

## Viv's Story

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Viv Hulland and her husband were awoken during the night by a sound downstairs at her home in Leeds. They went down to find that a young man had broken in through a window. They talked to him for a while before the police arrived and arrested him.

A few months later, Viv asked the police about the fate of the young man. She was told he'd been given a Youth Referral Order (a community sentence often used for first time offenders). She asked if she could have a Restorative Justice meeting with him and he agreed.



*"I thought – this isn't a bad lad, just a daft lad and I wanted to meet him to tell him about the effect his breaking in had had on us.*

*"It was an upsetting experience and it was made worse by the fact that we had my mother's funeral that morning. When I told him about that, it seemed to hit him like a sledgehammer.*

*"He said sorry to me and I think it was a genuine apology. He said he was glad he had a chance to do it in person.*

*"I said to him that I wanted him to promise me that he'd never do it again to anyone else – that was how he could make it up to me.*

*"He agreed with that. I was really grateful to have had the opportunity to say it to his face."*