

News from Thames Valley Probation and Magistrates



Press Release

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Prison or Community Sentence? You decide.

The Local Crime Community Sentence project (LCCS) is a joint venture by Thames Valley Probation staff and local magistrates. Its aim is to increase the knowledge and understanding of courts and what happens to offenders afterwards.

This is an opportunity for your group to 'be the judge', looking at the facts of a real case, then deciding whether the person goes to prison or is given a community sentence. You then hear about what really happened in that case.

The presentation is absolutely free of charge, lasts about an hour and is both informative and fun.

If you would like to arrange a presentation for your group or discuss it in more detail, contact Clare Hooper, Thames Valley Probation's Communications Officer and LCCS Co-ordinator on 01869 255300 or clare.hooper@thames-valley.probation.gsi.gov.uk

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Local Crime: Community Sentence in Thames Valley

See the national LCCS website: www.lccs.org.uk.

The project's aim is to improve public confidence in sentencing and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community sentences. We have a pool of more than 50 presenters ready to deliver LCCS to local community groups, ensuring three key messages are delivered throughout the presentation. They are:

- To reduce crime and the numbers of victims of crime, we need to change the way offenders behave
- Prison has a role to play, but is not always the best answer
- Community sentences are tough and demanding. They can be more effective in reducing re-offending and protecting the public.

We have delivered more than 100 presentations to 2,000 people in the community so far. We have reached out to a variety of groups e.g. Women's Institutes, Rotary Clubs, Neighbourhood Watch, Local Councils, Trading Standards, Colleges and Victim Support. Public confidence in community sentences has been shown to dramatically increase after attending an LCCS presentation.

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