

Mediation

Mediation is an important part of The Restorative Justice process. There are three kinds of mediation used in The Powys Youth Offending Team.

Firstly there is Victim Offender Mediation

This is where, after a careful assessment of both parties, the victim and the young offender are invited to meet. The young person is asked to relate what happened and why they committed their crime. The victim is given an opportunity to tell the young person how his/her behaviour has affected them and to ask any questions of the young person that has been worrying them. The young offender is then free to apologise and offer to engage in reparation to make amends. Reparation can either be directly to the victim or to a project within the community that the victim supports.

Secondly there is Restorative Conferencing

This is a similar process to the Victim Offender Mediation except there are more people involved. This process is based on the view that young people need to understand the wider impact of their offence (for example on the victim's family and on their own family), and that these 'secondary victims' also need restoration and can benefit from the restorative process.

Thirdly there is Indirect Mediation

This process is used when either the Victim or the young person is unwilling to attend a face-to-face meeting. A Youth Offending Team Officer will visit both parties and assist in passing on views and help them to reach reconciliation.

The role of a Powys Challenge Volunteer within this process is that you could be asked (at the request of the young person) to attend a mediation session as the young person's supporter. A volunteer would also be asked to support their client prior to the mediation session, (this can be a stressful time for a young person,). The young person will also need support after the mediation to adhere to the agreements made within the meeting. This is not an easy option for young people, they are being asked to face up to their mistakes and apologise and also offer to make amends. For a lot of these young people, to have an adult who will praise them when things go well and encourage them when things are difficult is invaluable.