

REPARATION

What is Reparation?

Reparation is unpaid work in the community which benefits victims and the community as a whole.

Reparation is designed to help children and young people understand the consequences of their actions and take responsibility for their behaviour. It is for children and young people aged 10-17 years who have made the wrong choices and are open to Blackburn with Darwen Youth Justice Service.

Community Reparation is a way of children and young people making amends to the community. The aim is to provide children and young people with practical skills such as: painting & decorating, woodwork, gardening as well as basic life skills with an opportunity to gain an ASDAN Award.

Reparation sessions are arranged so it does not conflict with: school, work or religious commitments.

What is the aim of Reparation?

- Aims to prevent re-offending by ensuring that children and young people are made aware of the consequences and impact of antisocial activity.
- Aims to take into account the wishes and feelings of the victims of crime.
- Aims to encourage children and young people to take responsibility for their actions and in doing so make amends to their victim or the community as a whole.

Previous examples of reparation have included:

- Working in charity shops
- Painting a fence or gardening work for the victim.
- Working in the community where damage had been caused.
- Community clear up
- Decorating a children's centre
- Creating bench seats for a local school
- Restoring park benches

We aim to improve and maintain public areas particularly in conservation to benefit the local community. This encourages young people to reintegrate, take pride in their local community, pay back for their wrong doings while learning new skills and gaining a certificate of achievement with an ASDAN Award.

What is an ASDAN?

An ASDAN award provides curriculum programmes and qualifications to help children and young people develop knowledge and skills for learning, work and life. This aim is directed to give children and young people pride in achievement and commitment to learning while developing self-confidence. Also, self-awareness and understanding of how to be a successful learner gaining employability skills so that learners are well prepared for the next stage of their education, employment, self-employment or training pathway.

If you would like more information contact: 07867524179 or visit www.canw.org.uk



One recent example was to restore an Allotment area back to its original beauty.

Following an appeal for help by the local based Newground Together Group, centred at The Hub, Shadsworth they have now benefitted from the support of children and young people from Blackburn with Darwen Youth Justice Service and Child Action Northwest's (CANW) Community Reparation team In restoring the Greensleeves Allotment area due to it being left in a state of disrepair during the Covid restrictions.

A full assessment was carried out and after identifying issues with the structures of a shed we replaced the felt on one of the shed's roof to ensure it was water tight and underpinned the roof to strengthen the structure. We then followed this up by erecting another shed that needed extensive repairs to its structure through wood rot and refitted new felting for the roof to create a space for the service users to store their tools that are now used on site.

The wood fence panels around the allotment borders were replaced for the benefit of both the project and the local community and the allotment was cleared of all weeds resulting in Greensleeves being restored to its original state with local people now using the space on a regular basis both for educational and wellbeing purposes.

Children and young people were given the opportunity to make amends to the community by way of carrying out Reparation work.

The site has raised beds, fruit trees, running water and potting sheds. This is the perfect opportunity to get back to nature, be it using the space to improve wellbeing by planting and growing fruit and veg or to meet new people and learn new skills.

To support these areas, we created an internal classroom space when the need arises.

Examples of the endless opportunities include:

- Planting and sowing seeds
- Forest school sessions
- Maintenance of an allotment
- Foraging
- Becoming sustainable
- Learning about the environment
- Jewellery and decoration with natural materials

And much more!

Trevor Hannon CANW Reparation Worker

Giving these children and young people new skills and educating them about the consequences of their behaviour is extremely rewarding.

"It's very much a group effort between us and Blackburn with Darwen Youth Justice Service and the hosts from Newground."



"I've learned some really good skills on this project and it's made me think I want to do this when I leave school and the people I've met here have been really nice and welcoming."

Young Person
QUOTE

PROGRAMME HOST
Newground Together

"I cannot thank Trevor and his wonderful young people enough! They have all worked hard on our allotment at Greensleeves in the last few months helping us transform our overgrown area into a working space for all of the community of Shadsworth.

I have always found Trevor extremely helpful and he is a mind of knowledge and has a lovely way with the young people he works with to pass on his knowledge in a clear and patient way. I do hope we will be able to keep working with them for a long time"

How can we support your Group?

The Reparation worker will risk assess your potential project to ensure the safety of all participants and confirm any potential hazards identified prior to undertaking a scheme of works.

The Reparation worker will inform the programme hosts of any progress and will notify if any specialised work is needed for the work to continue.

Our services always aim to ensure public confidence in all the work we carry out and if any incidents occur there is a complaints procedure for the hosts to follow if needed.

The selection of an appropriate Reparation programme for a young person will be informed by an assessment process taking into consideration the age, emotional maturity, educational ability, gender and cultural needs of the young person.

What we ask from the hosts is to supply contact details and any materials that may be needed to fulfil the work required this can include paint, wood, accessibility to the site, and support with highlighting our work in the local media to encourage community harmony.

Child Action Northwest's commitment to participation can be demonstrated through the existence of the organisations 'Participation steering group'.

This group is chaired by the CEO, Sue Cotton and is made up of 'Participation Champions' from each of the different service areas delivered by CANW. Child Action Northwest's Criminal Justice service has an excellent representation on this group and the team is passionate about promoting the rights of all children and young people within the service.

Investment In Children Award

Child Action Northwest has recently been inspected by the Investing In Children body to renew our application for this prestigious award and our services have been successful in achieving this after evidence gathered from young people we work with.

The Investing in Children Membership Award gives organisations national recognition for the good practice and active inclusion of children and young people in dialogue that results in change.

If you would like more information:

01254 692709

www.canw.org.uk



investing in children

**INSPIRING LIVES,
CHANGING FUTURES**

