

After discussion with magistrates from both Keighley and Bradford it was felt it would be helpful for you to receive regular updates and case studies on a sample of Referral Order cases. In particular there were some concerns about the content of interventions on orders over 6-months for the more serious offences.

The following are two examples of interventions with young people and the involvement of some of our partner agencies. I hope you will find these useful. If you would like any further information, or to discuss any aspect of Referral Orders, I can be contacted at the Shipley office of the Bradford Youth Offending Team on 01274 435065 or by email at sue.walker@bradford.gov.uk.

Sue Walker (Referral Order Team Leader)

Case Study 1

Louise is a seventeen year old girl who was made the subject of a 12 month Referral Order in September 2007 at Keighley Youth Court for an offence of assault. Her Mother was also given a parenting order. Louise and her Mother attended her initial panel meeting at the Keighley volunteer bureau on the 18th October and the following contract was agreed:

- Attend all appointments with YOT worker
- Attend reviews at 3, 6, 9 and a final one at 12 months.
- Attend offending behaviour sessions level 3
- Attend victim awareness sessions level 3
- Comply with education package
- 24 hours reparation
- Anger management sessions on a one-to-one basis.
- Letter of explanation to the victim.

Given the very difficult relationship between Louise and her Mother discussions took place with her case manager and a member of staff at Airedale College and she moved into a YMCA bed sit in Skipton. Although Louise was out of the family home one of our parenting workers continued to work with her parents to discuss the strained relations between them on a regular basis.

As agreed in her contract Louise undertook offending behaviour sessions which included work on her anger on a one to one basis. Following an appointment with our health worker a referral was made to CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services) with her agreement in North Yorkshire due to her depression.

Discussions also took place with one of our victim workers regarding a possible restorative conference between Louise and the victim following victim awareness sessions.

In and amongst the above work reparation sessions were carried out at the YMCA complex in Skipton. This involved Louise working alongside staff from the project in decorating some of the flats and gardening. One-to-one alcohol awareness sessions were also undertaken with our health worker looking at the effects of excess drinking and Louise agreed to carry out a weekly alcohol diary charting her regular intake and its impact on her behaviour.

Despite the difficulties Louise and her parents did continue contact and she attended three monthly panel reviews to discuss her progress and her adherence to her contract. The order was completed successfully last month and Louise remains in her flat with support from the YMCA staff and attends college at Skipton.

Throughout the order there was a tremendous amount of liaison and co-working between YOT staff and outside agencies as outlined above.

Feedback from Louise's Mother

"I think at first that the process was too lenient for the offence my daughter had committed but by the end of the order I was happy with the process and the work with both myself and Louise had helped us to rebuild our relationship. I appreciated the help I received on the parenting order although it would have been more useful six months before when we first started to have problems."

Case Study 2

Ben is a 17 year old young person who received an eight month Referral Order at Bradford Youth Court in October 2007 for offences of Burglary and criminal damage. The burglary was of a shop in the early hours of the morning where cash and a cd player were taken as well as damage to the shop door. He had been drinking alcohol at the time of the offence.

Ben attended a panel meeting on the 19th November 2007 and the following contract was agreed and signed by Ben and his parents

- Attend all appointments with his YOT worker
- Attend mid-way and final reviews
- Offending behaviour sessions level 3 to be completed in first two months of the order.
- Victim awareness sessions level 3 to be completed in first half of the order.
- 16 hours reparation to be completed in the first half of the order.
- One-to-one alcohol awareness sessions
- Referral to health worker

Appointments were made with Ben prior to his panel meeting at connexions and the YOT health worker undertook an assessment with regard to his alcohol use and a referral was made to our substance abuse team.

Although there was not a parenting order made in court Ben's parents asked for some help from one of our parenting workers and a home visit was undertaken shortly after the initial panel meeting.

Further appointments were made with Connexions and Ben started a job in February with a company in Halifax. In and amongst the other parts of his order he completed his sixteen hours of indirect reparation with Bradford Motor Education Project on a number of Saturday mornings. Offending behaviour and victim awareness sessions were carried out with his case manager in the first few months of the order.

The alcohol awareness sessions looked at the physical risks of excess drinking and he started a diary of when he drinks and the impact this has on his behaviour at home and out in the community. Despite this input there were further concerns around his drinking and our health worker referred him to Dr Malcolm via CAMHS and he was seen by him on a number of occasions. Despite some difficulties at home he continued with his job and his drug and alcohol use seemed to reduce as his order came towards its end in June.

He attended his final panel review in July 2008 and was congratulated by the panel members for the work he had undertaken on his order. He was still in employment and no further offences had been committed. Throughout the order the case manager liaised closely with Ben's parents and they were fully supportive of the work undertaken on his order.

Feedback from Ben

"I felt much happier by the end of my order and the experience has helped him grow up a lot. I will not act in the same way again as I have now got a job and am no longer drinking."

Bradford YOT supervise a wide range of reparation projects across the district.

