



**RESTORATIVE
CLEVELAND**

Working together, repairing harm

Case Study 5 – Arson/Fire Setting

Kindly provided by Unite

The Restorative Group Conference Service has been used very effectively, to work in partnership with statutory agencies, to help tackle significant problems in local residential areas of young people causing crime and antisocial behaviour.

Agencies including police, fire service and housing agencies use the restorative group conference service with the aim that perpetrators of antisocial behaviour will accept responsibility for their actions and also gain a better understanding of the consequences of their behaviour on the local community.

This case study is for one referral received involving a nine-year-old boy who was causing antisocial behaviour in his local neighbourhood, including setting fires to rubbish in residential areas.

In order to maximise his engagement with the restorative intervention, he was offered a confidential appointment with an experienced Restorative Practitioner, Paula, at his home with his mum present.

He took full responsibility for his actions and agreed to attend a restorative group conference with representatives from local agencies including police, fire service and housing.

He communicated openly and honestly with everyone present at the conference. He took full responsibility for his actions and said he had been foolish.

The boy's mum said he had become involved with the wrong crowd. He agreed with his mum. He heard from all present about the consequences of what could have happened as a result of his behaviour, including fire damage to other resident's properties and the dangers of fire.

The boy also heard that his behaviour was putting his mum's housing tenancy at risk. He explained how he was willing to change his behaviour in the future, including not associating with some specific young people in the neighbourhood.

The Restorative Practitioner captured what he said at the conference on an agreement form, including the apology he offered to anyone affected by his behaviour and also his commitment to how he was going to change his behaviour in the future. This agreement was signed by everyone present.

At the end of the meeting Peter, a representative from one of the agencies, commented that he found the meeting very successful. He felt that the boy had obviously thought about his actions. Peter was very grateful of the restorative group conference service being available for local partners to use to problem solve community safety related issues.

He felt he was given the opportunity to speak face-to-face with young perpetrators about the consequences of their actions.

After the conference, Peter sent the additional feedback about the service to Unite's Chief Executive Officer, emphasising that he felt the work undertaken to assist had been invaluable to promote community safety and reduce antisocial behaviour in Middlesbrough. He also added that he felt that the meetings were worthwhile and believed the desired outcomes were achieved as a result of the conference.