

Youth Justice

Restorative Justice Conference

After several incidences of vandalism on bus shelters in all areas of the city, involving different groups of young people, some of these young people were referred to Sacro through the Police Restorative Warning procedures.

Paul was one the young people who became involved in this practice, which had escalated since the introduction of the new user-friendly shelters. These shelters have large glass frontage and new electronic information systems. This has made them a target for the vandals.

The City Transport and Planning Officers were keen to engage with the young people involved in this practice and saw the Restorative Justice Programme as the ideal way to relay their message to the young people and explain the cost and inconvenience to the community of these acts of vandalism.

When Paul was referred to Sacro, the worker allocated to the case visited him and his parents to explain the service to them and ask Paul to explain his part in the incident.

To his credit Paul admitted to being involved, explaining that he had been walking with some of his friends when somebody said, “let’s pan that bus shelter in”. Paul admitted joining in and contributing to the damage to the bus shelter.

Paul agreed to work with Sacro’s Youth Justice Service, looking at the reasons for becoming involved in offending behaviour, how to address this and in some way make amends for his actions.

Paul’s parents were fully supportive of his participation in the programme, expressing their disappointment that he been involved in this type of behaviour and encouraged him to meet with the persons harmed and apologise.

Following a programme of work including victim awareness, peer pressure and others issues such as his role and responsibilities in the community, which gives the young person the opportunity to look at his future choices and aid his decision-making, Paul agreed to meet with the representatives of the transport department.

At the meeting, it was explained to Paul the cost to the community in monetary terms that acts of vandalism such as this have, also the affect they have on the environment of the area and the dangers created by broken glass and exposed electrical wiring.

Dundee Youth Justice Service

