

## Victims of Youth Crime

### Focused on children most at risk, our fundamental purpose is to:

- make effective decisions about a need to refer a child to a Children's Hearing
- enable children and families to participate in Hearings
- provide suitable accommodation for Children's Hearings
- disseminate information and data to inform and influence improved outcomes for children and young people

In 2008/09, 11,805 children were referred to SCRA on offence grounds. Approximately 30% of offence-based referrals are crimes against a victim.

### Types of Offence

The most common types of offences committed by children and young people that involve a victim, are assault (38%) vandalism (24%) and breach of the peace (14%).

### Ages of Victims

Victims of youth crime span all ages, from the very young to the very old. However, the majority of victims are other children and young people, with 15 years being the most common age to be a victim of youth crime.

### SCRA's Victim Information Service

SCRA has introduced a service to inform the victims of youth crime about offences referred to the Reporter.

### The principles of SCRA's Victim Information Service are:

- to provide victims of youth crime with access to routine information about the Children's Hearings System,
- to provide specific information to victims about what has happened to the referral to the Reporter, of the child or young person responsible for the offence,
- to protect the right of the child or young person to confidentiality.



The process involves the victim of an offence being identified from the police report when the child or young person is referred to the Reporter. Reporters then write to victims at key stages of their investigation and decision-making. Victims can opt out of this service if they do not want to receive this information.

Any subsequent contact from the victim will be responded to by an SCRA "Victim Information Co-ordinator". Victim Information Co-ordinators also provide the point of contact for requests for information from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority and insurance companies.

## Further Information:

SCRA provides information material to victims of youth crime. They are initially sent an introductory leaflet and this is followed up with a booklet containing more detailed information. Both of these documents are available on SCRA's website.

For further information on SCRA's Victim Information Service, please contact any of our Victim Information Coordinators on the following local-rate numbers:

**Glasgow:**

0845 051 0633

**Hamilton:**

0845 051 0635

**Dundee:**

0845 051 0636

