

### Supervised Bail

A 31 year-old man appeared at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on a charge under solemn procedure. His solicitor was aware that on previous occasions he had been refused bail and once again the Crown opposed bail. The solicitor then applied to have his client placed on supervised bail and the social worker's assessment enabled the man to be placed by the sheriff on the Ayrshire Bail Supervision scheme.

Having been refused on so many previous occasions, the bailee was very surprised to have been granted bail. He began his supervision and very quickly made the Bail Officers aware that he had literacy problems and stated that he would welcome the opportunity to take steps towards overcoming these.

The service advised him of the Essential Skills programme in Kilmarnock but he lacked the initial confidence to make the approach. A meeting between the bailee and the Essential Skills workers was then arranged at the Sacro office and he engaged with enthusiasm, continuing with the bail supervision for a period of over seven months. At the time of his sentencing in court, the sheriff received the report from the Sacro worker and made a decision to dispose of the case by means of Community Service. Expecting a custodial sentence, both bailee and his solicitor expressed the opinion that the supervision period had been of great assistance to the man in question and had been a factor towards his receiving a community-based disposal.

#### **Ayrshire Bail Services**

