

Burglary and Theft: Ann's Story

One Saturday morning I woke up quite early and I always look out of my bedroom window, it's just habit and I open the blinds. And when I looked out, the first thing I noticed was my car wasn't outside. We came downstairs, the living room light was on, the front door was shut. You wouldn't even know anyone had been in the house. The TV had moved but was still there, I noticed my laptop had gone. I came into the hall and my purse had gone, and obviously the car keys. When I had a little background about him, the young person was only 14, he had been involved in drugs so it was drug money they wanted. When I heard a little bit about them, I think they changed schools and made some new friends and sort of got in with the wrong sort of people. I did think hopefully there might be that little bit of chance that this person will realise the error of their ways and they are still young and impressionable, but when I told other people, they thought it was a complete waste of time, and even my family, they said "Oh just give them 10 minutes out of their cell and they'll just go back and won't think anything of it, it won't have an impact on them" but I didn't agree with that and I still definitely don't agree with that now. When we met, it was under a controlled environment in the room, and so it gave me the whole story of why it happened and the main thing was he said "it was just a random house on a random street, could have been anyone" I think the big impact on him was me telling him my story, how I felt, especially when I mentioned my car being stolen. Because I think every young person gets to an age when they want to learn to drive. When I told him about that, I was almost in tears and I think that made a big impact on him. It's just a really good way of a person who's been involved in crime coming together with the victim, person that's been affected by the harm and just a way of making amends and having questions answered. Its closure for the victim and it's a way for the person involved in the crime to take responsibility for it and then possibly go and make amends.