TWIN PEAKS

A Cumbria Community Approach to Reducing Re-offending

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD
Criminal Justice System: working together for the public

CJS

TWIN PEAKS

TWIN PEAKS CONFERENCE

- Primary Care Trust
- Mental Health Trust
- Learning & Skills Council
- Regional Development Agency
- Government Office North West
- Cumbria Police
- Drugs & Alcohol Action Team
- Office Criminal Justice Reform
- Cumbria Criminal Justice Board
- Local Authority
- Department of Works & Pensions
- Housing Associations
- Prison Reform Trust

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What does this mean in practice?

Initially a two-year scoping project to…..

- Explore the feasibility of accommodating adult males and females, young adults – remand and sentenced – who have a release address in Cumbria

- Identify or create joint working opportunities with Cumbria/North Wet agencies to enhance their aims to maintain sustainable growth in Cumbria

Project aims

- To present proposals to develop HMP Haverigg as a true “community” prison for Cumbria, and to contribute to building community confidence
- To enhance relationships will all “through the gate” projects and all projects designed to improve the quality of life in Cumbria and its economic wellbeing by putting Haverigg on their map
- To impact upon re-offending by all agencies having ownership and working in true partnership style

The current numbers

- HMP Haverigg has an operational capacity of 644
- NPS Cumbria reports 420 sentenced prisoners in November 2007 – 20 of whom are women
- These figures do not include remand offenders or adults sentenced to less than 12 months

What the government says:

- “Breaking up any connections offenders might have with their community and not doing enough to address problem behaviour can be a recipe for re-offending” (Jack Straw - PGA meeting 4/10/07)

- “Maintaining family contact is associated with successful resettlement” (Home Office findings, 2005)

- 10,700 prisoners are held over 100 miles away from home (Hansard, 2007)

Criminal Justice Management Conference 2008

- "…of course we need more localised prisons"

  Anne Owers, HMCIP

- "…proximity and closeness to home are absolutely critical"

  Lord Carter of Coles

- Community Prisons were proposed by Lord Woolf, report into Strangeways riot in 1990

Charles Clarke, Home Secretary 2005

“Offenders serving short jail terms should be held in community prisons so that they can be closer to their families”

Corston Report (March 2007)

- “ A clear strategy to replace existing women's prisons with suitable, geographically dispersed, small functional custodial centres”

Jack Straw, Minister for Justice

October 2007

"Breaking up any connections offenders might have with their community and not doing enough to address problem behaviour can be a recipe for re-offending"

Baroness Vivien Stern
Penal Reform International

"Inappropriate prison sentences on minor offenders can send them on a journey around the prison system that takes them miles from their homes. In the end the consequences of these wasteful processes come back to be dealt with at local level. The argument for local involvement and control in dealing with offenders seems very powerful"

Women prisoners

- The Corston Report on women offenders (March 2007) recommends “a clear strategy to replace existing women’s prisons with suitable, geographically dispersed, small multi-functional custodial centres”

- The average distance from home for women prisoners is 58 miles (Hansard 2007)

- For Cumbrian women the nearest female prison is HMP Styal in Cheshire – 113 miles

HMP Haverigg - current prisoner release addresses

• Cumbria	137
• Lancashire	169
• Merseyside	111
• Manchester	80
• Cheshire	22
• Northumbria	20
• Durham	4
• West Yorkshire	12
• Avon	1

Statistics – a broad view

Of 414 sentenced adult Cumbrians:

- 86% are male, 5% are female
- 9% are male young offenders
- 18% (74) are sex offenders
- 39% are violent offenders
- 12.3% (51) are life sentence prisoners

- 15 Male and 2 female children are in custody
- In 2007, 64 male and 9 female children were sentenced to custody
- Youngest is 13 years old

Where are the Cumbrian prisoners held?

- 58% are held in Haverigg, Durham, Preston, Wymott and Acklington
- The remaining 42% are held in 58 other prisons, from Hull to the Isle of Wight!

Rt.Hon. David Hanson, Minister of State for Justice

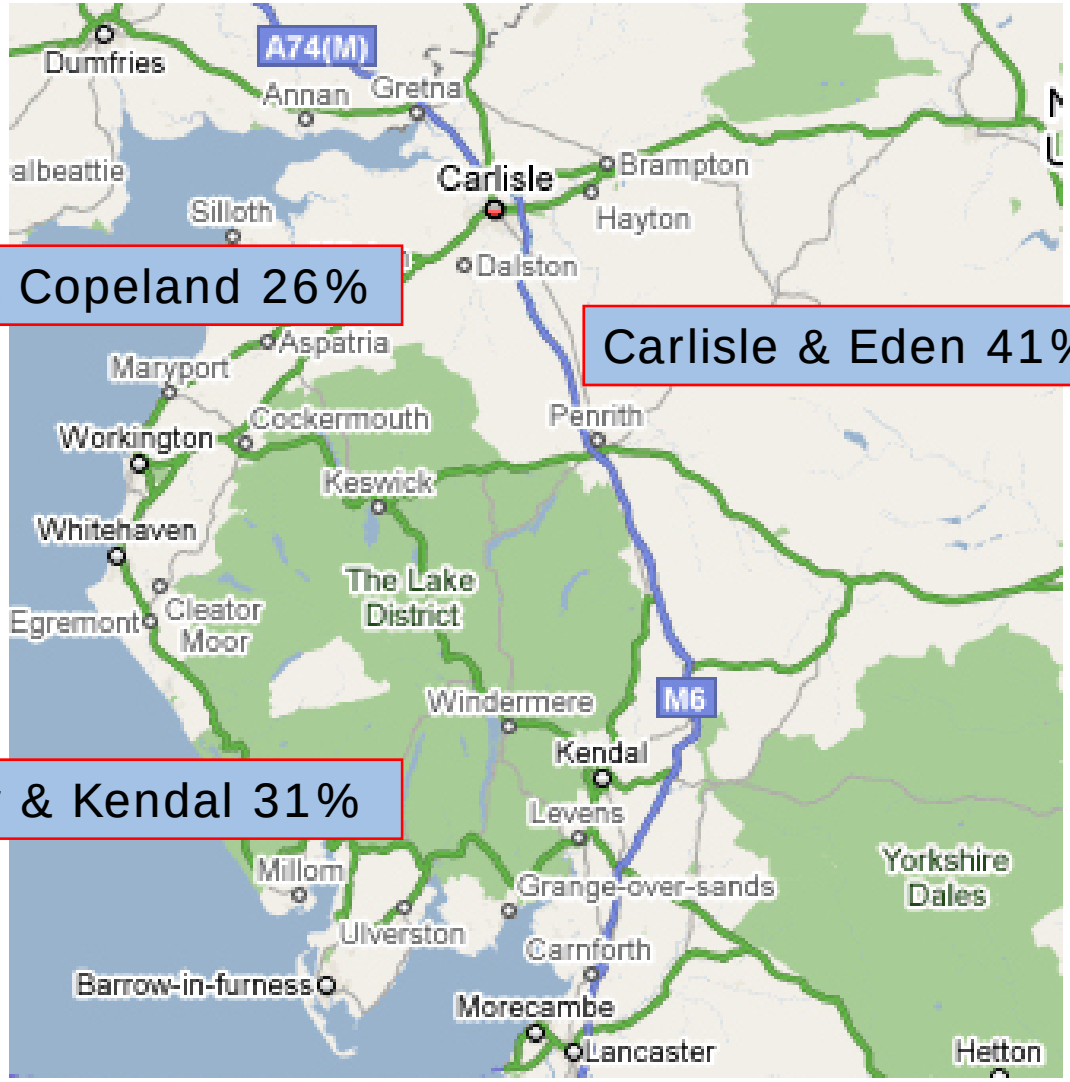
- Using LAAs as a lever for action on reducing re-offending
- Community involvement
- Community confidence
- All agencies should deal with offenders, not just the CJS

The community facing prison

- Community justice rather than criminal justice
- Most offending is re-offending
- With power comes responsibility

"Localism" Prison Reform Trust Sept 2008

Cumbria release address prisoners (males)



Allerdale & Copeland 26%

Carlisle & Eden 41%

Barrow & Kendal 31%

N.B. Of the 20 women prisoners, 10 are from Barrow and five from Carlisle

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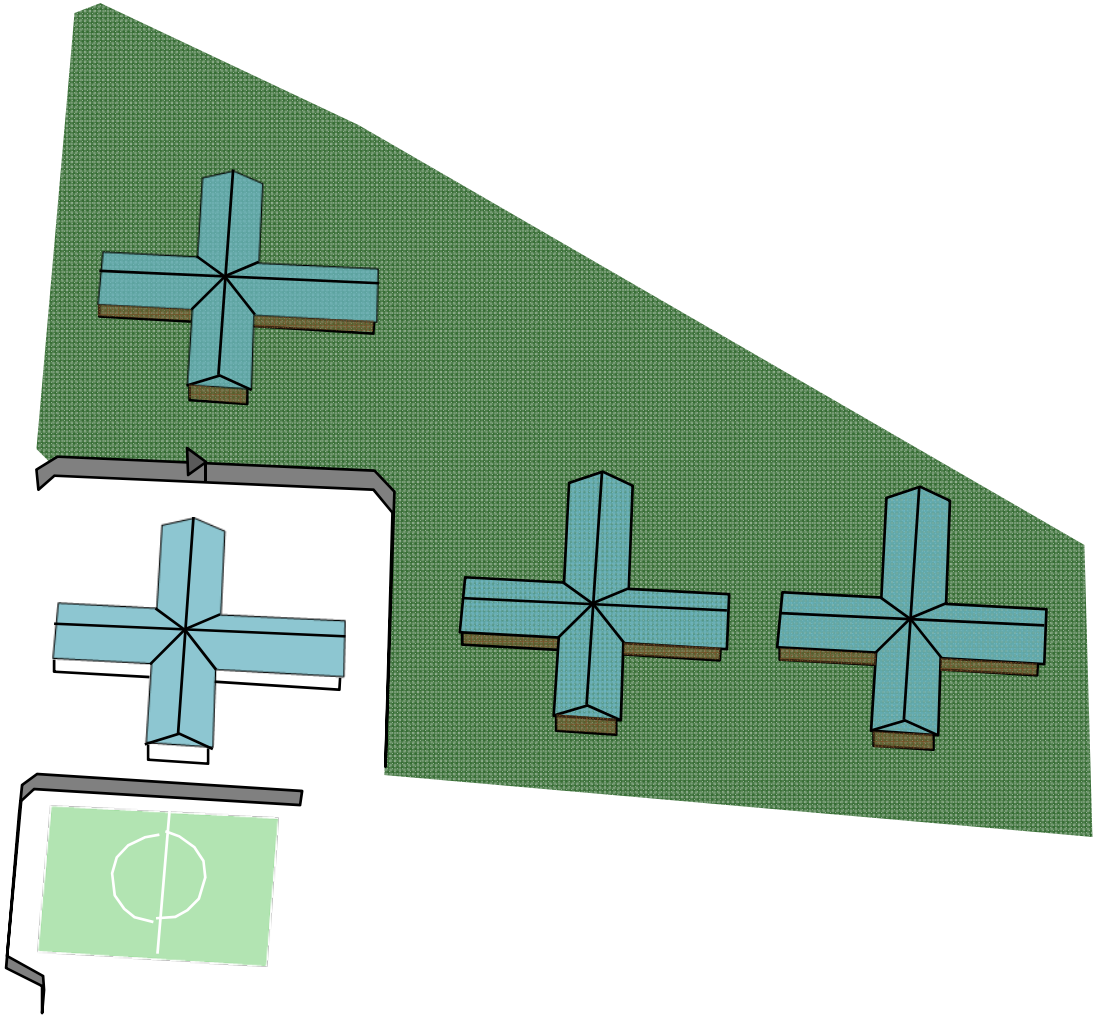
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