	4

Out of the 50 completed referrals, 27 young people completed a 6-week Awareness Raising Programme and 3 completed the more intensive 12-week Programme. 16 young people did not complete the full programme with 4 being established as inappropriate referrals after assessment. As meetings are re-established with Children’s Reporter referrals will again be established as appropriate at source.

Of the 16 young people who did not complete the Restorative Justice programme, 6 did attend the majority of appointments, however because not all appointments were attended it was marked as not completed. After an initial agreement to participate, 4 of the young people refused to attend any further appointments. It was also agreed to disengage with 4 young people after further offences were committed and discussion with referrer and other agencies agreed the service was inappropriate. The remaining 2 young people moved out of the area; however communication with the new local area social work informed them of work completed to that date.

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.

Victim Information

No Named Victim	37
No of Named Victims	13 (same victim for 3 offenders)
No of Victims contacted	12 (1 could not be contacted)
Victim Contact not Appropriate	0
No of Victims Involved in Service	9
No of Victims who Declined to Participate	3

Despite larger referral numbers there were fewer recorded offences this year, 78 compared to 115. Theft, Assault and Vandalism all decreased this year with Breach of the Peace being the only offence to increase. Assault and Vandalism remain the most common offences. Indecent Behaviour and Racial Harassment were added this year to the list of offences.

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:

Important links with professionals within the Angus area continue to be identified. Meetings have been re-established with the Children's Reporters, supporting appropriate referrals and information sharing. There has been awareness raising sessions delivered throughout Angus in a variety of settings involving Education, S.W and Community Education.

Viewpoint has now been completed, developing information and statistics to evaluate the outcomes of Angus Restorative Justice Service. The national report of findings is due to be published later this year.

Future Developments:

For the coming year the Project will undertake to:

- Deliver information and updated leaflets to Social Work Departments and referrers within the Angus area
- Continue to build links within Education
- Develop outcome based monitoring systems which will involve reviewing data collection and measurement tools, including the service user feedback.

Service User Feedback:

Parent Questionnaires

5 questionnaires were returned. All parents understood the work their children were completing and why they were doing. 4 felt very informed and 1 a little informed throughout the process.

4 parents felt the length of programme was just right, 1 felt it was too short. 4 were very satisfied and 1 was satisfied with the Service provided.

Positive changes recorded by the parents were:

“a bit more insight into his behaviour” “discusses outcomes and feelings more”

“he talks to us a lot more if anything is bothering him”

“He’s starting to think before acting and has changed his friends”

“considers others and actions before he does things”

“more open and mature in his approach to situations”

Offender Questionnaires

15 young people completed Viewpoint Questionnaires. The vast majority of these young people agreed a lot that taking part helped them to understand the harm they had caused, that they had been able to make up for what they had done and made them want to change their behaviour. All but 1 respondent said they would encourage someone to take part in a restorative justice service if they were offered it and all disagreed that it is likely they will offend again in the future.

ARJS CASE STUDIES

Case 1

This young person was referred to the Agency via the Children’s Reporter. The young person had been charged with shoplifting and assault.

The young person had previously participated and completed the ARJ programme approximately 2 years ago, after being referred by LMART. Although the programme was completed satisfactorily, the RJ worker at the time had some reservations about the young person’s commitment to the work undertaken. After a full discussion with the Reporter we agreed to accept the referral.

An appointment letter was sent out within 7 days to both the young person and their carer. The carer contacted the worker to inform her the young person was unavailable and another appointment was made. A confirmation letter of the new appointment was sent out. Unfortunately this appointment was also cancelled as the young person had been moved to respite care for two weeks. Another appointment was made by telephone and the worker had a lengthy discussion with the carer who was keen for the young person to engage with the service.

The worker finally met with the young person and carer at home. The worker explained the ARJS process to both young person and carer.

After a lengthy discussion the young person said he did not feel there would be any benefit to him from participating in the programme. He had admitted to one offence of shop lifting but denied the assault charge. His carer expressed her disappointment and asked him to reconsider as she felt it was important he participate, however the young person did not agree.

It was finally agreed that the worker would delay compiling the Report for one week to give the young person time to reconsider his decision. He would phone her to let her know one way or another.

There was no further contact from either the carer or young person and a report was sent to the Children's Reporter

This case study illustrates the process from referral to assessment and completion. Engagement with the scheme is voluntary, but there is often a significant amount of input even where the young person chooses not to engage with the programme. This work is not fully represented in this report as the focus is on participants who have completed the programme.

Case 2

3 boys aged 11 were referred to the Service after vandalising several headstones in the grounds of an Angus Cathedral. It was anticipated that a group programme would be carried out with the boys but after initial meetings with them and their parents it was decided that one-to-one work would be more appropriate as the parents no longer wanted the boys to associate with each other.

Individual offender programmes were completed by the three boys that focussed on the gains and losses around offending, strategies to avoid offending in the future, consequences, peer influence and decision making and all three boys demonstrated remorse around their behaviour, having not fully appreciated the seriousness of their actions at the time of the incident.

The Minister of the Cathedral agreed to meet with me and explained the horror and anger that the incident had induced in the local community. It had been reported on in newspapers and local television stations and was viewed as a very serious crime by the public. The Minister felt it was important for the young people to understand the impact of their behaviour and the costs involved with repairing the headstones (although some were so old they were beyond repair) and agreed to have face-to-face meetings with the young people and their parents. All 3 boys met with the Minister to hear how their behaviour had affected the Church and parishioners and made an apology for their part in the offence. The Minister wanted them to make amends in a small way and asked them to do some cleaning around the Cathedral which they did with the workers supervision. This process (and the anger of the local community) really seemed to make an impact on the 3 boys and ensured that they fully appreciated the consequences of their behaviour.

Re-offending Stats 2007/08

Of the 46 referred cases, 30 young people completed the programme for the purpose of assessing re-offending rates for the 2007-08 cohort. All 46 agreed to police record checks, however 10 failed to complete the programme and are therefore not represented in the figures below

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
0	2	0	3	1
0	2	0	2	5
1	2	0	0	1
0	1	1	1	0

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
0	7	3	15	2

YJT 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	0	0
0	4	1	0	1

CRT 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	2	0	5	10

Education 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	2	1	2	0

Police 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
1	1	0	2	2
0	2	0	0	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	1	1	4	0
0	3	0	1	1
0	3	0	2	4
1	2	0	0	0
0	2	0	2	1
0	1	2	1	0
0	2	0	1	0
0	2	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	1	0
2	3	2	2	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	2	0	0	2
Total 5 5	Total 57 50	Total 11 8	Total 44 29	Total 30 28

It should be recognised that in this year the 1 social work referral committed a large number of offences within the 6 months following completion of the ARJ programme. This referral was a complex case with a number of other issues around for the young person. The re-offending rate of this individual has skewed the overall figures. If he was excluded the figures would read as above in red, with a 42% reduction in offending in 6 months after programme.