

## Community Based Reparation

### Introduction

This case study gives an example of the work done by the Community Based Reparation (CBR) service. It shows how CBR operates within Sacro's (adult) Restorative Justice Service and the role the Community Based Reparation Service plays in the Restorative Justice process.

### Background

The Procurator Fiscal received a report from the police in relation to an incident of vandalism at a local hospital. A young man had been caught on CCTV. He was observed damaging the car park barrier. This caused £374 worth of damage as well as great inconvenience to patients, visitors and staff using the car park. The person that had been accused of the offence was referred to the Restorative Justice Service as a diversion from the court prosecution.

A Restorative Justice Service worker visited the person responsible and discussed the service. The person explained the incident was a result of too much alcohol and wanted to make amends in some way. The case worker then approached the hospital and explained the aim and purpose of the service. The car park manager was very keen to explain the consequence of the damage to person responsible and also wanted financial reparation. He also felt that it was important for the person responsible to make a practical contribution to the hospital to show he was sorry for the damage caused.

### Process

The case worker then began to organise a Restorative Justice Meeting to allow both parties to talk about the facts of what happened, the consequences for everyone involved and to agree on what needed to happen for the future. The caseworker approached the Community Based Reparation (CBR) service worker at this point and discussed the case and the possibility of doing some form of practical reparation. The CBR worker co-facilitated the Restorative Justice Meeting and was able to help facilitate the agreement made at the meeting. The person responsible agreed to pay for the damage caused and help out at the hospital as a positive way of moving forward. The CBR worker checked out exactly how much work was considered appropriate by both the person responsible and car park manager and helped to agree dates for this to take place. The person responsible agreed to help out at the office for the car park department.

The CBR worker then met with the car park manager to discuss in detail the task to be undertaken and obtained a risk assessment for the task. The worker then met with the person responsible to discuss it. This was to ensure the client had a clear concept of the task to be undertaken and the risks involved. The worker also obtained written consent, relevant medical information and emergency contact details from the person responsible.

### Resolution

The person responsible worked at an office within the hospital for three days. He assisted with data inputting and other general office tasks. The Community Based Reparation Worker contacted both the hospital and the person responsible at the end of each day in order to check that the task was progressing satisfactorily.

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## Comment

By meeting together and agreeing on how best to repair the harm, all the people involved could move forward. The person responsible became accountable for what they had done and the persons harmed had the opportunity to hear an explanation, apology and receive direct reparation for the harm caused.

Sacro's Community Based Reparation Service in Aberdeen can be distinguished between 'Community Reparation Orders' and 'Community Service Orders'. Individuals that undertake Community Based Reparation, do so voluntarily and in the spirit of the Restorative Justice Process. Sacro's restorative practice allows clients that participate the opportunity to make positive, practical reparation. It also promotes social inclusion by allowing clients to reintegrate back into their local communities, whilst reducing fear and encouraging community as well as personal responsibility.

The service "provided the opportunity to settle the matter outside of court with me being able to repay my debt whilst avoiding a criminal record"

*Person responsible RJ*

"It is apparent after meeting the person that the action was out of character which will never be repeated. The service, advice and assistance I received from Sacro was outstanding and I would have no hesitation in participating in the scheme again in the future"

*Person harmed RJ*

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