

## Back in the chair ●●●●●

The Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police, Steve Green, has been reappointed as chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

Mr Green will retake the chair from Kate Carty who has left the Board following a national restructure within the Crown Prosecution Service. Ms Carty is moving to another county to become Chief Crown Prosecutor.

Commenting on his reappointment, Mr Green said: "The agencies that make up our Board strive to ensure that justice is seen to be done in favour of the law-abiding majority. As chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board I am determined to build on the Board's achievements, which include an increase in the number of offences brought to justice and better support for victims and witnesses. Through improved partnership working we hope to increase public confidence in the criminal justice system."

"I am determined to build on the Board's achievements"



## Community focus for court open day

Members of the public and criminal justice colleagues are being invited to an open day at Nottingham Magistrates' Court on Saturday 10 November. The event, which will run from 10am until 4pm, is part of Inside Justice Week.

Nottingham's community justice initiative will be the focus of the event. Community organisations from Aspley and St Ann's have been invited to display information about their work, and music and dance groups will also be participating throughout the day.

Activities on the day include, an art and photography competition, tours of the cells, police dogs, and various stands from local criminal justice agencies.

For more information about the open day please email [Judith.ordish@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Judith.ordish@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk)

open day  
Sat 10 Nov  
10am - 4pm

## news in brief.

### Open board meeting announced

On Thursday 8 November Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board is holding an open session at the Nottingham Ice Arena for members of the public, community groups and voluntary organisations.

Members of the Criminal Justice Board will answer questions about crime and justice in the county. Representatives from criminal justice agencies will provide information about volunteering opportunities linked to the community justice initiative.

For more information about the event please email [andrea.goodman@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.goodman@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk)

## CJSSS goes live in Mansfield

A project which aims to speed up how offences are dealt with in the magistrates' courts has started in Mansfield. Simple, Speedy, Summary Justice (CJSSS) also strives to reduce the number of hearings it takes to complete cases.

Wendy Storer, programme manager for CJSSS, says: "CJSSS will bring a number of advantages for colleagues working in the criminal justice system. The aim of the project is to encourage criminal justice agencies to work together to provide a better service."

CJSSS aims to reduce the number of hearings in most cases, from the current average of five to an expectation of one (for guilty plea cases) and two (for contested cases).

This will be done by:

- Better, proportionate preparation from the point of charge;
- Improve prosecution and defence preparation for the first hearing;
- Robust judicial management; and
- Strong case management.

Wendy Storer (pictured) continues: "CJSSS has already been piloted in a number of courts and has been very successful in improving performance. The project went live in Mansfield in August and colleagues in the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Courts, Probation Service and defence have started to adopt the principles of the project. As the project is implemented in other areas of the county we hope to increase public confidence in the criminal justice system."

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A number of administrative processes are being improved to support people who are required to attend court to give evidence. For example, as part of the project, police officers are being asked to complete, in full, a section of the manual of guidance (MG11) relating to victim and witness availability.

Wendy explains: "Staff in the witness care units are encouraging police officers to complete the witness non-availability section of the MG11. This will help witness care officers in making arrangements of when witnesses are free to attend court. Police officers are also been asked to complete the MG2 section if witnesses require a special measures assessment."

For more information on the project please contact Wendy Storer, CJSSS programme manager, at Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board on 0115 955 8135.



## news in brief.

### Judith Walker joins Board

Judith Walker has joined Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board following her appointment as Chief Crown Prosecutor for the county.

Judith replaces Kate Carty who has moved to Leicestershire's Crown Prosecution Service. Judith was previously Chief Crown Prosecutor for South Yorkshire. Judith says: "I am looking forward to the new challenges ahead in my new role as Chief Crown Prosecutor for Nottinghamshire CPS and Group Chair for the East Midlands."



### Sweet 16 – Justice Awards

Sixteen individuals or organisations from Nottinghamshire have been nominated for a national justice award, according to the Criminal Justice Board. The Justice Awards, which started in 2004, aim to recognise the contribution made by staff and volunteers working in the criminal justice system.

Throughout September and October senior officers at the Office of Criminal Justice Reform, along with Government ministers, will sift through the 821 applications which were received nationally. Finalists will be selected in each of the fifteen categories.

The winners will be announced at a national ceremony during Inside Justice Week (3 – 10 November).



# 100 cases heard at Nottingham's community justice courts

Over 100 cases have been brought before Nottingham's community justice courts in the first two months of the initiative, according to Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board.

The groundbreaking courts hear a range of adult and youth cases from Aspley and St Ann's. Figures show that of those defendants sentenced by the courts, 81 per cent had pleaded guilty.

46 per cent of cases dealt with between 16 May and 31 July 2007, resulted in a community order, which had requirements for those convicted to provide reparation to an individual or carry out work which benefits the whole community.

"Local people in Aspley and St Ann's also have the opportunity to identify the crimes which cause them greatest concern in their area."

The community justice project team, along with members of the judiciary, have been attending public meetings, giving updates about the progress of the initiative.

The judge appointed to sit in Nottingham's community justice courts, District Judge Morris Cooper (pictured below), says: "Alongside my duties in court 1, along with a panel of magistrates, have been attending meetings in Aspley and St Ann's in order to explain the project."

Judge Cooper continues: "Although sentencing is a matter for the judiciary, the community can suggest tasks that could be carried out by offenders who have been sentenced to unpaid work. Local people in Aspley and St Ann's also have the opportunity to identify the crimes which cause them greatest concern in their area."

With the support of Nottingham City Council and Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership, Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board is committed to bring one of the community justice courts into the heart of either Aspley or St Ann's by May 2008.

Community justice, which is part of the Government's agenda to tackle anti-social behaviour and the crime associated with it, aims to bring together the justice system and the community to solve problems, reduce crime and build confidence.

To suggest unpaid work projects please contact Matthew Sherwood on 0115 955 8169 or email [Matthew.Sherwood@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Sherwood@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk)



## Access team hailed as "Beacon of best practice"

Nottinghamshire Probation's Access team continue their high flying success after being selected as one of only ten schemes across the UK to win a Community Programmes Award from the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Part of a partnership campaign with the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and the Howard League, the awards are now in their third year and are aimed at increasing public protection by recognising outstanding community programmes that help to reduce the seriousness and frequency of reoffending. The Access Team's work with unemployed offenders, which offers a flexible, creative and realistic approach to remove barriers to employment, training and education, was recognised as a 'Scheme of Special Merit'.

Manager of the Access Team, Steve Cooke and Employer

Engagement Officer Wendy Moore, attended a special reception hosted by Baroness Linklater at the House of Lords, to collect the award on behalf of the county wide team. Unfortunately celebrity TV gardener Monty Don, who was to present the winners with their awards, was unable to attend due to the floods!

Steve said: 'It was a great experience, there were only ten winners overall and we were one of only three to be named as a scheme of special merit. All the winning entries were described as very deserving and as 'Beacons of Best Practice.'



nb.



*- 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](mailto:david.marley@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk)

## Challenging behaviour and changing lives

**"He is caring and calm and if I get angry about anything it's him that stays calm and walks away". Karen never expected to be describing her partner in this way after she reported him to the police when his alcohol-fuelled violent moods culminated in him pointing a loaded air rifle in her terrified face.**

After completing Nottinghamshire Probation Area's IDAP – Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme,

John says his life has totally changed, 'I had been wearing beer goggles for twenty years, and was past caring. Being reported to the police did me a favour'.



The IDAP programme, launched in 2006, aims to reduce the risk of violent crime and abusive behaviour towards women in relationships by helping perpetrators to change their attitudes and behaviour. It encompasses behaviour-challenging group work for male perpetrators of domestic abuse, support for their partners and children, strong information-sharing links with police; and effective working relationships with relevant statutory and community organisations.

Offenders attend 27 two and a half hour weekly sessions over a nine month period, and have individual sessions with their case manager, as well as being supervised throughout the programme by a probation officer.

During sessions, offenders learn to talk about and understand their offence and the impact on the victim and children. Offenders learn how to take personal responsibility for their actions and also learn non-abusive ways of relating to their partner.

In parallel to IDAP is women's safety work, provided by Probation staff who cover the city, and a partnership arrangement (Mansfield and Ashfield Women's Aid), covering the county areas. As well as providing victims with help and support, Women's Safety Workers enable the opportunity to receive information about the abuser and, for the first time give victims the chance to help shape an offenders' rehabilitation.

Louise's partner became violent and abusive, beating her and threatening her with a meat cleaver. He was jailed and has recently been released, Louise has been updated on his progress through close contact with her Women's Safety Worker. She says: "Now I've got a stable home and he hasn't been anywhere near me. I know everything that's going on now and it makes me feel safe. I don't know what I would have done without my women's safety worker."

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## Gunman sentenced to life for Meadows murder

**Courtney Hunt was sentenced to life imprisonment after being found guilty of murdering Nathan Williams, following trial at Nottingham Crown Court.**



Nathan Williams died at the hands of Hunt when he fired a single bullet from a .38 calibre gun into his heart. Hunt swiftly rode off on his bike from the scene at the Meadows and fled the city, but has been returned to Nottingham to face justice. He has also been convicted of being in possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Following an argument with Nathan Williams earlier on that day, Mr Hunt returned to the precinct with a gun and the intent to shoot him with it. Nathan also returned equipped with a hammer, but paid for falling out with the drug dealer with his life.

During the course of the trial, the jury and Judge were taken on a site visit of the Meadows shopping centre. Mr Hunt's defence was that the gun belonged to Nathan Williams and that it went off during a struggle between them. During cross-examination however, he was given a model of the gun and conceded that his explanation couldn't have happened how he'd described it.

After the sentencing, serious and complex casework prosecutor, Lesley Renfrew said: **"Mr Hunt has now been held to account for his vengeful actions and must pay for it with life imprisonment."**

"A teenager has been shot and killed, and another young man now faces many years in prison. I hope this tragic waste of two young lives serves as a warning to others that gun crime does not pay."

Lesley also commended the witnesses and the police investigation: "This was an appalling crime and the sight of Nathan's young lifeless body on the floor will probably stay with those who witnessed it for a long time. I am grateful to the witnesses for being prepared to relive this in court and give evidence at the trial. I would also like to pay tribute to Nottinghamshire police for their thorough investigation."

Youth team caseworker Heather Hattersley was delighted with the result: "Our case was that it was Hunt who brought the gun to the scene and Hunt who deliberately fired it with the intention of killing Nathan Williams. The jury returned a guilty verdict for murder first and then went back to deliberate further in regard to the second count. They eventually returned a majority verdict convicting Hunt of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life."

**Hunt will serve a minimum of thirty years.**

## Updated website provides information on criminal justice system



Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board is offering web surfers the opportunity to discover details about the criminal justice system. The Board has revised its website to make it easier for people to access information.

It provides many pages on the criminal justice system including latest news and events, performance statistics and information about the community justice initiative.

Mr Steve Green, Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, says: "The revised website will be of use to anyone with an interest in the criminal justice system. The website is lively, easy to access and is updated regularly."

Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board's website can be visited at [www.nottscjb.co.uk](http://www.nottscjb.co.uk)

The website is provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform.

## New help for sexual assault victims

**A new, dedicated centre will open later this year to provide victims of rape and serious sexual assault in Nottinghamshire with all the facilities they require under one roof.**

The Nottinghamshire Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) will offer a coordinated service for the victims at an undisclosed location in the city from September 2007. The SARC will provide medical, support and counselling services as well as maximising the opportunities for gathering forensic evidence.

The phased introduction of services at the SARC will have the ultimate objective of catering for all male and female victims in the county who are aged 13 and over.

Michelle Davies, SARC Manager, said: "The SARC has only been possible through the strong working relationships between the health service, police, Nottingham Rape Crisis, ISAS (Incest and Sexual Abuse Survivors) and Victim Support. Its opening will mean that victims of sexual assault will now receive a holistic approach to their needs with their physical and emotional well-being always paramount."

The SARC has been funded by the Home Office, Bassetlaw PCT, Nottingham City PCT, Nottinghamshire County PCT, Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Teenage Pregnancy, along with Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire

County Council. Hopewells the Furnishers of Nottingham and Gresham Office Furniture also assisted with the setting up of the SARC.

Detective Inspector Mark Flavell, Nottinghamshire Police SARC Project Co-ordinator, said: "We continue the work to improve the services we can offer to the victims of these appalling crimes. The SARC, which will be known as the Topaz Centre, displays our commitment, with our partners, to this aim. The SARC is about choices, and those victims reporting to the police will be much better supported through the process. We want victims to have confidence in the Topaz Centre and come forward to obtain that support."

Michelle Davies says: "Historically, sexual assault victims who have reported the incident have needed to access additional services such as support or counselling. The SARC will be a one-stop location for all these needs to be met. All the agencies that work with victims recognise that the number of individuals who report these horrendous experiences is just the tip of the iceberg. The SARC's facilities will also be available to those who do not wish to report, but want to access support. Through the partner agencies all working towards the same vision, Nottinghamshire's victims will now have access to a centre of support."

"Nottinghamshire's victims will now have access to a centre of support."



Deborah Hooton, Head of Sexual Health Commissioning, Nottingham City PCT says: "The partnership feels a real sense of achievement in progressing the SARC development. Coordinated services to victims will now be delivered in an equitable and timely manner leading to our ultimate goal of improving long term outcomes for victims."

Home Office Minister Vernon Coaker commented: "Sexual violence and abuse are some of the most damaging crimes and the Government is committed to increasing support for victims. This year we are investing £3m in voluntary sector support services and Sexual Assault Referral Centres to supplement existing local funding. The Nottingham SARC will join the 17 other dedicated centres across England and Wales that are ensuring victims receive the immediate medical help and counselling that is so vital to their long-term recovery."

## Survey success for Nottinghamshire Police

Nottinghamshire Police scored higher than the national average in a survey conducted by the Home Office about the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative.

The independent survey, carried out by IPSOS Mori on behalf of the Home Office, asked households in Nottingham City, the pathfinder division, six questions about the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative.

It aimed to find out what people know and think about the initiative, which focuses on tackling crime and disorder issues that matter most to people living in their neighbourhood.

Results showed that local people were more encouraged by the police's efforts at finding out what they thought and had more opportunity to get involved to work with the police to tackle their issues.

## Justice Heroes - Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) Fruit & Vegetable Club

**Green-fingered gardening enthusiasts joined forces on Friday 14 September to showcase a breathtaking display of home-grown vegetables, fruits and flowers.**

The event - which was HMCS Fruit and Vegetable Club's first horticultural show - took place at Nottingham Magistrates' Court. Members of the club entered produce in a range of categories including tomatoes, onions, cabbages and jams.

Kate Hurt, who helped coordinate the show, says: "Our horticultural event was a great way of celebrating the hard work of the club's gardeners over the past few months. We hope to do the same next year."

Produce was auctioned at the end of the event and funds were sent to a local hospice.

**Colleagues interested in joining the Fruit and Vegetable Club should email kate.hurt@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk**



## 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 Mr Steve Green, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police.

## Chief Officers on the Board

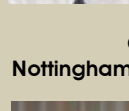


Steve Green,  
Chief Constable,  
Nottinghamshire Police

Judith Walker,  
Chief Crown Prosecutor,  
Crown Prosecution Service



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.