

> Restorative Justice Conferencing

Restorative Justice Conferencing is a meeting for all those directly affected by a crime: the person harmed, the young person who committed the offence, the family of the young person and, where applicable, supporters of the person harmed, a school teacher, the young person's social worker, and so on. The meeting is facilitated by two conference convenors in a safe and structured manner.

The Restorative Justice Conference enables young people, their families and the people harmed to actively participate in the process of addressing the harm caused by the offence. Young people are given the opportunity to understand the consequences of their offending from the perspective of the person affected, to accept responsibility for their actions, to offer an apology and make amends as best they can. Families of young people are given a principal role in the decision-making process, encouraging them to take more responsibility for their children's behaviour, and promoting better relationships between them and their children. Those affected by the crime have the opportunity to meet the young person, express their feelings about the offence and its impact upon them, hear an apology, and have a say in what the young person can do to make amends and prevent re-offending.

The outcome of a conference can be an Action Plan which every participant agrees to and signs. The Action Plan specifies how the young person will make amends and take steps to prevent re-offending.



> Face-to-Face Meetings

Not every case will be suitable for a Conference, and so services also offer a variety of alternative programmes to match the needs and circumstances of potential participants. For example, some of the people harmed and the young person who committed the offence will want to meet without any accompanying support persons. In this case, a Face-to-Face Meeting will be made available. The process is identical to conferencing, but without the support persons attending the meeting.

> Shuttle Mediation

In other cases, the people involved will not want to meet, or are in some way unsuitable for a meeting. Yet it is important and beneficial for both that some form of dialogue or exchange of information take place. In this case, services can offer Shuttle Mediation. This involves a mediator acting as a go-between for the person harmed and the young person, as they negotiate their need for answers to questions, understanding, and, where appropriate, reparation.

> Awareness Programmes

Some people affected by an offence do not want any contact with the young person. Likewise, there may be young persons who cannot or do not want to have any contact with the person they harmed. In these cases, services can offer an Awareness Programme. This seeks to engage the young person in discussions aimed at increasing their awareness of both their own choices and actions and the effects of their behaviour on the person harmed. The programme involves a learning style aimed at working collaboratively with the young person and is designed to enhance the development of mutual respect and self-esteem. The programme can be delivered with the assistance of an external agency such as police, fire service, railways and drug and alcohol services. It may also involve group-work sessions when several young people have been involved in the same incident.



> Reparative Tasks and Programmes

Part of the agreement arising out of a restorative justice intervention might include an undertaking for a young person to undertake a reparative task. This might involve the young person in doing some work to benefit the person harmed, the community in which they live or some other appropriate voluntary work. It might also involve agreement to take part in a relevant programme to address issues associated with their offending behaviour. For this purpose Sacro provides a range of individualised programmes run over six to eight weeks to deal with issues which are identified for the young person to address as part of a reparative agreement. The following programmes have been developed for this purpose:

- Taking responsibility for offending
- Managing anger and aggression
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Managing peer pressure
- Relationship skills
- Emotional intelligence and management
- Problem solving skills, socio-moral reasoning and decision-making
- Future choices – planning for education, training and employment

> Restorative Justice and Sacro

Sacro has been at the forefront of bringing restorative justice ideas and practice to Scotland and is the principal provider of restorative justice conferencing services across the country. Sacro established the first Mediation and Reparation project for adults in Scotland in 1987 as a pre-trial diversion scheme and has developed services for young people who offend since 1996. Sacro currently provides restorative Youth Justice Services in 20 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas.

Sacro Youth Justice Services offer four restorative justice practices: Restorative Justice Conferencing, Face-to-Face Meetings, Shuttle Mediation and Awareness Programmes. Each practice is designed to meet specific needs and circumstances; hence an assessment is made by Sacro staff upon referral as to which practice is most appropriate in any given case.

> The Scottish Restorative Justice Consultancy and Training Service

The Scottish Restorative Justice Consultancy & Training Service is based at Sacro and has been funded by the Scottish Executive to meet three basic objectives:

- To offer assistance to any organisation in Scotland that wishes to develop and provide a restorative justice service;
- To ensure that every restorative justice service provider in Scotland is capable of providing the highest quality of service possible;
- To ensure that restorative justice referral protocols, policies and procedures can be implemented in a consistent and uniform manner across the country.

For further information contact:
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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/403.

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/403 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/403 کا حوالہ دیں۔

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إذا كنت تريد نسخة مترجمة من هذه المنشورة الرجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف 0131 624 7270 أو أرسل بريدا إلكترونيا إلى العنوان info@national.sacro.org.uk وانكر الإشارة رقم NAT/403

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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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Young People and Restorative Justice

