



News from Thames Valley Probation



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Community Payback offenders get busy in Slough

Working in partnership with Slough Borough Council's Housing Service (previously known as People 1st (Slough)), Thames Valley Probation's Community Payback team has completed a clean up of back gardens and alleyways on Slough Borough Council's tenanted and community housing land.

Many of the tenants whose gardens were cleared were unable to maintain the gardens themselves due to age or ongoing health issues. Some of the garden areas were so overgrown with brambles that the fences were unrecognisable and the area had become a dumping ground for old furniture and fly tipping.

Since starting the project in January 2010, Community Payback has cleaned up more than 30 back gardens or alleyways on housing land in various locations across Slough. This amounts to more than 3,000 hours of work paid back to the community.

Slough Borough Council's Housing Service and the tenants have given very positive feedback for the excellent work that has been completed by offenders supervised by Thames Valley Probation staff. The areas cleared have been greatly improved and staff and tenants have been delighted.

To find out more about other local projects and watch our short dvds on Community Payback, log onto www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk

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Community Payback in Thames Valley explained

In the Thames Valley, around 2,000 of the 8,000 offenders we supervise in an average year are carrying out Community Payback (Unpaid Work) in the community and complete almost 300,000 hours annually. That's about £1.5m of free labour.

The work benefits local schools, faith groups, charities, community organisations and partnerships. The range of work can include: Graffiti removal, ground clearance, building maintenance and landscaping, improvement to parks and community facilities, general gardening projects, painting and decorating in community centres and meeting places.

Unpaid Work is the name of one of the 12 Requirements that comes under the generic community sentence called a Community Order. Offenders on an Unpaid Work Requirement can be ordered by the courts to do between 40 and 300 unpaid work hours.

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. Community Payback is the name and logo used for the Unpaid Work that offenders carry out. It has been designed to highlight the work of offenders to put something back into communities in which they've offended.

For further details or pictures, please contact:

Clare Hooper
Communications Officer
Thames Valley Probation
Kingsclere Road
Bicester
Oxon
OX26 2QD
Tel: 01869 255300
Fax: 01869 255355