

> About the Service

Sacro Youth Justice Service delivers a range of specific services to young people between the age of eight and 17 years. The services are based on restorative principles and can be provided as a preventative measure, to address issues identified as underpinning antisocial behaviour which have caused concern, and to help support the young people and family members in preventing these young people going on to offend. This can be achieved through offering support and programmatic work and the possibility of using Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, when appropriate.

If offences have taken place, then Restorative Justice Services focus on the harm, offering support to those affected by and those responsible for the offence. The aim is to address offending behaviour in a way which empowers the people harmed, those responsible and wider community members to resolve the 'conflict' in a meaningful way.

Sacro Youth Justice Services adhere to the best practice guidelines drawn up by the Scottish Restorative Justice Consultancy.



> Who is the Service for?

The Youth Justice Service works with anyone who has been harmed or affected by the offending or anti-social behaviour of young people. The person harmed can ask important questions and is supported throughout the process by the Youth Justice Service.

The Youth Justice Service works with young people aged between eight and 17 years who have been charged by the Police and referred to the Children's Reporter. The Service also works with young people who have been behaving anti-socially in their area and have been referred by an anti-social behaviour team. Sacro also take referrals from social workers, schools and the procurator fiscal in some areas in Scotland. It works alongside existing services for young people who offend, or are considered to be in need of support to change their behaviour.

> What does the Service offer to the person affected?

The Service provides an opportunity for people affected by the offence to have some say as to how their cases are resolved.

Restorative Justice provides an opportunity for communication. This can take place through a third party, or through a direct meeting with the person who was responsible for the harm – allowing the person affected to express their feelings, ask questions and agree to some form of reparation. This has been found to be a helpful part in readjusting from what may have been a traumatic experience.

> What does the Service offer to a young person charged with committing an offence?

The Service gives a young person the opportunity to take responsibility for the consequences of their actions. The process may include a meeting that involves making amends or repairing the harm or hurt they caused. Where it is felt beneficial, there is the possibility for work to take place with the young person to address their offending behaviour. This enables them to consider the impact this behaviour has had on others, in the form of cognitive behaviour modules, which are designed to help people in changing their thought processes and behaviours.

> How are cases selected?

On receipt of a report from the police, the Children's Reporter refers cases considered appropriate to Sacro Youth Justice Service. In some areas other agencies can also refer to the Youth Justice Service (e.g. schools, social work, antisocial behaviour teams). Service staff will then visit the young person and the young person's parent/guardian to assess whether they are willing to take part. Sacro workers then meet with people who are affected (should they not opt out) and try to arrange a restorative solution.

The service is voluntary: Neither the person affected nor the young person responsible for offending is put under pressure to take part in the process.

> What sort of agreements are possible?

There are a variety of ways in which a case can be settled. The only restrictions are that they must be lawful and appropriate. The type of agreement reached will depend on the choice of the individuals concerned and what offence or incident has taken place.

> What if the action plan does not take place or is broken?

If an agreement cannot be reached or if an agreement is broken, the case is returned to the Children's Reporter or referring agent to decide how to proceed.

If you would like a translated version of this leaflet, please phone 0131 624 7270 or e-mail info@national.sacro.org.uk quoting reference NAT/402.

This leaflet is also available in large print or Braille.

In order to make Sacro's services as widely available as possible, we have made every reasonable effort to facilitate easy access to all of our premises for disabled service users. Where this is not possible, we will arrange a suitable, alternative venue.

Bu broşürün çevirisini istiyorsanız, lütfen 0131 624 7270'i telefonla arayın veya eposta gönderip NAT/402 dosya numarasını söyleyin.

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچے کا ترجمہ درکار ہے تو براہ کرم 0131 624 7270 پر ٹیلیفون کریں یا info@national.sacro.org.uk پر ای میل بھیجیں اور ریفرنس نمبر NAT/402 کا حوالہ دیں۔

欲索取這單張的翻譯版本，請電 0131 624 7270，或電郵 info@national.sacro.org.uk，並說明檔案編號 NAT/402。

إذا كنت تريد نسخة مترجمة من هذه المنشورة الرجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف 0131 624 7270 أو أرسل بريداً إلكترونياً إلى العنوان info@national.sacro.org.uk وانكر الإشارة رقم NAT/402

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If you are uncertain about anything you have read in this leaflet or require further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Service at:

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Understanding Youth Justice



Youth Justice Services

