



## Justice is Working | Summer 2008

Welcome to the first issue of Justice is Working. Through this quarterly e-newsletter we aim to keep you up-to-date with the Criminal Justice Board in Gloucestershire (GCJB) as we work together to improve the justice system in our county.

### Making communities safer



Last year, GCJB were awarded a £15,000 grant from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and we used it to tackle specific crimes in two areas of our county – Hesters Way and surrounding areas, and Cinderford.

These communities had already worked with their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to identify which crimes they wanted tackled as a priority, and so the justice agencies joined forces in the first quarter of 2008, to ensure these crimes were given priority right the way through the criminal justice system.

The Police conducted higher visibility policing, the CPS were more likely to prosecute, Magistrates were briefed about the priority areas, offenders undertaking community service were put to work in those specific communities, and the Youth Offending Service worked with young people and their families.

We hope to repeat this project in other areas of the county. For more information on the project please [click here](#)

### Speeding up the justice process

In Autumn 2007, GCJB introduced new processes to speed up justice in the Magistrates' Courts. As a result:

- 25% increase in guilty pleas being sentenced at first hearing
- 46% of all criminal cases have just one hearing
- Average time from charge to disposal is less than 6 weeks.

The overall benefit is that the capacity of the courts has been increased, so we can process more cases, more quickly.

### A new way of dealing with offenders

A new method of dealing with offenders responsible for certain crimes was introduced into the Cotswold and Stroud areas of the county in June 2007. In March 2008, Conditional Cautioning was rolled out across the whole of the county.

Conditional Cautions are given to offenders aged 18 or over, on admission of the offence, who agree to complete a set of conditions instead of being charged and prosecuted. They are used for crimes such as criminal damage and public order offences.

They are an effective means to address the needs of the wider community. For instance they can result in compensation for a victim and in rehabilitation for an offender including drug counselling sessions.

### Latest Communications Campaign

If you live in the county you may well have seen the Board's latest communications campaign on the back of your local buses.



You may also have heard our information on SevernSound Radio, or seen our new-look postcards in your local library.

All of our communications material is designed to dispel some of the myths surrounding crime, safety and the justice system. To download the key facts postcards please [click here](#).

If you would like to receive a stock of postcards to distribute at events or

### What is the Gloucestershire Criminal Justice Board?

The Senior Officers who form the GCJB are jointly responsible for improving the performance of the whole criminal justice system in Gloucestershire and for delivering real successes in the fight against crime. To find out more – who sits on the Board, current projects, aims and objectives please [click here](#) for our website.

### Gloucestershire's CJS in Numbers

578,600  
The population served by Gloucestershire's CJS

13,951  
The number of offences brought to justice last year

7,000  
The number of charges per year

6  
The number of criminal courthouses in Gloucestershire

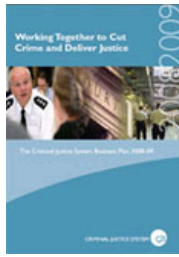
### Contact the Board

[Email](#)

01452 834 989

[Web Site](#)

## New National Business Plan for Criminal Justice System



### *Working together to cut crime and deliver justice*

This new strategy, published at the end of February, sets out the government's vision for a more efficient and effective criminal justice system guided by four key principles:

1. Effective in bringing offences to justice
2. The public confident and engaged
3. The needs of victims at its heart
4. Simple, efficient processes

[Click here](#) to download a full copy of the plan

### Priorities for 2008/09

The Board meets every other month to develop strategy and direction, with the day to day work being undertaken via a sub-group structure made up of practitioners from all criminal justice agencies. Following January's Consultation Day, the new sub-group structure is now finalised:

#### ● Engagement and Communications

Confidence; staff and community engagement; race disproportionality; communications.  
Chair: Suzy Dymond-White, HM Prison Service

#### ● Protection and Prevention

Serious violent crime; domestic violence; anti-social behaviour; priority & prolific offenders; youth crime.  
Chair: Assistant Chief Constable Corporate Services, Gloucestershire Constabulary

#### ● Effectiveness and Efficiency

Victims & witnesses; charging; conditional cautioning; file quality & timeliness; simple speedy summary justice; proceeds of crime act; enforcement; warrants; persistent young offenders; youth crime  
Chair: Rod Brummitt, Area Director Her Majesty's Courts Service

We hope you've found our first newsletter informative. Look out for the next issue in Autumn 2008. If you have any feedback on this issue please [click here](#) to email us.