

Press Release



Thames Valley Probation announces new office location in Oxford

February 12, 2010

Thames Valley Probation can today announce that we have secured a lease on an office in Oxford adjacent to St Aldates Police Station and near both the Crown and Magistrates' Courts.

The news comes at the end of a protracted search for new premises in Oxford because of the size of the building that we were seeking and the scarcity of suitable premises in the city. Our preferred option, at the end of Mill Street in Oxford, ceased to be available after strong opposition from our prospective neighbours there.

Macmillan House, our new location, will offer office accommodation for staff in both our existing central office in St Ebbes and our smaller office in Cowley, East Oxford. Macmillan House is a satisfactory property and location for us but its size will not enable us to extend our capacity or our facilities beyond those already available at our current offices. Our hopes to enhance our services to offenders in Oxfordshire have been restricted.

We have therefore decided to explore options for our Abingdon and Banbury offices which cannot be accommodated at Macmillan House and we are already in consultation with the Ministry of Justice and Home Office.

'It has been a difficult time for us all, as we had to vacate our current Oxford office in 2010 and the search for suitable sites in Oxford at an affordable price and in a suitable location has been incredibly hard,' said Chief Probation Officer Gerry Marshall.

'We hope that everyone will be satisfied with our new location. We are pleased to have found somewhere at last and look forward to moving in and continuing with our work and our aim, which is summed up by our mission statement: 'less re-offending, fewer victims.'

ENDS

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

Thames Valley Probation works with adult offenders, supervising them through their Community Orders and assisting with rehabilitation. We also supervise offenders released from prison on licence and work with victims of serious crime. The main aim of the service is to increase public protection and reduce the re-offending rate.