



Restorative Responses to Young People Who Persistently Harm Others: The Priority Young Offender Project

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Aim of Workshop:

**To develop participants' awareness
and understanding of the purpose
and aims of the Priority Youth
Offender Project (PYOP)**

Northern Ireland Context

- Community restorative justice

State system

- Low risk – Police restorative cautioning
- Medium risk – Public Prosecution Service referral for diversionary conference by Youth Conference Service
- High risk – Youth Court referral by Youth Conference Service
- Very high risk - PYOP

The Justice [N.I] Act 2002 – to implement a restorative approach

- The public prosecution or the court **must** refer all cases of children who have been found guilty of an offence unless there is a mandatory life sentence.
- The offence must be ‘serious’ enough to be referred by the court
- A conference referral is only with consent and after admission of guilt
- Four weeks to complete the process
- Two objectives: to satisfy the victims’ needs and to reduce the risk of further harm
- The outcome of a conference is a statutory plan which is monitored

Implications of the law

- Open to all crimes
- The parties choose not the system or the professionals
- The restorative process must fit the parties rather than the parties fit into the process

The Balanced Model



The Youth Conference Process



Inclusion

Through invitation and preparation

Participation

Through storytelling and dialogue

Transformation

Through reparation, rehabilitation, restrictions and reintegration

Action Plan options

1. Apology
2. Reparation work
3. Financial compensation
4. Supervision by an adult
5. Participate in activities or programmes to address offending
6. Restrictions on actions
7. Treatment for mental condition or alcohol or drugs.

Action plan must be approved

Outcomes for Youth Conferences

- Number of youth conferences 8500 +
- Nearly 50,000 people have participated in a youth conference
- Victim attendance; 74%
- Victim and young person satisfaction ; 90% and 95%
- 8 out of 10 victims prefer the youth conference to the traditional court process
- 100% victims would recommend conferences to others
- 94% successful completion of plans
- Reoffending 37.7 % (22% for serious harm)
- Reoffending for all other community disposals 47.4%; for custody 72%
- England and Wales put three times as many young people into custody as Northern Ireland

The Problem of Young People who Offend Persistently

Multiple Conferences

Conference per young person	Number	Percentage of total	Cumulative percentage
1 conference	2147	67	67
2-4	833	26	93
5-7	159	4.5	97.5
8-20	87	2.5	100
Totals	3166	100	

I believe that the best thing I can do is to do this In these circumstances

Purpose and meaning Safety, Justice, Control Respect
Identity What I do makes me look good to my mates. It gives me status and worth.
Beliefs The world is a hostile place. You have to look out for yourself. The best way to get what I want is to offend.
Capability To plan and organise offending, to cooperate with others, to learn about stealing and driving cars etc.
Behaviour Aggression and violence, car crime, property crime, disorderly and anti-social behaviour, school refusal, alcohol and drug misuse, unsafe sex
Environment and history Family difficulties, serious sexual abuse, school difficulties, anti-social peer group, availability of alcohol and drugs, loss and trauma. Interventions that have not worked

I don't believe I can change my behaviour in these circumstances

**I
believe
that if
I can
change
my
behaviour
I will get
support to
have a
better life**



What's different?

- Intensity
 - Relationship
 - Regularity of contact
 - Speed of response
 - Level of organisation
 - Focus of contact
 - Level of support
 - Level of accountability
- Integration of
 - Restorative approach
 - Risk management
 - Systemic practice
 - Desistance research
 - Risk, needs and responsiveness
 - Cognitive methods

PYOP Methods

Methods

- Identity transformation
- Cognitive restructuring
- Capability development
- Risk management and managing compliance
- Behavioural challenges
- Restore relationships
- Systemic change

Processes

- Your New Life programme
- Coaching and other programmes
- Case management
- Circle of Support and Accountability
- Family group conferences
- Strengthening families

Circle of Support and Accountability Membership

- Primary support increases
 - Family, friends, mentors, school, community, church, sport, recreation etc.
- Secondary support decreases
 - Youth Justice Agency, probation officer, social worker, specialist programmes and services



- **Project between the Youth Justice Agency & Probation Board for N.I**
- **2 year pilot commencing operation 06/04/09**
- **Based in YJA Headquarters (Waring Street)**



Targetted, intensive intervention with young people who:-

- **commit serious/harmful offences**

e.g. car theft

violence

sexually harmful behaviour



- **persist in their offending**
e.g. referred for **Fourth Youth Conference for a Third re-offence**
- **receive probation supervision**
- **are leaving custody**

Current PYOP Statistics

April 2009-March 2010



Referral's	PYOP Orders	Young People PYOP	Offences Youth Conference	Offences Youth Conference
Youth Conference Total=240	YCO=126 YCO + Custody= 18 Total=144	YJA Total=52	(1) Violence against the person= 93 (30.6%)	(5) Motoring Offences=22 (7.2%) (6) Drug Offences=12 (3.9%)
Pre-sentence Report Total=196	PO=29 JJCO=15 CO=7 CPO=2 Total=53	PBNI Total= 35	(2) Theft=67 (22.0%) (3)Offences against the state=49 (16.1%)	(7) Burglary= 10 (3.3%) (8) Sexual Offences= 5 (1.6%)
Total: 436	Total=197	Total= 87 (Joint YJA & PBNI = 10)	(4) Criminal Damage= 45 (14.8%)	(9) Robbery=1 (0.3%)




Developing and Enhancing

- **Effective communication between PBNI, YJA, families, victims, communities & key stake-holders**
- **Developing creative and dynamic methods of practice & interventions**
 - **Restorative Practices**

BENEFITS



- **Increased confidence of public, victims, communities and judiciary**
- **Reduction in re-offending (decreasing seriousness and increasing times crime-free)**
- **Increased efficiencies in Youth Justice**
- **Increased participation and influence of victims (81% victim attendance April 2009-March 2010) & 100% victim satisfaction.**



Paul's Journey....



Background-

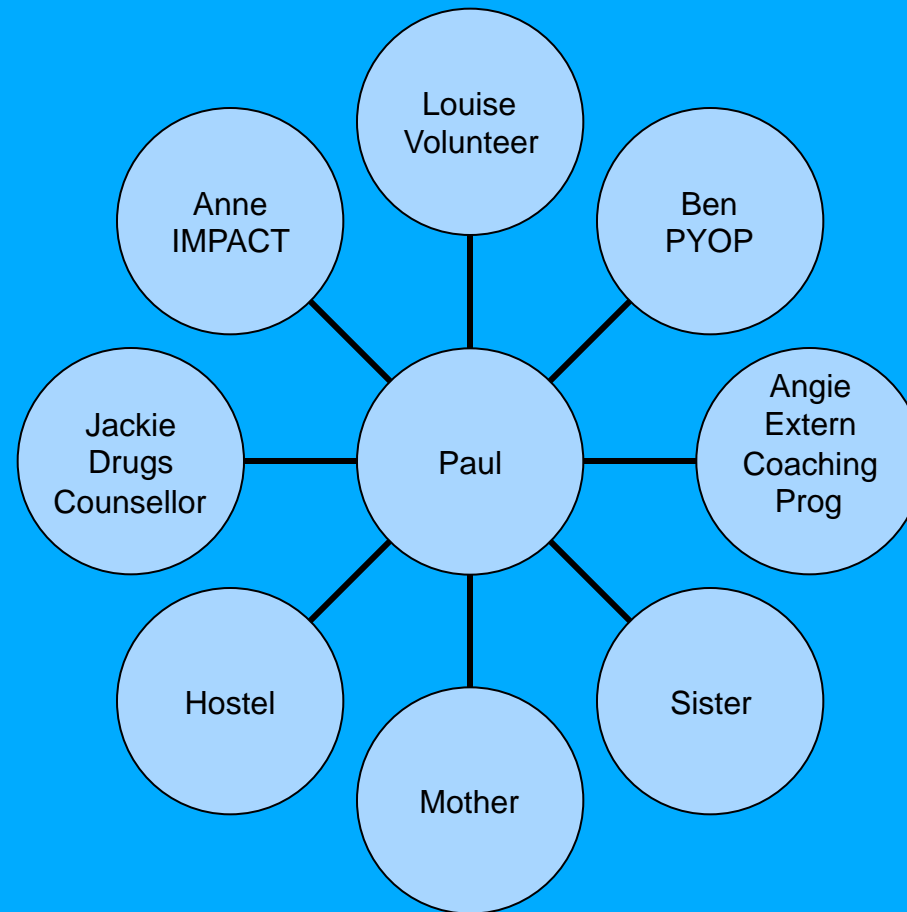
- Age – 17years
- Previous Offending & Risk-taking Behaviours
- Youth Court–Burglary & Car Theft
- Agreed to Youth Conference
- Risks- Alcohol & Drug Misuse, Paramilitary Threat, Family Relationships, Homelessness, Unstructured Lifestyle & Limited Motivation.




Youth Conference Plan

1. Paul will make £200.00 financial restitution to Mrs Smith within 7 months of order being imposed.
2. Paul will complete a minimum of 10 sessions with the Impact Car Crime Programme. To commence within 4 weeks of order being imposed.
3. Paul will maintain weekly contact with staff from PYOP (Priority Youth offender Project) for a period of 4 months. To commence immediately upon order being imposed.
4. Paul will undertake 120 hours of community service within 6 months of order being imposed.

Circle of Support & Accountability





	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
AM	10am-12 pm PYOP Contact Ben	10.30am -2.30pm Bus Prog	10am-12 noon PYOP Contact Ben	10.30-4.30 pm Young Entrepreneur Prog	Family Group Meeting	Free Time 	Extern Coaching Prog 10.30 -1pm
PM	1pm-2.30 pm IMPACT Prog 	2.30pm – 4.30pm GO For It Prog	1.30-2.30 pm FASA – 2.30-4.30 pm Essential Skills Training	Young Entrepreneur Prog Contd. 	12-2.00pm – Jackie Drugs Counsellor 3-5pm Meet with Volunteer	Extern Coaching Programme 2-5pm	Free Time 
Eve	Hostel	Meet with Volunteer	4.30-6.30 pm Drop in Centre	Hostel Activity Night	Hostel 	Hostel Activity	Hostel

Circles of Support & Accountability Plan



Managing Substances-

- 1) Continue contact with Drugs Counsellor & continue to record on daily journal
- 2) Keep Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs Drug free days (Hostel Staff to monitor daily and feedback at 6six week review)

Managing Mental Health-

- 1) YP agreed to receive TC at 8.30pm Tues, Thurs & Sat/Sun (7.00pm) (Previous psychologist and manager of Children's Home)
- 2) Personal advisor & PYOP Key worker to organise x4 social activities as identified & agreed by YP (Aspirations/Dreams)

Training and Employment-

- 1) Personal advisor – agreed to set up meeting with NIACRO Youth Employability Scheme
- 2) PYOP key worker – Referral to Extern Coaching Programme

Family Contact-

- 1) Social worker agreed to liaise with mother to explore possibilities of live video-link at next circles meeting

Accommodation-

- 1) Hostel Manager, S-Worker & Personal advisor agreed to explore options of maintaining placement & identify other independent living accommodation



Current Situation...

- Recently moved back into family home
- Emotional & mental Health significantly improved
- Ongoing participation in various PYOP programmes
- Order successfully completed and no further offending!

Does It Work?...





Young People Comments...

“People are interested and care for my future”

“I know there is always someone there for me”

“They are ready to go that extra mile”

Any Questions?

Thank you



For further information- Please Contact

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