



RESTORATIVE
CLEVELAND

Working together, repairing harm

Case Study 4 – Burglary

Kindly provided by Brian Neale - IOM Coordinator for Cleveland

In August 2014, Rea Abbis was a victim of a burglary to her home. During this traumatic experience, she was awoken by a dark figure opening her bedroom door, shining a torch in her direction. After turning on a light to realise that it wasn't one of her sons, she realised that it was an unknown man wearing a ski mask. She then chased the unknown male out of her house.

If this incident wasn't traumatic enough, the man came back again only a month later to burgle the house for a second time, this time taking items he didn't manage to take the first time when he was disturbed, while the victim was away on holiday.

The offender was identified for these two burglaries, along with a string of other burglary offences within a short time frame. He was sentenced and is now in prison for these offences.

These two burglaries had a huge impact on Rea and her sons. She understandably became very nervous in her own home, struggling to sleep and not wanting to be home alone, therefore she decided to participate in the restorative justice process to see if it could repair any of the harm caused and to get the answers to the questions that she had.

Rea and her eldest son were brave enough to meet with the offender in HMP Holme House Prison. During the process, Rea managed to tell the offender the impact that those offences had on her and her family, receive answers to the questions that she had, and gain an apology from the offender.

Rea stated: "The restorative justice process has given me peace of mind and the opportunity to face the man who I confronted burgling my home in the middle of the night. I would recommend this process to anyone."