

Youth Justice

Two young people were charged with six counts of vandalism in various locations within East Dunbartonshire. Both young people were willing to participate in the Restorative Justice Service and wished to make amends to the people harmed.

East Dunbartonshire Council was the person harmed for five counts of vandalism. They are responsible for the removal of graffiti from the properties of home owners and business's in the area. East Dunbartonshire Council's Environmental Department were willing to participate in the Restorative Justice process and agreed to take part in a Restorative Justice Conference with the young people responsible.

A Restorative Justice Conference was arranged. The young people attended along with a parent each as their support, a representative from East Dunbartonshire Council and two Sacro members of staff who were the convenor and co-convenor. The two young people each explained what had led up to the offence taking place. The Representative from East Dunbartonshire Council then responded by letting the young people know the full effects their actions had on the community. He informed them that graffiti in the area has gone up and is costing the Council a lot of money. He also displayed photos of a park which had been vandalised with graffiti and one which had not.

Both young people did not realise the full extent of their actions until this meeting. Each young person gave a verbal apology to the representative from East Dunbartonshire Council and stated that they had done wrong and had no idea at the time what the consequences were of their actions. Both young people stated that they would not do this again. The representative from East Dunbartonshire Council accepted the apologies from both the young people. He acknowledged to both that it must have been difficult for them to come along today and he appreciated it.

Both young people felt that this had been a positive way in which to put things right and they both felt that it would deter them from being involved in anything like this again.

The Church of Scotland was also a victim of vandalism. The Minister agreed to participate in the Service. He felt that it would be more beneficial to his Congregation if the young people involved could each write a letter of apology. Both young people were given verbal communication via their Sacro worker from the Minister on the effects their actions had, on both the Parishioners of the Church as well as the community groups that use it. They both acknowledged this within their letters of apology. The letters were anonymous and were read out to the Parishioners of the Church.

East Dunbartonshire Youth Justice Service

