

York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust

Formerly North Yorkshire Probation Board 4 April 2001-31 March 2010



York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust

A critical player in the Criminal Justice System

Introduction

“ This commendable 2009-10 summary report captures significant achievements in a year of major challenges, and with well documented constraints on public resources. The resilience, commitment and professional skills of our employees have been fully stretched and we are indebted to them for their positive response in achieving high standards of performance.

During 2009-10 North Yorkshire continued to play an important role in local and regional partnerships. Within the Criminal Justice System we continued to play a strong central role. Substantial contributions were made to the Local Criminal Justice Board and other local multi-agency partnerships.

Our close and effective links with sentencers enabled us to continue to provide quick and reliable information, to support their decision making.

Such shared working is essential in making best and effective use of public resources to reduce crime, support victims and provide safer communities.

Realistically we face major challenges in the coming years - but we are assured of the evident commitment and professional skills of our employees. We are confident that we shall continue to provide high standards of effective local probation services.

The Board will fully support and capitalise on our new reputable standing as the York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust; to work closely with local partners and stakeholders, to protect the public, and contribute effectively to safer communities throughout York and North Yorkshire.”



Ken Bellamy CBE
Chair of the
Probation Trust




Pete Brown
Chief Executive



Our aim as a Trust is to be a forward looking organisation, **responsive to the needs of our local communities**. We commit ourselves to excellence, to equality of opportunity and to continuous improvement.

The aims of the Trust are:

- protecting the public
- reducing re-offending
- the proper punishment of offenders in the community
- ensuring offenders' awareness of the effects of crime
- rehabilitation of offenders

Becoming a Trust

The probation service in York and North Yorkshire works with offenders to cut crime and protect the public. In doing so, we make a vital contribution to the safety of our communities and the people who live in them.

We worked hard during 2009-10 to achieve Trust status. This enabled us to re-shape our organisation to the needs of each of our localities and to participate in the local partnerships - which will be the most effective vehicles for reducing crime in York and North Yorkshire.

We are now in a position to negotiate a service delivery contract with the Director Offender Management (DOM) Yorkshire and Humberside, our commissioner, which truly reflects the needs of our county.

From April 2010, we restructured our delivery structures, basing them on Local Authority boundaries. We now have two Local Delivery Units; York and North Yorkshire. These are each led by a Director, with the necessary delegated budgetary authority to really shape services in line with local needs and priorities.

The new boundaries are co-terminus with the Local Area Agreements and of many of our major partners. This will enable us to fully participate in the setting of local priorities, in responding to local needs and allow us to build on our existing partnership work to greater effect.

We believe we have laid the groundwork during 2009-10, so that the York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust will be able to demonstrate it is delivering a real impact in reducing re-offending in York and North Yorkshire over the coming years.

Making communities safer

Public protection is our number one priority

Assessing and managing the potential risk that offenders in the community present is critical.

In this country, we have some of the most advanced and effective processes in the world in place to do this. These processes have been particularly strengthened since the introduction of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), which enables the Police, Prison and Probation Services to work closely together, to manage potentially high risk offenders.

The level of risk in individual cases can never be entirely removed; however it can be effectively managed and reduced.

The vast majority of sexual and violent offenders, at some stage, will be released back into the community. It is the responsibility of MAPPA agencies to work with these offenders to help reduce the likelihood of re-offending.



We work together with a whole range of other agencies including local authorities, education and health, to ensure that plans have been established to manage these offenders. We also have two appointed lay advisers, who represent the views of the local community on the Strategic Management Board. By working together we are helping to ensure North Yorkshire remains a safer place to live.

York and North Yorkshire is a safe place to live and MAPPA is working hard to keep it that way. The total number of registered sexual offenders in North Yorkshire and the City of York during 2008-09, per 100,000 head of population, was low at 51.

For more information:
www.mappayorkandnorthyorkshire.org.uk

Approved premises

The aim of approved premises is to protect the public from offenders who pose a significant risk of harm to others.

There is one approved premises in North Yorkshire - Southview. It provides accommodation for those who are on bail, subject to probation supervision under the terms of a Community Order, or on licence following release from prison.

It is not a permanent home for offenders; it is used to rehabilitate offenders, to enable them to play a positive role in society.

Southview offers a higher level of supervision, in order to protect the public from those who pose the most harm to others. All residents are subject to thorough risk assessments. They have an individual supervision or sentence plan, that addresses the causes of their offending. This may include receiving drug or alcohol treatment, attending programmes, improving basic skills and working towards employment or longer term accommodation.

Southview imposes a night-time curfew and some residents have other specific curfew requirements. There is CCTV surveillance and staff are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Hostel rules are strictly enforced and there is close liaison between the police, supervising probation staff, courts, prisons, social care and other partner agencies.

Illegal drugs, solvents and alcohol are banned at Southview. Residents who break these rules may be returned to court or prison.

Approved premises, like Southview, are the safest option for certain offenders, as it allows their risk to be closely managed. They are required to comply with all the conditions of their order or licence, including the curfew and any additional restrictions imposed on their movements.

Approved premises are a vital part of the public protection process. They enable successful resettlement of offenders back in to the community, while contributing to the reduction of re-offending.

Giving victims a voice

The probation service provides a service to victims of serious sexual or other violent offences.

This involves - if the victim wishes it - keeping them informed about the progress of the offender through prison. It also involves giving the victim the chance to give their views about any conditions applying to the offender on release from prison. Conditions may include preventing the offender from going near the victim, and if the risk is seen as too great, placing an exclusion zone on the offender to stop them causing any further worry to the victim.

The victim's involvement with this service is voluntary, and victims may change their mind about having contact with a victim liaison officer at any point during the offender's sentence.

Last year the North Yorkshire Probation Board employed dedicated victim liaison officers to work exclusively with victims, to ensure they had a strong voice in the Criminal Justice System.

In 2009-10, the team consisted of 3.5 full-time staff, who managed over 1,100 victim cases between them.

The government set a target of 90% of victims being contacted by the Board within 56 days of the offender's sentence date.

In York and North Yorkshire that target is exceeded every year and in 2009-10, 98.1% of victims were contacted within the target time.

Probation works. Punishing, supervising and rehabilitating offenders in the community is effective and efficient - particularly compared to short prison sentences.

Partnerships

We worked effectively in partnership to fulfil our duties

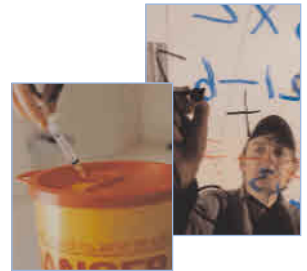
As one of the key criminal justice agencies, the organisation continued to work in partnership; this is an increasing feature of our work at a local, regional and national level. The development of strategic partnerships saw great progress in 2009-10.

With the support of the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership's Safer Communities Forum, we played an active role in strategic developments in relation to work with Prolific and Other Priority offenders, Domestic Violence, Alcohol Misuse, Violent Offending and Information Management.

The Local Area Agreements in York and North Yorkshire provided a platform for enhanced partnership around the shared goals of public protection, reducing re-offending and social inclusion - which provide the basis for Integrated Offender Management.

We continued to jointly commission services for drugs and alcohol interventions with police, health and local authority partners through the two Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAATs). Our then Assistant Chief Officer Interventions, chaired the North Yorkshire DAAT for the past year and also sat on the Safer York Partnership / DAAT.

Working with prisons, local colleges, the Learning and Skills Council, Job Centre Plus and Next Steps Agencies, we continued to establish a Local Offender Learning and Skills Partnership to oversee effective routes for offenders into learning opportunities, skills development and employment.



Integrated Offender Management

Keeping offenders in the spotlight

The basic concept of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is to bring together the right agencies, to ensure the right interventions are undertaken with the right offenders, at the right time.



This multi-agency initiative works with those offenders who have the motivation to stop offending, so that criminal justice agencies can focus their efforts on catching and convicting those offenders who pose a greater risk to communities. During last year the Board worked with the Local Criminal Justice Board to set up multi-agency teams in probation offices in three areas - York, Scarborough, and Harrogate. Each team has between 15 and 20 staff from probation, police, drugs teams and other partners, working together to manage up to 300 offenders at any one time.

The IOM unit in Scarborough has been operating for nearly one year and results are encouraging, with reductions in **re-offending for the 200 offenders under supervision averaging at 38%.**

Our work in court

Liaison with sentencers remained a key feature of the Board's work last year and we remained committed to ensuring high standards of service to the courts.

During 2009-10 our employees prepared 2,624 professional reports for the courts, to help sentencers with their decision making.

The Board has an excellent record of submitting reports to the courts within the required timescale and 2009-10 was no exception, achieving 99.8% against a national target of 100%.

Over the year there was a further increase in the number of oral and fast delivery reports, with 1,357 being completed - compared to just 615 back in 2004-05. The increase in fast delivery reports enabled more sentencers than ever to make their decisions on the day.

The Board knows that regular liaison with courts is key to our work and in 2009-10 we continued our commitment to regular liaison. We achieved this through newsletters, training events, Liaison Committees and numerous face to face meetings at all management levels.



Locally we have **strong partnerships with courts.**

Punishment with a purpose

Community Payback



Every year, offenders perform hours of Community Payback in England and Wales; it is a valuable resource to local communities. Last year, offenders in York and North Yorkshire alone, performed some 136,241 hours for the benefit of local communities. In cash terms this equates to over £790,000 (calculated on minimum wage).

Community Payback punishes offenders for their crimes and is able to prevent the likelihood of re-offending.

Work done on Community Payback projects, such as gardening, catering, painting and decorating and carpentry, can be accredited by education providers, giving offenders a recognised certificate. For many this is the first educational qualification they have ever achieved and is an incentive to carry on with further education or apply for jobs.

During 2009-10 our Community Payback teams were busier than ever responding to local needs. This included helping many local councils to clear footpaths and communal areas when heavy snow fell early in 2010.

A full list of our beneficiaries, and the work that we undertake for them, is published every month on our website.

Mayoral Project 2009

The Lord Mayor of York (2009-10), Councillor John Galvin, found out just how tough community punishments can be when he attended the first ever City of York Community Payback Mayoral Project, at one of York's most popular cycling paths.

As project sponsor, the Lord Mayor gave his official backing to the project, which saw offenders working hard to make amends for their crimes. Offenders carried out work in Layerthorpe on the National Cycle Network which is co-ordinated by Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity. To help maintain the popular cycle route for the benefit of its regular users, offenders undertook a raft of environmental jobs that included strimming and cutting back of hedges, removing rubbish and broken glass, cleaning away graffiti from the bridge, and repainting local monuments in the immediate area.

So how can you get involved?

The Community Payback teams would like to hear from you about projects which you think will make a real difference to your local community. Contact us at:

Email

communitypayback@north-yorkshire.probation.gsi.gov.uk

“...The people in York want to know that criminals in York are being made to payback for their crimes. Community Payback schemes, like mine, make this a reality and very importantly give local communities a say in what criminals must actually do to make amends for their crimes.”

The Lord Mayor of York (2009-10)
Councillor John Galvin



Cutting crime, changing lives

Skills for Life

One of our many tasks is making sure offenders have the sort of basic skills that most of us take for granted. Many offenders, for example, struggle with even the simplest English or cannot deal with numbers. By supporting offenders to attain basic standards in such skills they become more employable. Research shows that if offenders can gain stable employment they are 30% less likely to re-offend.

North Yorkshire's target for 2009-10 was to get 600 offenders on to courses to achieve basic educational and vocational skills. In the event, we placed 603 offenders on to courses.

In addition, 45.9% of offenders, under our supervision, were in employment at the point of their sentence termination.

Accredited programmes

Accredited programmes are evidence based behavioural programmes, which are designed to reduce re-offending by helping offenders to learn new skills that improve the way in which they think and solve problems.

Problems with attitudes and behaviours are amongst the most common characteristics of offenders and accredited programmes are a good way of tackling them.

During 2009-10, 52 offenders completed our Domestic Violence programme, against a national target of 37. A further 19 offenders completed the accredited Sex Offender Treatment programme, against a national target of 14.

Substance mis-use

Year on year, substance mis-use treatment continues to be increasingly successful for us.

These orders are designed for those offenders whose offences are directly related to their drug or alcohol addiction. They involve high levels of contact and supervision with offenders, who have to stick rigidly to the condition of the order.

During the year, we managed 77 offenders on a Drugs Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR), against a target of 74.

During the year, we managed 115 offenders on an Alcohol Treatment Requirement, against a target of 30.

Performance

Significant achievements in a year of major challenges

The achievement of key national, regional and local targets continued to be a high priority for the Board. 2009-10 was a very successful year in which we achieved 'Green Star' status across all measures, under the Integrated Probation Performance Framework (IPPF) - the highest rating possible.

2,408 offenders were either in custody, on licence, or on an order under our supervision, as of the 31 March 2010.

4,009 Community Orders, supervised by North Yorkshire Probation, were started during the year.

1,393 of those Community Orders required the offender to carry out Community Payback (unpaid work).

321 of those Community Orders required the offender to complete an accredited programme.

77 Drug Rehabilitation Requirements and **115** Alcohol Treatment Requirements were started during the year.

603 offenders, supervised by North Yorkshire Probation, were referred for further educational provision.

161 offenders, supervised by North Yorkshire Probation, secured retained employment for at least a month.

2,624 Pre-Sentence Reports were produced for courts to assist them with their sentencing decisions. Of these **99.8%** were on time.

354 offenders started supervision on licence, on release from prison.

98.1% of victims of serious sexual or violent offenders (sent to custody for one year or more), were contacted by our staff within eight weeks of the sentence date.

136,241 hours of Community Payback were carried out by offenders in York and North Yorkshire.

About us

Staff are the Board's greatest asset, and we sought to ensure, that we had the right staff, in the right place, doing the right things.

The workforce profile as at 31 March 2010 showed that 209 staff (full time equivalent) were employed by the Board. Of these, 33% were male and 67% female, and of staff that declared their disability, 9.9% were registered disabled. The highest percentage of age representation was the 41-50 year old bracket, which represented 30.5% of all employees.

We believe strongly in training and development and considerable resources and time went into training employees and developing their practice. There was significant investment over the year with real emphasis placed on both skills training to ensure probation staff skills were maintained, together with an emphasis on leadership and management development. Last year our employees received some 783 training days in total.

The management of attendance by the Board continued to be a high priority and this resulted in a continuation of an excellent record in the number of days lost due to sickness. The average number of days lost during 2009-10 was low at 6.49 days per employee.

How we spent our money in 2009-10

Budget	2008-09	2009-10
Employee costs	9,926,000	7,197,000
Operating costs	2,823,000	3,047,000
Income	(312,000)	(308,000)
TOTAL	10,437,000	9,936,000

Operating costs include: supplies and services; contracted out services (including IT and estates); third party payments (partnerships); and other administration costs. We are principally funded by the Ministry of Justice.

Complaints

Year	Number of complaints
2009-10	2
2008-09	2
2007-08	3

We hope this short summary has helped you to understand what we do, how we do it and what we achieved during 2009-10. If you want to know more, a full copy of the Annual Report is available on our website or a copy can be obtained from the contact details below. In addition please contact us if you, or anyone you know, requires this document in an alternative language or format, e.g. or Braille or large print.

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