



## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### North Wales Police to trial apology scheme

July 2008 by Eryl Crump, Daily Post

**YOUNG petty criminals** will be given the chance to apologise face-to-face to their victims in a pilot scheme to be trialled by North Wales Police.

The scheme is an extension of a **programme** which has been used **since 2006**.

Youngsters aged 10 to 17 who commit offences such as **minor damage or petty theft** will be asked **if they want a Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD)**.

They will have to face their victims, apologise and give an assurance that such behaviour will not be repeated.

If they agree, and if victims agree to take part, **they will face no further police action**. **Insp Martin Pendleton of North Wales Police** said the force was one of eight in England and Wales to take part in the pilot.

He said YRDs provided a new way of dealing with youngsters coming into contact with the police for the first time, having been involved in relatively low level offences.

Mr Pendleton said: *"We see this as a new opportunity to support victims, reduce offending and divert 10 to 17-year-olds away from the formal criminal justice system and improve their behaviour and prospects. Very often the victim of an offence would prefer an apology to a matter being taken to court, but everyone has to agree to take part. It is not an easy option, but it is sometimes difficult to explain this to the victim, This is not a soft option and is an extension of our **Dyna Ddigon** (That's enough) initiative. We will of course still be using the formal criminal justice system taking a very robust approach with those people who persistently come to our attention."*

**Restorative Justice co-ordinator Sergeant Tony Morgan** added: *"Since we have been using the technique, victim satisfaction has been exceptionally high. In all cases we have dealt with to date, we have not come across a single occasion where the offender has refused to apologise for their actions. "The victims feel far more in control of the outcome of the situation, reassured by the apology and also satisfied that the incident should not happen again."* [http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?About\\_us](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?About_us)

**The PPP comments ... we don't know whether this works or even if it is a good idea. We are heartily sick of all the alternatives to real policing and sensible sentencing that they keep trotting out... the list is endless .. we have had, yellow cards, ASBOs, curfews, area bans, electronic tagging, NOW YRDs etc, etc. Will anybody who knows or who has experienced this system please contact us.**