

News from Thames Valley Probation and Magistrates



Press Release (with picture)

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Local magistrate wins national Local Crime: Community Sentence award

Honor Juniper, a long-serving Oxford magistrate and member of the Thames Valley Probation Board since 2004, has been recognised nationally for her work to raise awareness with the general public about the effectiveness of community penalties.

Honor won the commitment and dedication category in the national Local Crime, Community Sentence (LCCS) annual awards. The ceremony took place at the Supreme Court, Parliament Square, London in December where she was presented with her certificate by Baron Judge of Draycote, the Lord Chief Justice for England and Wales.

As Chair of the Thames Valley LCCS steering group and member of the national LCCS steering group, Honor has been instrumental in the success of the project across Thames Valley and the development of the project nationally.

“It is to the general public’s advantage that magistrates and probation staff work together to raise awareness of the effectiveness and value of community penalties in the right case. They can do so without either compromising or diminishing their independence of each other. The end result is to the benefit of their communities,” said The Lord Chief Justice.

Since LCCS began in Thames Valley in 2005, more than 2,000 people from community groups across Thames Valley such as Women’s Institutes, Rotary Clubs and Neighbourhood Watch, as well as students at Oxford and Cherwell Valley College have attended presentations. Feedback shows that their confidence in the criminal justice system is increased when they hear details of what happens in real cases.

Do you want to find out more?

The Local Crime Community Sentence project (LCCS) is a joint venture by Thames Valley Probation staff and local magistrates, who go out to deliver the presentation together. Its fun and interactive and its aim is to increase the knowledge and understanding of courts and what happens to offenders after sentence.

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 40 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 reached out to a variety of groups throughout Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire such as Women's Institutes, Rotary Clubs, Neighbourhood Watch, local councils, schools and colleges and Victim Support. Public confidence in community sentences has been shown to dramatically increase after attending an LCCS presentation.

Since the project launch in 2005, Thames Valley LCCS team has won three national awards.

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