

High-risk Programme referral from Education & Children's Services

Education and Children's Services referred 'Bart' to the service in August 2006 as a result of his offending behaviour. 'Bart' was identified as a high risk, persistent offender and his behaviour appeared to be becoming increasingly concerning. In addition to this 'Bart' was no longer in mainstream education at the instruction of his mother but was being home schooled.

'Bart' attended a Children's Hearing and was placed on a home based supervision order.

At referral Education and Children's Services provided a completed and current assessment, formalised using the Asset tool. This assessment indicated that 'Bart' was at high risk of reoffending. In response to this the programme offered to 'Bart' was the Cognitive Centre Foundation's 'Offending Is Not The Only Choice', a 24-session programme based on cognitive behavioural methods. Initially 'Bart' was reluctant to engage with the service although recognised that it could be beneficial for him to do so.

'Bart' has responded to the programme well. At sessions 'Bart' participates fully and appears to enjoy the learning opportunity the programme presented. As the programme has progressed 'Bart' has become more confident with the material and demonstrated a sound understanding of the concepts and skills covered. At times 'Bart' has come to sessions with clear examples of how he has implemented the skills he has developed through the programme.

A further hearing will be arranged when 'Bart' completes the programme and ECS intend to recommend the termination of his current order. 'Bart' looks forward to this. 'Bart' is now only a few sessions from completing the programme and has made significant changes to his attitude and behaviour. Having been offence free for more than six months 'Bart' values the benefits of living a pro-social life and has matured into a young man with strong moral values and an ambition for his future.

'Bart' was a Christmas school-leaver and he started the New Year with full-time employment at a local gardening company and an active application for employment with the Army. 'Bart's' application to the Army is progressing well; he has now passed the interview stage and awaits a date for his medical. In the meantime 'Bart' continues to work with the local gardening company.

Perth & Kinross Youth Justice Service

