

## Case Study 1 – Theft – Commercial Premises

Kindly provided by Brian Neale - IOM Coordinator for Cleveland



**RESTORATIVE  
CLEVELAND**

*Working together, repairing harm*

The offender was known in the past to police as a prolific offender (PPO) from 2004 -2011, committing crimes such as theft and burglary, spurred on by substance misuse. In this particular incident, he had made off from a garage several times after filling up a car and drums with petrol, stealing from a local family owned garage.

In 2013 the offender engaged with the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team as he was remorseful for what he had done, and wanted to repair the harm caused. He met with two victims, which concluded in a very positive meeting.

One of the victims who participated was the owner of the garage, the other was a staff member, and they both had a positive experience and gained something from the restorative process. The owner of the garage was happy, and explained that the meeting made him feel good; it was a beneficial process and was very pleased he went through the experience. He stated that he would recommend the process to others.

Since this restorative justice (RJ) conference the offender has not committed any further crimes and now works on a voluntary basis to help promote RJ with the IOM RJ Coordinator Brian Neale, and he has also told his story in a short documentary about his experiences, which can help raise awareness of restorative justice. He also undertook supervised reparation work at the garage. The RJ process gave him an unbelievable high and in his words “no drug could do that.” His family life has since changed; he is now seen as a positive influence in the eyes of his children. RJ provided another stepping stone in his recovery from substance misuse, rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

This story shows how restorative justice can not only help to repair harm for victims of crime, but it can also have a positive influence on offenders, helping to reduce reoffending, so that there are less victims in the future.