

New chair at top table

Nottinghamshire's Chief Crown Prosecutor, Ms Kate Carty, is the new Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board. She takes over from Mr Steve Green, the county's Chief Constable, who held the position for two-and-a-half years.

Commenting on her appointment, Ms Carty said: "I'm delighted to be appointed as the Chair of Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board. I hope to build on progress made by the Board since it was formed in 2003."

Ms Carty continues: "By ensuring members of the Board work together closely I am confident we can bring more offences to justice, provide enhanced support for victims and witnesses and increase public confidence in the criminal justice system."

Ms Carty, who was born in Nottingham, qualified as a solicitor

in 1985. After working in the Derbyshire Prosecuting Solicitor's Office she joined the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) when it was formed in 1986.

She progressed through the organisation before being appointed as the county's Chief Crown Prosecutor in May 2003.

In March 2005 Ms Carty and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Ken Macdonald, QC, visited the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office in New York. This

sparked Kate's interest in the concept of community justice. Kate is currently overseeing the implementation of a community justice initiative in Nottingham.

Ms Carty is a national trainer for the Crown Prosecution Service.

She is an active member of the Criminal Committee of Nottinghamshire Law Society and has served on the Local Criminal Justice Board for four years.

"I'm delighted to be appointed as the Chair of Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board."



- Taking special note of crime and justice in Nottinghamshire

nb. is written for and by people working with or within the county's criminal justice system. **nb.** will inform you of criminal justice news from across Nottinghamshire.

If you have ideas or views you would like to share, then please contact David Marley, Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board Communications Manager, on 0115 955 8135 or email: david.marley@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk

From Nottingham to Melbourne

In 1992 Kate took a sabbatical from the CPS and spent a year travelling around the world. She visited Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and the USA. She spent some time in the Attorney General's offices in Melbourne and Hong Kong and visited the DAs departments and the criminal courts in Los Angeles and Kansas.

In 1990 Kate was promoted to Principal Crown Prosecutor on a Nottinghamshire City branch, and then in 1995 was appointed as a Prosecution Team Leader of the Nottingham City branch. In April 2000 she joined the City 1 Team in a newly formed Criminal Justice Unit (CJU). Kate was appointed Head of CJU in April 2001.

“Talking cctv” to pilot in Nottingham city

The Home Office Respect Taskforce has given funding to 20 areas across the country to implement ‘Talking CCTV’ in a bid to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Nottingham City is one of the 20 areas and the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP) will be implementing a pilot scheme with the introduction of talking CCTV at 6 sites within the City. Audio equipment will be added to existing CCTV sites within St. Ann’s, Hyson Green, Sneinton and the City Centre. This will enable CCTV control room operatives to talk to people over a public address (PA) system to challenge anti-social behaviour.

The pilot will start in late May 2007 and will be launched through a competition within some schools in St. Ann’s.

This announcement is part of a wider campaign to promote good behaviour and challenge bad, a key theme of the national Respect programme, and aims to encourage school-children to think about educating their parents, siblings and peers about what is unacceptable behaviour, and to promote ways for them to act responsibly themselves.

In Nottingham the pilot will be launched through a competition within some schools in St. Ann’s to design a poster promoting the introduction of Talking CCTV and to challenge unacceptable behaviour. The winners of the competition will have the opportunity to visit the CCTV control room on the day of the launch and be the voice that ‘tells off’ those causing anti-social behaviour.

Alan Given, Chief Executive of the Crime and Drugs Partnership says: “This is a significant new development that we want to support and any new initiative that proposes to make the city of Nottingham a safer and cleaner place is worthy of consideration. Young people are the future of this city and their involvement in tackling social issues that effect their community is very welcome.”

For further information, please contact Steve Youdell at the Crime & Drugs Partnership on (0115) 915 6375 or 07985 844425.



Vip visit for Nottinghamshire Probation

Staff from Nottinghamshire Probation Area were able to showcase the hard work and commitment which helps put the county at the top end of the national performance league tables, when they were visited by the Director of the National Probation Service, Roger Hill.

During his day in Nottinghamshire, Mr Hill visited the ‘Roots and Shoots’ community garden in Broxtowe, where he was able to see how the Community Payback scheme, which encourages local people to nominate projects on which offenders should spend their unpaid work hours, has benefited the local community. Offenders supervised by Nottinghamshire Probation Area have been working at this allotment site for several months, in partnership with the Broxtowe Partnership Trust.

Throughout this time they have carried out tough manual work such as clearing overgrown areas, creating and laying pathways, trimming hedges, painting fences and a range of construction work.

Mr Hill’s next stop was the Traffic Street Office, for an informal discussion with members of the Access Team about the vital role they play in helping to break down the barriers to employment. The Access Team is Nottinghamshire Probation Area’s resource for unemployed offenders and an integral part of community supervision. Employment officers in the team are appointed to identify barriers to employment, training or education, work with offenders to improve employability, and enable offenders to find and keep employment.

As well as having recently reached the final of the national Justice Awards, the Access Team have exceeded their performance targets for the period April 2006 to Marc 2007. Against a target of 344, a total of 534 Nottinghamshire Offenders gained employment, and against a target of 275, a total of 376 retained their employment for 4 weeks or more.

Mr Hill then returned to Nottinghamshire headquarters to have lunch and take part in a focus group with a cross section of staff



Nottinghamshire's multi-agency approach to domestic violence praised by minister

Home Office Minister Baroness Patricia Scotland, QC, has praised the way domestic violence is being dealt with in Nottinghamshire. Baroness Scotland visited the county in March as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month to see first hand how domestic violence is being tackled in Nottinghamshire.

Nottingham is one of the first areas in the country to develop a specialist domestic violence court. The progress made through this multi-agency approach won praise from the Baroness. She said "I think the approach to domestic violence in Nottingham is excellent."

She also stated that coming out and meeting the people who work in the domestic violence field

on a daily basis made her long working hours worthwhile. She said she felt inspired and enthused by her trip to Nottinghamshire, and was interested in the way Nottinghamshire is dealing with the issue of retraction. The Baroness also stated that she was impressed with the county's latest DV figures.

Domestic Violence Specialist and District Crown Prosecutor Sheryl Loughney met with Baroness Scotland as part of her visit,

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and spoke to her about domestic violence, Rape Crisis, and the new SARC (Sexual

Abuse Referral Clinic). Sheryl says: "If this campaign means that one more woman has the courage to come forward and take advantage of the support and help that is on offer we will succeed in bringing one more domestic violence offender to justice. If more women benefit from the support available then others will draw strength from their courage and come forward."

For a copy of a leaflet explaining how Nottingham's new domestic violence courts operate call 0115 955 8135



Probation riding high in the performance league tables

Nottinghamshire Probation has recently been confirmed as the second top performing county out of the 42 areas across England and Wales for the current quarter - meeting and exceeding national targets that make a vital contribution towards protecting the public.

Current key targets set by the National Probation Service relate to areas of work including compliance with orders and licences, specific programme completions, completion of Unpaid Work and gaining and sustaining employment. The county has remained in the top four performing areas for the past three quarters; with the final position due to be confirmed in July.

Chief Officer Jane Geraghty (pictured right) commented: "I am delighted with our achievement and very proud of the hard work and commitment of our staff. I hope that our improving performance will support the work of our criminal justice partners, and boost the public's confidence in our role to reduce crime and create safer communities."

Nottinghamshire's work will be under further scrutiny when probation staff from across the city and county take part

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in an Offender Management inspection led by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, in the week commencing 23 April. Inspectors will visit various sites and offices to look at the quality of service delivered, covering four main assessment criteria: Assessment and Sentence Planning, Implementation of Interventions, Achievement and Monitoring of Outcomes, and Leadership and Strategic Management. A sample of 100 cases will be reviewed, and findings will be fed back to staff at a session held at headquarters on Friday 27 April.

For further information on the inspection please contact Louise Smith, Performance Officer on 0115 8406495 or email Louise.Smith@nottinghamshire.probation.gsi.gov.uk

Couple convicted of murder after hiring hitman

Nottinghamshire's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has expressed satisfaction after a woman and her ex-lover were sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a man on a canal towpath.

Simon Luffman was shot dead by Thomas Convery – a hitman hired by the couple – in 2003. Mr Convery was convicted of the murder of Mr Luffman in December 2004 and subsequently came forward to give evidence against Yvette Luffman and Wayne Briscoe.

Dona Parry-Jones, a Senior Crown Prosecutor (pictured right), explains: "The prosecution's case was that Thomas Convery was employed to kill Mr Luffman by his former wife and Wayne Briscoe – and that they arranged for and paid for his murder."

At the trial, at Birmingham Crown Court, Mr Convery told the jury that he came forward because he felt it was the right thing to do and that this was in part motivated by an article he'd seen in the press that Simon Luffman's mother wanted to know the full story.

The court heard that Yvette Luffman and Wayne Briscoe used money from Luffman's divorce settlement to pay for her ex-husbands execution and that they agreed to pay Thomas Convery £30,000 for the murder. He shot Mr Luffman twice in the back and twice in the head on a disused towpath at Bramcote, following a pre-arranged meeting, in October 2003.

Dona Parry-Jones continues: "They approached Thomas Convery, provided him with the gun, gave him instructions, and paid him to commit the execution. They share as much blame for Mr Luffman's murder as Thomas Convery, who pulled the trigger. We worked very closely with the police to build a case for trial against Yvette Luffman and Wayne Briscoe. We looked at the evidence provided by the police and decided they should be charged with murder. We and the police have worked together for many years to bring to justice those behind the murder of Simon Luffman. The killing of Mr Luffman was a calculated, callous, and cold-blooded crime. The conviction of Yvette Luffman and Wayne Briscoe alongside that of Thomas Convery over two years ago shows Nottinghamshire will not tolerate the use or involvement with guns for criminal purposes."

The couple, like Thomas Convery, were sentenced to a minimum of twenty years in jail.



"Nottinghamshire will not tolerate the use or involvement with guns for criminal purposes"

Hello and goodbye to the Nottinghamshire Probation Board!

Changes are afoot in Nottinghamshire Probation Area as they say goodbye and thank you to the majority of their Board, who have been in office for the past six years. They now welcome and look forward to working with nine new faces, who will benefit the organisation with their wide ranging experience and expertise.

Probation Boards are the governing bodies for the 42 probation areas across England and Wales, and the new members take up their posts as the National Probation Service celebrates its centenary year.

Nottinghamshire's current Chair, Christine Goldstraw, will remain in post, along with three other existing members. She commented:

"I have spent three years as Chair of Nottinghamshire Probation Board and it will be a privilege to lead a team of both new and some experienced members as we face ever increasing challenges. I have gained tremendous insight into the invaluable work probation staff do with offenders in the community and the support that we give to the victims of crime I want to support Nottinghamshire Probation Area as it goes from strength to strength."

Further information on the work of the Nottinghamshire Board and more can be found at www.nottinghamshire-probation.co.uk



Community justice on target

Nottingham's community justice initiative is on target to launch in May, according to the county's Chief Crown Prosecutor.

Ms Carty, senior responsible officer for community justice in Nottingham, says: "A great deal of progress has been made since the Government gave the go-ahead for Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board to develop community justice for Aspley and St Ann's. A dedicated project team have been attending local meetings to share information on how the initiative is taking shape."

Kate continues: "The first stage of the initiative will begin at Nottingham Magistrates' Court in May 2007. However, community justice is much broader than simply having a magistrates' court within or in close proximity to the community that it serves. The concept of community justice involves reconnecting the criminal justice system with the local people in order to ensure that there is a greater understanding of the sentences served by convicted offenders by the people who most matter – those people affected by the crimes.

"Local people are at the heart of the initiative. No-one knows more about

crime and anti-social behaviour than those who encounter it on a daily basis. That is why the Board is asking the community to identify the crimes that worry them. We will give regular feedback to those living in Aspley and St Ann's so they understand what action has been taken to tackle specific issues and improvements made to the local area by offenders doing unpaid work."

As part of St Ann's Week of Action, the Board encouraged residents to become directly involved in the delivery of justice. Hundreds of leaflets were given out at local meetings explaining how people could apply to become a magistrate, a special constable, a volunteer for Victim Support, or as a Youth Offending Team panel member.

A district judge and 24 magistrates have been selected to preside over the new courts. Over the coming weeks they will be meeting local people at community engagement events.



For more information about the project please call 0115 955 8135.

Community Justice aims to:

- Take a problem-solving approach to tackling anti-social behaviour;
- Make the courts and other criminal justice organisations more responsive to the concerns of the local community;
- Encourage local people to identify the criminal or anti-social activities that cause them greatest concern; and
- Sentences wherever possible, contain an element of "payback." For example offenders may give reparation to a victim or could work for the benefit of the local community.

Nottingham is one of ten areas selected by the Government to develop the next stages in the life of the Community Justice Initiative programme. Nottingham's Initiative echoes the national aims of the community justice programme. A local Strategic Board has been appointed and its members are committed to ensuring the Initiative helps to increase public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The Initiative is supported by a range of local organisations including: Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board, Her Majesty's Courts Service and local Judiciary, Victim Support, Crown Prosecution Service, Legal Services Commission, Police, Probation Service, Youth Offending Team (City), Prisons, Nottingham City Council, Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership, and Nottingham Community Network.

International praise for Victim Support Nottinghamshire

Victim Support Nottinghamshire has been praised by the organisers of an international conference examining how victims and witnesses are supported.

Mr Chris Wade, Chief Executive of Victim Support Nottinghamshire, led a delegation of British experts to Moscow at Russia's first conference discussing victim and witness care.

The event, which was coordinated by a Russian non-governmental organisation called Soprotivlenie, was attended by senior police officers, political advisors and lawyers. At the conference Mr Wade stressed the importance of partnership working between Government and the charity sector - highlighting the excellent relationship Victim Support has with the CPS and Police in Nottinghamshire.

Marina Schepp of the International Department of Soprotivlenie praised Mr Wade's involvement: "Your participation has undoubtedly attained the proper importance to our event. The immediate results and the impact it had on the public opinion are already tangible and positive for the development and further successful work of our organisation."

Mr Wade, pictured with delegates below, added: "I was delighted to lead the British delegation in Moscow. The conference was a fantastic opportunity to showcase how Victim Support in England and Wales operates - and how it could help the Russians to develop a similar model."



Justice Heroes – Barry Shephard & Gareth Kendrick

Two administrators at Nottingham Magistrates' Court shed a few hairs for a good cause last month. Barry Shephard and Gareth Kendrick agreed to have their heads shaved to raise money for Comic Relief.

Barry says: "I went first, sitting down in a plastic red chair in the post room. I awaited the event with interest and some concern about my future appearance, but once the old trimmers started I quickly started to enjoy the whole thing. I find myself looking in mirrors deciding if I like the new Barry. It does feel cold up top at the moment and, with the threat of snow I find myself needing my hat just that bit more."

"It does
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To give donations
please email:
[barry.shephard@
hmcourts-service.
gsi.gov.uk](mailto:barry.shephard@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk)

FACET – the Fraud Squad and more

The Police Fraud Squad will be known as FACET - the Fraud, Asset Confiscation and E-crime Team – with effect from 1 April 2007.

The new name has been chosen to better represent the three distinct strands of the team's modern-day business. The collective title of Fraud Squad no longer reflects the entirety of the team's activities.

Within FACET, the former Financial Investigation Unit will become the Asset Confiscation Unit to emphasise its core business, while the High-Tech Crime Unit will be re-named E-crime to reflect the increasingly diverse nature of the electronic media examined by the unit in the investigation of crime.

Like its predecessor FACET is part of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit in the Force Crime Directorate.

Working for You

Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board is made up of chief officers from the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Prisons, Her Majesty's Courts Service, Probation and Youth Offending Teams. The Board, created in April 2003, is one of 42 throughout England and Wales.

Agencies work together to increase the number of offences brought to justice and increase confidence in the criminal justice system by making it more responsive to victims and witness needs.

The Board's chair is Ms Kate Carty, Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service.

Chief Officers on the Board



Kate Carty,
Chief Crown Prosecutor,
Crown Prosecution Service

Steve Green,
Chief Constable,
Nottinghamshire Police



Mark Swales,
Area Director, HM Courts Service



Jane Geraghty,
Chief Probation Officer,
Nottinghamshire Probation Service



Ken Beaumont,
Head of Service, Nottingham City
Youth Offending Team



Jill Holbert,
Head of Service, Nottinghamshire
Youth Offending Team



Tom Wheatley,
Governor, HM Prison Nottingham



Chris Wade,
Chief Executive, Victim Support



Elaine Annable,
Criminal Defence Service
Manager,
Legal Services Commission



For more information about the Board's work please call Andrea Goodman, Board Coordinator, on 0115 955 8135.