

10 November 2008

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## **Falkirk plays host to intergenerational conflict conference**

Them and Us  
10.00am- 2.30pm  
11 November 2008  
Falkirk Town Hall

Relations between the generations in our communities are complex and do not always run as smoothly as they should. On Tuesday 11 November Falkirk Town Hall will play host to 'Them and Us' an interactive event that aims to bring members of the local community of all ages together with agencies involved in dealing directly with many of the problems faced by intergenerational conflict.

Organised by Sacro the event will address many of the negative stereotypes of young and old people and highlight the impact these have on communities. This innovative conference has been co-ordinated by Development Officer Tony Brown of Sacro Falkirk and aims to break down barriers and open a channel of communication between the different generations.

The day will be facilitated by Creative Unlimited, who specialise in drama based group work to aid effective communication and reduce conflict. Amy McDonald, who runs Creative Unlimited, prides herself on the group's abilities to get people talking and exploring solutions to issues that matter to them.

Speaking at the event will be Falkirk born author Alan Bisset whose previous novels include the acclaimed *Boyracers* and *The Incredible Adam Spark*. Alan, who is passionate about lending his

experience and skills to early intervention for young people, will be opening the event and speaking of his own experiences of growing up on a housing scheme in Falkirk.

The conference will be attended by 40 young people from four high schools in the Falkirk area. The young people invited have been identified as those who may find an event of this nature beneficial. Also in attendance will be approximately 30 older members of the local community including delegates from Age Concern. A number of key stakeholders will be in attendance including representatives from Falkirk Council, the local police force and social workers.

## Background

### Sacro

Sacro is a national community justice voluntary organisation working across Scotland to make communities safer by reducing conflict and offending. Sacro operates in the community in partnership with others who share its values. It works with communities, those in conflict, victims and offenders. It does this in four key ways:

- > by being a leading provider of direct, innovative services in community mediation (CM), including schools work, restorative justice (RJ) and criminal justice (CJ)
- > through consultancy and training services, which equip Sacro and other organisations to deliver best practice, to extend the impact of Sacro's specialist expertise across Scotland
- > through research which monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of Sacro's services and keeps it abreast of research in the field, and
- > by seeking to influence policy and legislation, on the basis of research evidence, so that: the use of restorative justice and of constructive conflict resolution are extended; and the use of imprisonment is restricted to those who have committed serious crimes or are a danger to the public.

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**Further information:**

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