

 SACRO

Building Offending

From Youth Justice 2001



ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002



In 2001/2002 SACRO:

- Worked in 26 Local Authorities across Scotland
- Managed 46 services from 20 offices
- Opened 3 new offices
- Increased turnover by 34%
- Employed 189 staff and 250 volunteers
- Dealt with more than 7000 referrals in 7 service types
- Piloted 10 new Restorative Justice services
- Gave evidence on the Prison Estates Review to the Justice 1 Committee
- Responded to 30 Scottish Executive consultation documents
- Was awarded SQA Accreditation Centre Status to offer Qualification in Mediation (level 4)
- Opened Transitional Care Services to serve 13 Local Authority areas (in partnership with Cranstoun Drug Service and Scottish Prison Service)



SACRO

SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES
REDUCING OFFENDING

COMMUNITY MEDIATION

Through Community Mediation, SACRO's mediators help to settle neighbourhood disputes. They assist the parties involved to identify mutually acceptable solutions and reach settlements.

During the year, the 5 services received nearly 700 referrals. Most of the disputes were complex and challenging as the mediators become involved only if the dispute remains unresolved after previous interventions (e.g. Police, solicitors, Environmental Health, Citizen's Advice).

SACRO's resolution rate across Scotland was 55%, a major achievement given the difficulty of the cases dealt with.

Aberdeen
Edinburgh
Port Seton
Orkney
Fife

"The sanctity and safety of one's own home are two of the prime desires of everyone. Aberdeen Community Mediation Service, in restoring the peace and balance to difficult situations, have enabled people to regain these."

Doug Duthie, Co-ordinator, Aberdeen Safety Communities Trust

- ✳ **696 referrals across Scotland**
- ✳ **45% of disputes are noise related**
- ✳ **in 388 cases there was agreement reached or improvement of the situation**

"In my case, Mediation was successful, and I feel the programme offers a vital service for the community. I would recommend the Service to anyone."

Port Seton Community Mediation Service, Client



MEDIATION AND REPARATION

Mediation and Reparation allows Procurators Fiscal to divert accused adults from prosecution in court and gives victims a central role in the process.

"80% agreed or strongly agreed that mediation allowed them to express their feeling about being a victim."

Aberdeen Service Report

SACRO has operated Mediation and Reparation Services as a pre-trial diversion initiative since the 1980's. It is still seen as an innovative development in the fields of community safety and support provided to victims of crime. SACRO's Mediation and Reparation works as a practical and effective response both for the accused and the victim. In this regard it is unique in providing a service to both parties concerned in the aftermath of the offence.

Mediation and Reparation addresses the needs of the victims by providing the opportunity to: be involved in the process; have the offender make amends in accordance with victims wishes; and move forward in a positive, constructive way.

It addresses the needs of the accused by providing the opportunity to: make amends; consider the impact of their behaviour on others; as well as to be involved in the process and move forward.

For the community, Mediation and Reparation offers an opportunity to: heal divisions caused by crime; have damage repaired; and avoid the cost of the more expensive traditional sanctions. The community benefits from a speedy response, members of the community taking part and from potentially reduced levels of crime.

Aberdeen
Edinburgh
North and South Lanarkshire

"The popularity of the Service in this office is apparent from the fact that the number of cases currently referred by Deputes is greater than that with which the Service can cope."

Procurator Fiscal - Edinburgh

- ✳ **898 referrals across Scotland**
- ✳ **1031 victims participated in the services across Scotland**



Community Mediation in Aberdeen

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

SACRO continues to be the leading provider of accommodation services for offenders who require extra support or supervision to assist in a reduction in their offending. We have also taken a lead role in ensuring community safety by providing individually tailored packages of intensive supervision in collaboration with colleagues from Police, Social Work and Housing Departments, for those who have been deemed at very serious risk of causing harm.

"I personally wouldn't have survived without the help of SACRO. The flat was the start of me building on my new life."

Client, Glasgow

During the year training was delivered to all Supported Accommodation staff on the Introduction and Implementation of National Care Standards for offender accommodation services.

SACRO expanded the number of accommodation services into four new areas under spot purchase arrangements. Negotiations are taking place in many areas to expand, through "Supporting People" monies, our provision to offenders assessed as not being a serious risk to their community but who do require extra practical assistance to be able to enhance their coping skills and develop more responsible life styles.

Aberdeen
Falkirk
Edinburgh and Lothians
Fife
Dumfries and Galloway
North/South Lanarkshire
East Renfrewshire
Glasgow
Highland
Orkney

"I would like to thank SACRO for getting me my own tenancy and keeping me off the streets."

Supported Accommodation Client – Highland

✳ **331 clients were placed in SACRO Supported Accommodation**



Launch of SACRO Youth Justice Service, Edinburgh, on 15 August 2001

Marie Prior, Manager, Susan Matheson, Chief Executive, Gordon Bell, Reporter

YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES

The major focus of SACRO's Youth Justice work is based on Restorative Justice principles where we seek to meet the needs of the victims of offending as well as the young offender. Apart from mediation, victim awareness and individual personal change programmes, this year we developed Restorative Justice Conferencing, with significant support from the Scottish Executive, SCRA and individual Reporters.

In 2002, SACRO was funded to expand the Youth Justice Services in:

Aberdeen
Edinburgh
East Lothian
Midlothian
Fife
Highland
North and South Lanarkshire

and develop new Youth Justice Services in:

Ayrshire
Dundee
Perth
Orkney

"The strength of Breaking the Cycle is in its inter-disciplinary approach of working, of which SACRO East Lothian Youth Justice Services is an integral and vital member."

Mike Rogers, Manager for Breaking the Cycle



Announcement of additional Youth Justice monies at SACRO's Kilmarnock office, on 4 March 2002

Cathy Jamieson, MSP, Minister for Education and Young People and Susan Matheson, Chief Executive, at the announcement of the Scottish Executive's additional funding to encourage the expansion of young offender restorative justice schemes to all local authorities in Scotland.

✳ **713 referrals across Scotland**

✳ **651 (96%) were accepted and received a service**

GROUPWORK SERVICES

SACRO has continued to provide groupwork services from our offices in Edinburgh and Falkirk. Following a Scottish Executive review of the service in Clackmannan, Falkirk and Stirling, funding was guaranteed for the next three years. As with many of SACRO's services, the Clackmannan, Falkirk and Stirling groupwork provides evidence of real partnership working between the voluntary and statutory sector.

"I knew I wasn't the only person in these circumstances, plus I learnt to express my feelings more, I know I can talk to people about my problems and I have learned to walk away from situations that could get me into trouble."

Domestic Abuse Group Member

The Edinburgh service continued to deliver alcohol related offending groupwork programmes for the City of Edinburgh and Mid and West Lothian. It is important to note that we have sustained the programme that was especially created for women offenders.

"I thought it was very good, it makes you think about a lot of things and to think first before you do something. It was a very good group, everyone was easy to talk to and honest about the things that were going on in their life."

Alternative to Custody Group Member

Groupwork programmes adhere to the principles that have been identified by "What Works" research. Programmes are targeted appropriately and are delivered consistently in relation to timetabling, content and staffing. Sessions are well planned and validated materials are used.

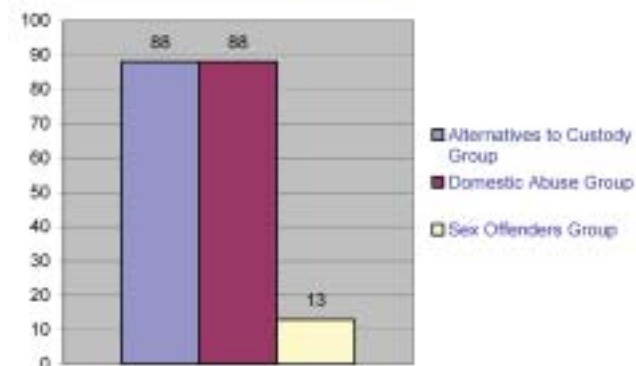
**Clackmannan, Falkirk and Stirling
Edinburgh and Lothians**

"To our knowledge none of the participants of any of the sex offenders' programmes we have run have been re-convicted since attendance."

Tim Richley, Service Manager

- ✳ **31 clients accepted onto the 3 groups in Forth Valley**
- ✳ **45 clients accepted onto the alcohol programme in Edinburgh**

Number of Referrals to each type of group in Clacks, Falkirk and Stirling



THROUGH-CARE

SACRO Throughcare Services help prisoners sustain the important and vital contact with their families and friends, which research shows can help reduce re-offending. Also, these services provide them with crucial individual support when they are released from prison. Working with our staff is a team of volunteers who provide professional befriending services and underpin the travel service that we lay on to almost all of the Scottish prisons.

"I live on the outskirts of Edinburgh and have 2 young babies. If it wasn't for the SACRO Travel Service my children would never see their dad."

Travel Service Client

In 2001, SACRO joined a consortium of voluntary agencies who, in partnership with Cranstoun Drug Services, successfully bid for a Transitional Care Service contract with the SPS, to provide support for short-term prisoners, not subject to license, who acknowledge a substance misuse problem.

It has been encouraging to note the recognition that the Throughcare Centre in HMP Edinburgh has been given as a model of good practice. SACRO has been pleased to be associated with this Centre since its inception in 1999.

**Ayrshire
Edinburgh
Highland
Glasgow
South Lanarkshire
Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, East & West
Dunbartonshire**

- ✳ **2637 passengers were carried on 307 journeys to 12 prisons and the State Hospital**
- ✳ **804 service users contacted**

BAIL

The Bail Service works to prevent unnecessary custodial remands by providing accommodation, support, supervision and monitoring that can satisfy the court that the accused can remain in the community.

**Edinburgh
Glasgow
North and South Lanarkshire – service opened 2002**

- ✳ **118 referrals, 108 offenders placed on supervised bail**
- ✳ **82% successfully completed**
- ✳ **of the known court outcomes only 11% received a custodial sentence following their court appearance at the end of the bail placement**

SACRO'S ACHIEVEMENTS 2001/2002

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

- Staff numbers increasing from 140 to 189
- Opening offices in Dundee, Paisley, Perth
- Opening 4 new Youth Justice Services
- Beginning negotiations to expand existing or develop new Youth Justice Services in 25 local authorities
- Piloting a new way of working – Restorative Justice Conferencing, in ten services and currently negotiating substantial pilot with local authorities and Scottish Executive
- Establishing a new Bail Service
- Transitional Care Service opening to serve 13 local authority areas, in partnership with Cranstoun Drug Services and Scottish Prison Service
- Appointing Development Worker for City of Aberdeen Youth Crime Strategy
- Being asked to design new groupwork programme working with racially motivated offenders
- Intensive Supervision – responding at short notice to meet the need to manage/supervise/support 10 people who are a very serious risk and maintaining them safely in the community.

CRIMINAL AND YOUTH JUSTICE AND SOCIAL POLICY

- Scottish Executive Consultation Papers – reviewing 43, responding to 30
- Contributing to The Ministerial Criminal Justice Forum (CJF) and Sub-group on Short Sentences. Ensuring Restorative Justice on CJF agenda and facilitating visit of Secretariat to SACRO Fife
- Contributing to discussions on Restorative Justice at the Scottish Executive Youth Justice Steering Group and Sub-group on Victims. Also presenting a paper on the role of the voluntary sector, to major Youth Justice Conference
- Regularly working with the media – from launching of a service in local press, to providing SACRO's views on Scottish Executive proposals for the Future of Scottish Prison Estates to range of national media
- Individual briefing meetings with MSPs
- Contributing to Scottish Civic Forum debate in the Scottish Parliament Chamber
- Pre-application liaison followed by submission for grant to Rethinking Crime and Punishment, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation Project to influence policy and public opinion in response to crime
- Scottish Executive meeting on national perspective on Intensive Supervision Services
- Contributing to the Scottish Consortium on Crime and Criminal Justice; Scottish Forum on Community Justice; Families Outside; Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum; SPS National Suicide Risk Management Group and Inter-agency Working Group to produce publication "Suicide is Everyone's Business"; The Criminal Justice National Training Organisation Steering Group; Mediation UK Management Board; Scottish Executive Getting Best Results Monitoring and Evaluation Group; Victim Support Scotland National Council.
- McClintock Lecture 2001, Professor David Smith, Professor of Criminology, University of Edinburgh – "Negotiated Order: A Unifying Principle for Parenting and Youth Justice"
- SACRO Conference 2001 – "Victims First – The Restorative Model".

MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANISATION



SACRO's Annual Conference 2001

Kevin Barry, Assistant Chief Probation Officer London Probation Area, National Probation Service for England and Wales, keynote speaker at SACRO's Annual Conference 2001, "Victims First – The Restorative Model".



Dr David Colvin
CBE, Chair

Board

- Recruitment: *David Bookbinder, SFHA *Niall Campbell, previously Head of the Civil and Criminal Law Group in the Justice Department *Moira McAlpine, previously Governor at HMP Castle Huntly *Treasurer - Jandy Stevenson CA
- Resignations: *Elizabeth Forsyth *Mary Munro *Catriona Scrimgeour CA, Treasurer
- Shrieval Panel: *Sheriff Alastair Stewart replacing Sheriff Sir Steven Young who moved on becoming Sheriff Principal for Grampian, Highlands and Islands.

Finance

- Turnover increased by 34% from £3.4 million in 2000/2001 to £4.5 million in 2001/2002
- Head of Finance/IT/Admin/Fundraising – creating a new post with additional financial support from Scottish Executive
- Board reviewing Risk Management Strategy, as required by new SORP regulations.

IT

- Rolling out of IT strategy, enabled by Scottish Executive capital grant, across all offices and beginning creation of new databases for all services
- Publicity Officer role expanding to include IT co-ordination
- Awarding maintenance contract externally
- Approving IT Policy and implementing across SACRO.

HR

- Reviewing status of all policies, developing and approving 4 new policies and revising 4 existing policies
- Recruiting 49 new staff
- Developing a new HR database.

Staff Development

- After a hiatus caused by time limited funding, recreating the post and appointing Staff Development Manager
- Devising a Staff Development Strategy which obtained Executive Committee approval
- SQA approving, in December 2001, SACRO to offer the qualification in mediation (level 4).

Quality Strategy

- All managers receiving training in the PQASSO self-assessment framework to enable implementation from April 2002.

VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS

SACRO is extremely grateful for all the work contributed by our 250 volunteers who each make a significant contribution to SACRO services, and for the sustained support of our 80 members.

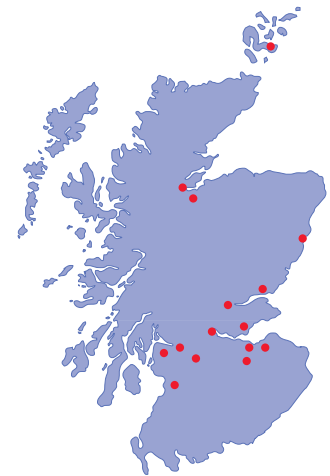
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

SACRO gratefully acknowledges the support of the Scottish Executive Justice Department and Local Authorities and would like to thank the following funds and Trusts for their support in 2001/2002:

The Tudor Trust, Lloyds TSB, Scotland Against Drugs and The Church of Scotland Social Work

FULL COMPANY ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SACRO is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, limited by guarantee, company registration no SC86651. Registered as a charity in Scotland, SC016293.



SACRO office locations across Scotland



For further information about SACRO please contact:

National Office
1 Broughton Market
Edinburgh EH3 6NU

Tel: 0131 624 7270
Fax: 0131 624 7269
Email: info@national.sacro.org.uk

www.sacro.org.uk

