



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE  
for England and Wales

*enforcement, rehabilitation and public protection*

## **Press release**

December 12, 2002

### **Probation Service launches website**

The National Probation Service – Thames Valley has today launched its website, making news of the work it does throughout Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire more accessible to everyone.

A recent MORI poll found that few members of the public know what the probation service really is, or what its staff do.

The website – [www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk) – has sections on what we do, our performance, where to find us and a detailed, but simple, explanation of how probation works.

It also has a section dedicated to offenders, called Been Sentenced?, which details all the court orders, offending behaviour programmes and work we do in the community and in prisons and young offender institutions.

Commenting on the site, Chief Officer Gerry Marshall said: 'Probation is often seen as the invisible service because people really don't know what we do. In the Thames Valley, we supervise about 6,000 offenders a year.

'This website gives members of the public – including offenders – access to the work we do and how we do it. I'm very pleased to say it also includes a section on careers in the probation service, which I hope people who want a challenging but very rewarding career will read.'

ENDS

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The National Probation Service – Thames Valley works with adult offenders, supervising them through their court orders and assisting with rehabilitation. The main aim of the service is to increase public protection and reduce the re-offending rate. In the Thames Valley, we supervise around 6,000 offenders every year. This is out of a total population of roughly 2.2 million.

For further information, contact:

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