



**JUSTICE SEEN
JUSTICE DONE**



COMMUNITY PAYBACK

Justice Seen, Justice Done

This section of the website has been designed to help those involved in Neighbourhood Policing understand this important community sentence and the way in which it can be a very important resource for getting practical things done in your neighbourhood.

The Probation Service has been running Community Payback for over 30 years. It used to be called Community Service. The change of name to Community Payback makes the point very clearly that this nationwide sentence is all about offenders giving their time and effort back to the community in a very visible way.

That means it is very important that communities themselves have a big say in what work gets prioritized. Not only that, but that they also see the results of the work done, and know who did it!

Probation sees Neighbourhood Policing and Neighbourhood Action Groups as a really effective route for work to be proposed, and for information about projects to be shared with local people. This approach is already being taken in some areas, and we hope the website will help you implement it in your own neighbourhood.

Whether you are a Police Officer, PCSO, NAG member, or an interested member of the public the following pages and three short films should give you all you need to know in order to brief others and begin to get them involved. If you have more questions or wish to propose projects use the contact details and form at the end.

Remember that this partnership between Probation, Police and the community can help towards many of the priorities we all share:

- ***Providing a key resource in problem solving at virtually no cost.***
- ***Showing communities that community sentencing is effective and Community Payback is a well-managed punishment for offenders.***



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- ***Building confidence in the community by taking the mystery out of community sentencing, and showing the public how well Probation and Police can work together.***

Go now to film 1, in which real workers and a Magistrate tell you more about the sentence and how it works.

To recap, the main points are as follows:

- ***Community Payback is an element in many Community Sentences, and both Crown Court and Magistrates can make orders. Offenders are 16 or over.***
- ***An offender can be ordered to do from 40 to 300 hours within a 12 month period, but closely monitored National Standards make sure that work has to begin very soon after the Order is made and that hours are worked regularly - normally a full working day each week.***
- ***Offenders coming onto Community Payback are assessed twice. The first step is a court report before sentence in which Probation assesses the person and their crime. This is to help the court decide which punishment will fit the crime best. After an order is made Probation's Community Payback staff carry out a further assessment so that the offender can be found suitable work. A decision is then made about the level of supervision which the offender needs. Some are suitable for working on an individual basis, and are supervised by the agency providing the work - for example in an old people's home, or charity shop. Others need to be supervised in a group by a Probation worker.***
- ***Offenders on Community Payback have to stick closely to the rules which are explained very carefully at assessment. The rules are strictly enforced - the first film covers the main ones. They are all designed to keep work going and ensure that people work their hours off fairly and squarely!***
- ***Good assessment and effective supervision mean that Community Payback has an excellent track record on managing risk. A very wide range of offenders can carry out Community Payback, but violent offenders, those with serious mental health problems and those who are heavily dependent on drugs or alcohol are not taken onto the scheme. Those with a history of sex offending are not allowed onto the scheme either.***
- ***Courts and beneficiaries are regularly asked about whether the scheme is working effectively. Reports show very high satisfaction levels.***

If you want to know more about the other aspects of Probation's work please look at other sections of the website. People involved in Neighbourhood Policing often get asked questions about offenders and how they are dealt with, so you should find answers here.

Go now to Film 2 to hear more about the kind of work done and the Probation/Police partnership.

Community Payback working through Neighbourhood Policing can tackle important local priorities which would otherwise be unachievable because of lack of resources. For Neighbourhood Action Groups this has often been environmental projects because understandably local people worry a great deal about the way their area looks - graffiti, litter and criminal damage are often identified as major priorities.

A really helpful model is for Community Payback to be directly involved in looking at local issues - an estate walk to identify possible projects, for example.

Over the years Community Payback has undertaken an extremely wide range of work so you can think creatively as well - the pictures on the web site gallery may give you some ideas about what can be achieved.

Specialist Police Officers, PCSOs and NAG chairs all have an important part to play in helping stimulate ideas, and enabling priorities to be identified - not everything can be done, and there may well be a waiting period, so good links to Probation are important. It will help in referring projects to be aware of the following:

- ***Probation will provide most of the tools needed, but the beneficiary provides materials such as paint.***
- ***All projects are risk assessed, and jobs involving power tools or scaffolding are not normally assessed as suitable.***
- ***The organisation concerned, whether it is the local council, a charity, or another NAG agency needs to have Public Liability cover. This is not normally a problem and most organisations have this in place already.***
- ***The best projects are those where it is clear to the offender why this matters to the local people- this is very motivating, and you or others from the NAG may well be able to help in getting this across.***
- ***Projects do sometimes have to wait their turn because the demand is always high- Community Payback will need your help in managing expectations. The same applies once projects have started. Community Payback has an excellent record for high quality work, but it does take time!***

At this point you may want to think for a few minutes about possible projects from your area, and whether you think they would meet the criteria - how will you explain it to Probation, and to the NAG. See if you can be creative as possible.

When you have done your list go on to Film 3

As you have seen offenders can usually understand the sense of paying something back. For many the experience of having to keep a regular commitment and follow clear rules not only makes Community Payback an effective punishment, but valuable 'life skills' training as well.

Modern Community Payback, with the orange jackets, the supervisor and all the work going on, is much less anonymous than in the past. This is because it is really important that local people understand what is going on, and why this particular project has been chosen. Both Probation and Police need to be concerned about two big problems which affect public confidence - fear of crime and doubts about the robustness of punishment in the community. Both these problems are addressed when well-planned and effective Community Payback work takes place in an area.

This means that the Probation/Police Partnership can provide a real boost for Neighbourhood Policing, but we need you to play your part, not only in identifying and helping to plan projects but later on as well. Think about these questions:

How will I involve other NAG members in explaining and supporting the project?

Are their groups of local people, for example elderly local residents, who would benefit from understanding about this work- how can I best get it across to them?

Are there web sites, local newsletters or local newspapers, which would help promote awareness of the work that has been done, and why it was important?

As a final exercise give some thought about these questions and how you would respond locally.

You have now completed this short preparation course! Well done and welcome on board! If you have further questions use the numbers on the contact list.

We hope you will now talk to your NAG, start thinking about priorities and then make contact with your proposals using the form on this site - you can download this and all the other documents to make sharing them easier.