



***Aren't you the people who organise offenders to clean up rubbish and graffiti?***

Yes, but that's not all we do.

***So who are you?***

We are one of 39 probation trusts in England and Wales whose aims are: protecting the public; reducing re-offending; the proper punishment of offenders in the community; the rehabilitation of offenders and ensuring that offenders are aware of the effects of their crime on the victims of crime. To do this we work in close partnership with both statutory and voluntary sector bodies.

Based at ten locations in Derbyshire, and with teams working in Foston and Sudbury prisons, our 380 staff supervises some 4000 offenders each year. Each offender has one manager throughout his or her supervision. This enables us to build a productive relationship, and contributes to a greater likelihood of the offender successfully completing their sentence and being less likely to re-offend.

***And what exactly do you do?***

We do supervise offenders undertaking unpaid work, and in the past year we have supervised over 182,000 hours of unpaid work throughout Derbyshire, worth over £1 million to local communities. It remains an important aspect of our work. This work is known as **Community Payback (CP)**.

***Community Payback. Isn't it just a bit of a let off for offenders?***

Far from it. CP is a tough option. Offenders can be sentenced to between 40 and 300 hours service, as well as having to comply with other elements of their orders. The work is physical, undertaken in all weathers and takes away from their free time each week. We also incorporate training, enhancing their problem-solving skills and their ability to work as a team; and sometimes enabling them to gain practical skills such as in painting and decorating or horticulture. We run Unpaid Work sessions every day of the week. All the work benefits the local communities and can help realise projects that sometimes might not be undertaken. See our website for more details of unpaid work.

But there are other activities which, though less well-known, are equally important.

***So what else do you do?***

Our overarching work is **Offender Management**. Under Community Orders, offenders may be subject to Curfew, Exclusion orders, Residence requirements, prohibited from certain activities, required to attend various rehabilitation courses or other conditions. All of these we supervise.

We have dedicated **Courts Teams** who prepare reports to assist sentencing decisions and to advise on matters such as the likelihood of re-offending and appropriate possible sentencing options. They also report on offenders' progress with their Community Orders and deal with breaches of Orders. Last year we provided over 4,900 reports to courts across the county.

Probation staff also work in **Prisons**, having contact with prisoners sentenced for more than 12 months, from the time they are sentenced, through to managing their supervision on release. In prison, we provide programmes to address offenders' behaviour and attitude. We also produce reports and provide prison governors with recommendations on matters such as home detention, curfews and resettlement on release, to assist in the determining of release licence conditions.

### ***So how do you help reduce re-offending?***

We provide a number of **specially-designed programmes** to help change offenders' behaviour. Subjects include Controlling Anger, addressing Domestic Abuse, Drink Impaired Driving, Alcohol Abuse, Drug Abuse, and programmes for sex offenders.

We also provide **Basic Skills Training** in numeracy and literacy, to increase the possibility of getting offenders into employment. It is a sad fact that the education level of many offenders is only equal to that of the average 11 year old. In 2008/9 964 offenders were referred for Basic Skills courses.

For those medium or high risk offenders who have a faulty approach to problem solving, we provide an **Enhanced Thinking Skills** (ETS) programme to develop their social interaction and problem-solving skills.

### ***And the really serious offenders?***

With the most serious violent and sex offenders, Derbyshire Probation works closely with partners such as the Police, the Prison Service, Housing organisations and Social Care and Health Services, to operate multi agency public protection agreements (**MAPPAs**). These intensive supervision plans are designed to minimise the risk to the public from higher risk offenders released back into the community.

### ***What about hostels? (Approved Premises)***

We run one Hostel in Derby. This provides not only secure accommodation with strict residential rules, but also a high level of supervision for offenders. Residents must also engage with any support agency determined by their licence conditions in order to address reducing re-offending needs. We also work with housing organisations to assist offenders in settling back into the community. The hostel houses up to 27 male offenders and is staffed 24/7 all year round.

### ***Do you work just with offenders?***

No. Work with victims is a very important aspect of our role. Our specially-trained **Victim Liaison Officers** (VLOs) organise contact with, and support for, individuals and their families who are victims of serious crime. We enable the victim to be kept apprised of an offender's progress throughout their sentence. On behalf of the victim, we are able to ask through the court for extra conditions to a release licence, such as prohibiting contact with the victim, or excluding the offender from certain areas. Our VLOs maintain close contact with the Police and victim support organisations.

Our **Women's Safety Workers** support victims of domestic abuse, where the perpetrator is attending our IDAP programme.

In 2008/09 Derbyshire Probation:

- Employed over 440 full and part time staff
- Operated from 12 sites across the county from Ilkeston to Glossop; Derby to Chesterfield
- Provided probation teams in Sudbury Prison (all female) and Foston Hall Prison
- Supervised 4,050 offenders
- of whom over 2,700 were given community orders
- of whom 12% were female and 10% were registered as BME
- Provided over £41,400 of Interpreter services for offenders in over 20 languages
- Provided over 4,900 reports to courts across Derbyshire
- Supervised over 182,000 hours of unpaid work under the Community Payback scheme
- Worth £1,010,000 to local communities

**for more information, see our website – [www.dpsonline.org.uk](http://www.dpsonline.org.uk) or contact us at 18  
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