Community Payback

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RESTORING CONFIDENCE WITH COMMUNITY PAYBACK

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ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN FIGHTING CRIME CONFERENCE – APRIL 23RD 2009

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Working together to reduce re-offending

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Community Payback is about.....

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Offenders working in the community.....

- As a punishment
- To repay the community
- To rehabilitate themselves
- Between 40 and 300 hours
- Complete within 12 months
- Strictly enforced

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Community Payback is the Flagship of the Probation Service

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- High Credibility with the Public
- High Credibility with the Courts
- High Credibility with Offenders

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Facts

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- 33% of all indictable offences result in a sentence of Unpaid Work
- 6.5 million hours a year in England and Wales
- In cash terms £30 million worth of labour
- In Derbyshire 165,000 hours worth £189,000 to the community
- 74% of Unpaid Work programmes run at the weekend
- It works:
  - Short custodial sentences 59.7%
  - All Community sentences 37.9%
  - Unpaid Work 25.1%

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Work Projects

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- Would not normally be done by people in paid employment
- Must satisfy a risk assessment
- Do not require specialist or heavy equipment
- There must be an identifiable beneficiary such as the local community or a charitable organisation.

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A good work placement for the Offender

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- Contact with the beneficiary
- Seen as useful
- Opportunity to develop empathy
- Practice problem solving skills
- Gain employment skills

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Louise Casey – Engaging Communities in Fighting crime

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- 14 – more visible and more demanding work with more information to the community.
- 15 – consideration to contract out community payback.
- 16 – increase in intensity
- 17 – faster process around sentencing
- 18 - Probation Officer to have the power to increase hours

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Jack Straw Secretary of State for Justice – December 2008

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"Public confidence in community punishments is lower than it should be, not least because they are less visible than they should be."

December 2008

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High Visibility

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- The concept of Community Payback launched in 2005
- Projects are labelled when completed
- High Visibility Vests with Community Payback logo – launched in December 2008

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Citizens Panels

- Announced January 2008
- Pilot schemes to encourage communities/Local Government to have more say in the work carried out
- 6 areas Greater Manchester, Suffolk, Leicester, Hampshire, Wiltshire, North Wales.

"Citizens panels will put the public at the heart of decision-making in their local communities, allowing them to have more say in the type of work that offenders carry out"

David Hanson – Ministry of Justice

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Mayoral Projects

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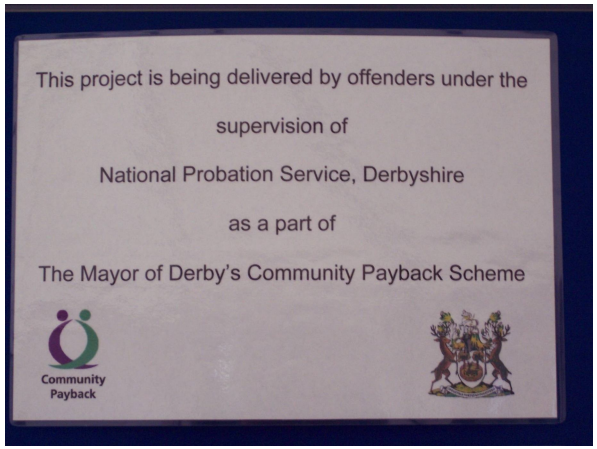
- Launched 2007
- Enables Mayors in all 42 Probation Areas to nominate a project
- Scheme proved very successful
- Derbyshire's first Mayoral project completed last year –to develop the grounds of a Charitable Trust and transform in to a leisure garden.



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Intensive Unpaid Work

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- Tougher and more intensive penalties for a range of offenders
- Intensive alternative to custody
  - Up to 100 hours intervention per week
  - 2 to 3 days Unpaid work per week
- Offenders convicted of knife related crime [unemployed
  - 300 hours
  - Up to 5 days per week
- Pilots of intensive Unpaid Work for all types of Offenders – complete in 6 weeks

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Pioneer Areas - ??areas around the UK

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- Each CDRP/CSP “allocated” hours [average 3000] to:
    - Be the focus of heightened public awareness
    - Highly visible to the public
    - Reflect public priorities
    - Increased publicity
    - Cash attached

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Work in Local Communities

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- Member of the public nominates work
- Assessment takes place
- Work completed
- Beneficiary feeds back

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Working in Partnership with Local Authorities

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- Derbyshire County Council does not have the time or resources to remove all graffiti .
- Started as a pilot in one town
- Probation staff trained by the council.
- Public – improved local environment and impact on their fear of crime.
- Offenders could see the dramatic effect of their work.
- Project about to be rolled out throughout the county.
- Public able to ring in to nominate areas.

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After

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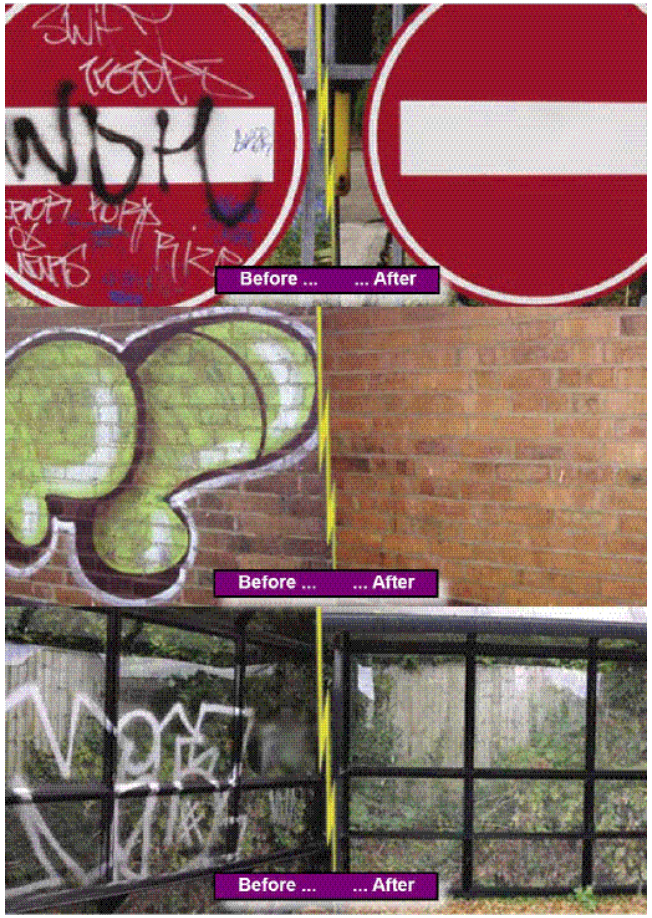

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Working in Partnership with Charities

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- Help The Aged employ a member of staff to supervise a team of offenders
- Derbyshire Probation Area pay the cost of employing this member of staff
- CP send a maximum of 6 offenders 3 days per week

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Before

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After

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Working in Partnership with Local Businesses

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- Bombardier – worldwide company employing over 2,500 people in Derby
- Community Reclaim Project
- Benefits local schools and allotment associations
- Good PR opportunities
- Differing work projects for offenders - skills
- By-product scrap aluminium - used to buy tools and Equipment

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UNDERGROUND

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Working in Partnership with Local Colleges

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- Partnership between Derbyshire probation Area and Derby College – began2004
- City and guilds qualification in Horticultural Skills
- Offender gains knowledge and skills whilst undertaking Unpaid Work
- College tutor works alongside Probation Supervisor with a team of offenders
- Won Butler trust Award, Greenwatch Award
- Has led to offender employment/further study in horticulture

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Conclusions

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"It is important that the public can see and influence the work that is being carried out by offenders in neighbourhoods. This is crucial to ensure that there is confidence in community sentences"

David Hanson -Justice Minister

September 2008

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“ the public, the taxpayer, has an absolute right to know what unpaid work is being done to pay them for the wrongs the offender has committed.”

Jack Straw Ministry of State for Justice