



# Angus Restorative Justice Service

## Mediation & Reparation



### Annual Report April 2005 - March 2006

#### Activity Summary:

The year 2005/06 has seen some significant growth and development within the Angus Restorative Justice Service. The increase in staffing from 1 full time equivalent to 2 full time equivalent staff has meant an increase in capacity for the Service, and in fact the Service output in terms of direct client work has effectively doubled. Referrals from the Children's Reporter have almost doubled and continue to be the primary source of referral for the Service. However, this year the Service has paid particular attention to developing other referral routes and has considered how the restorative approach can be fully integrated across the spectrum of services for young offenders in Angus. There has been an increase in the number of direct referrals from the Social Work Department and the 3 LMART's. There has been one self-referral, which reflects the heightened profile the Service now has across the local authority area.

The service has been heavily involved in piloting restorative approaches within an education setting and is currently jointly running a pilot scheme within Brechin High School in partnership with the School, Education Department, Joint Strategic Support Unit and School and Family Support Services. The pilot is expected to run from April to December 2006.

In addition to the direct provision of services to young people, victims of youth crime and families the Service is actively involved in the planning, development and monitoring of youth justice services, with a representative sitting on a number of planning and operational groups within Angus.

Source of Referral	Referrals Received 2004/2005	Referrals Received 2005/2006
Children's Reporter	21	37
Social Work Department	8	18
LMART's	1	8
Self-Referral	0	1

**Category of Referral:**

Category of Referral	Number of young offenders
1	3
2	31
3	15
4	3
5	2

**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)

The majority of young people referred to the Service have committed 1-3 offences and are not involved with statutory services. The referrals received from the Children's Reporter usually fall into this category. As there has been an increase in referrals from the Social Work Department the number of young people who have committed 1-3 offences and are involved in statutory services has increased in comparison to last years figures. This year saw a slight decrease in the referrals of young people who have committed 4+ offences which could be due to the fact that there was more stringent adherence to the referral criteria this year.

### Diversion from hearing/report:

Of the 57 referrals:

33 - Diversion from Report

24 - not applicable

Similarly to previous years, referrals from the Children's Reporter are requested as a diversion from an Initial Assessment Report. Social Work referrals are an addition to a Report so are therefore not applicable as a diversion from report/hearing.

### Age Range/Sex of Young Offenders:

11years		12 years		13 years		14 years		15 years	
Male 3	Female 1	Male 3	Female 0	Male 13	Female 2	Male 17	Female 3	Male 10	Female 5

This year there has been an increase in the number and proportion of females compared to males referred to the service. In 2004/2005 the ratio of males to females referred was 14:1. However, this year the ratio was 4:1. This does not reflect general trends in Angus as there does not appear to have been a significantly larger number of young females committing offences compared to males. It may be that people are more willing to refer females than males and we will continue to monitor and evaluate this. The age range of the males referred has remained the same as last year with 14-year-olds being most commonly referred followed by 13-year-olds then 15-year-olds.

### Area/Locality of Offenders and Victims:

Town	Offender	Victim
Arbroath	17	11
Carnoustie	4	1
Forfar	15	9
Monifieth	3	0
Dundee	0	2
Newtyle	1	0
Redford	1	0
Friockheim	2	2
Kirriemuir	1	0
Montrose	8	6
Brechin	5	4

Referrals have followed the same trend as last year with most referrals coming from Arbroath and Forfar. There has been an increase in referrals from Brechin and Montrose this year (from 0 to 5 and 5 to 8 respectively) which is largely due to the Social Work Department referring young people from these areas (7 of the 13 referrals).

### Mediation & Reparation:

Awareness Raising Programme	47
Twelve Week Programme	1
Face-to-Face Meeting: With Victim	5
Groupwork: Fire Academy	1
Community Task	1
Letter of Apology	1
Face-to-Face Apology (taken place prior to referral)	1
Letter of Apology (sent prior to referral)	2
Anger Management	4
Fireraising awareness one-to-one	1
Offender could not be contacted	1
Did not complete programme	8

This year 8 out of the 57 young people did not complete the offender programme and 1 could not be contacted. Of the remaining 48 referrals 47 completed an awareness raising programme and 1 completed a 12-week programme.

Victim involvement is only possible with referrals from the Children's Reporter as the other referrals routes do not provide the service with victim details. Of the 37 referrals from the Children's Reporter 9 victims were willing to engage with the Service and 5 of these resulted in face-to-face meetings with the offender. The remaining victims could not be contacted, did not wish to participate with the Service or it was not considered appropriate for the victim to meet with the offender.

No Named Victim	14
Victim could not be contacted	1
Victim did not want to participate	10
Not appropriate to involve victim	14

There was an increase in anger management work completed this year as a result of the high number of referrals involving assaults.

#### Offences Covered To Date:

Section 52 (2) (i)	Theft by Shoplifting	7
	Theft by Housebreaking	6
	Theft by Opening Lockfast Place	1
	Theft - Personal	6
	Breach of Peace	12
	Assault	20
	Vandalism	9
	Culpable & Reckless Conduct	2
	Road Traffic Offences	10
	Anti-Social Behaviour	1
	Firearms	1
	Willful Fireraising	1
	Fraud	1
	Racial comments	2
	Possession of Controlled Drug	1
	Supply of Controlled Drug	1
	Breaking and Entering	1
	Nuisance calls	1
	Carrying an offence weapon	1

The most common offences committed were assault, breach of the peace and road traffic offences. The increase in road traffic offences may be due to a general increase in the popularity of motor sports across Angus, particularly the use of mini-motos and quad bikes. This year we covered several new offences namely possession and supply of a controlled drug, a firearms offence and carrying an offensive weapon.

#### Referrals Passed From Restorative Justice To:

- Social Work Department 1
- CRUSE Bereavement Counselling 1
- Angus Young Person's Project (TCA) 2
- School and Family Support Service 1

### Support Agencies:

- Victim Support – Angus 1
- Tayside Fire Brigade 2
- Kick It Kick Off 2

There has been improvement in interagency working this year which is reflected by the increase in referrals we have received, the referrals we have passed on to others and the use of appropriate services to support the reparation work we undertake.

### Additional Work Areas:

The Service offers an input both operationally and strategically within the Angus Youth Justice arena. There has been a concerted effort to heighten the awareness of the Service and ensure that strong links are made across the spectrum of services to enable young people in Angus to benefit from a restorative approach where appropriate to their needs. The Service is also represented nationally, through attendance at the Restorative Justice Forum. The following list offers a flavour of the additional work undertaken by the Service.

Presentation to Community Resource Team young person's group  
Presentations within Police Restorative Cautioning Training  
Participation in Local Multi Agency Resource Teams (Brechtin/Montrose, Arbroath/Carnoustie/Monifieth, Forfar/Kirriemuir)  
Presentation to Forfar/Kirriemuir LMART  
Presentation to Brechtin/Montrose LMART  
Restorative Practices - an awareness raising seminar  
Restorative Practices in Schools input (Brechtin High)  
Persistent Offenders Monitoring Group  
National Standards Youth Justice Event, Display Stand  
Restorative Justice Forum  
Youth Justice Forum

Having the increased capacity of two full-time project workers has meant the Project has been able to provide a greater level and breadth of service. Raising awareness of the Service to other professionals and agencies has been an important focus for the team and this has resulted in an increase in referrals. The Project has worked with the Education

Department to pilot a restorative practices initiative pilot in Brechin High School. This will run from April to December 2006.

Involvement in the Persistent Offenders Monitoring Group has allowed the continuum of services to be examined and enables the range of youth justice services to work together to ensure that young people in Angus are being offered the most timely and appropriate service to address their offending issues.

### **Future Developments:**

In addition to the provisions described above the Project will undertake to:

- Complete the Restorative Practices Initiative Pilot in Brechin High School and provide a brief evaluative report. This will assist the Education Department to determine whether this approach should be rolled out across Angus. Pilot will run from April to December 2006.
- Liaise with Tayside Police to establish a direct referral route.
- Continue to develop our evaluation, monitoring and customer satisfaction framework.

### **Case Studies:**

1. AB (12-years-old) was referred to the Service by the Children's Reporter on account of two charges - Theft by Housebreaking (Church Hall) and Theft by Opening a Lockfast Place. An awareness raising programme was undertaken with this young person which looked at his offending in detail, triggers, peer influences, decision making, consequences and ways of keeping himself out of trouble in the future. We also focussed on how the victims were affected by his actions to reinforce the wider impact of his offending. The young person was co-operative and motivated throughout our work which lasted approximately 2 months and at the end of our work he participated in face-to-face meetings with both of his victims and apologized for the harm he had caused. The library asked him to help sort books out for an evening as a way of making amends and he did this along side the Project Worker.

2. CD (14-years-old) was referred from the Community Resource Team because she had committed 2/3 assaults on one female. CD at this time showed no remorse for the assaults and admitted to instigating the physical attacks. After the initial contact with CD and her Mum to explain the service we deliver, she agreed to meet up on a regular basis to explore alternative outcomes to her anger.

Initially the background to the assaults and the relationship between CD and the victim was established. CD stated that a long term feud had been on going between the two families which involved the mother's working together and having major conflict in and out of work. Further sessions involved identifying the victim's feelings and the consequences to CD's actions. We discussed the impact this behaviour was having on CD and the escalation of the responsibility she felt for protecting her Mum. CD stated her Mum was being victimised by the victims Mum and CD believed this was her way of evening the score by provoking the daughter of her Mum's tormentor.

At this stage I discussed with CD's Mum her relationship with the victims Mum and she stated that this was an awkward relationship because of work and a history of conflict. However a resolution was established within the workplace and a more amicable relationship between the parents was agreed at this time.

Work continued with CD and involved anger management and identifying situations that could be dealt with in a more acceptable manner.

CD is now aware of the consequences of physical actions and has identified the impact this has on the victim. She has also identified future goals and has identified barriers to her future aspirations.

I am not aware of any further offences since work was completed with CD at this time.

### **Outcomes 2004/2005**

Over this year 22 of the 30 young people referred to the Project consented to Police Record Checks. 2 young people did not complete the offending programme and have been discounted from the statistics for this reason.

Of the 20 consenting young people, 4 were referred by Social Work and had committed between 3 and 9 offences prior to referral. 16 young people were referred by the Children's Reporter and had committed between 1 and 3 offences. All 4 Social Work referrals re-offended

within the following year (3 within 6 months) and the young people committed similar offences as those that they were referred for. Rates of re-offending episodes prior to, during and after Restorative Justice input is demonstrated in the table below.

No Of Offending episodes 7-12mths Prior to RJ	No Of Offending episodes 6 mths Prior to RJ	No Of Offending episodes During RJ Work	No Of Offending episodes 6mths After RJ work	No Of Offending episodes 7-12 months after RJ work
0	5	2	5	0
2	3	0	3	0
0	3	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	1

Of the 16 Children's Reporter referrals 15 young people did not re-offend within the following 6 month period (94%) and 9 did not re-offend within the year of working with the Project (56). Half of the young people who went on to re-offend committed completely different offences to those they had committed prior to Restorative Justice involvement.

No Of Offending episodes 7-12mths Prior to RJ	No Of Offending episodes 6 mths Prior to RJ	No Of Offending episodes During RJ Work	No Of Offending episodes 6mths After RJ work	No Of Offending episodes 7-12 months after RJ work
2	1	0	2	1
0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	5
0	1	0	0	0
1	2	0	0	2
1	2	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	0

0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1

Of the 16 referrals from the Children's Reporter 9 were first offences. Following work with the Service, only 1 of these referrals went on to re-offend within the next year.