

## SCJB Update, Winter 05/06

### Caitlin WINS at Court open day during Inside Justice Week:



**Caitlin Chartres**, aged 8 years, was presented with £100 of High Street Vouchers in November by His Honour Judge Devaux and John Budd, Chair of SCJB, after she successfully completed the quiz on 15 October 2005, at Ipswich Crown Court and her entry was pulled out as the winner. The open day which was organised by HM's Courts Service and its key partners as part of Inside Justice Week, was a big success with around 360 visitors in just 4 hours. Suffolk Criminal Justice agencies and their partners were represented on the day and visitors were also able to see live (mock) court action and have a tour of the prison cells.

### SCJB Performance Update

Suffolk as a county continues to perform extremely well against the targets set by the Home Office for 05/06. We are currently exceeding our main Offences Brought to Justice target of 13,768 with a current rolling 12-month figure of 15,239, which is a clear indication of the excellent work that is being done through close partnership working across the Criminal Justice agencies.

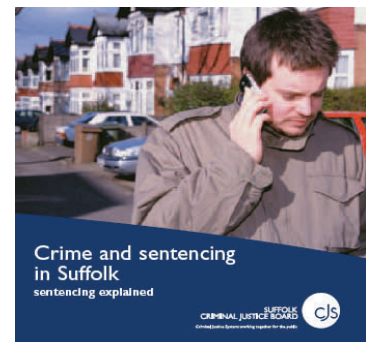
Particularly worthy of note is our excellent performance against the Persistent Young Offender Pledge; the aim is for young people to be dealt with swiftly to help to prevent re-offending. The target for arrest to sentence is 71 days and in Suffolk we are currently achieving 34 days; we are consistently the best performing area in the country.

Targets are now in the process of being set for the financial year 06/07, and we will update you with these in the next edition of this newsletter.

### At a Glance:

- Court open day winner
- New Crime & Sentencing booklet for Suffolk
- Plans for 06/07
- Performance Update
- Victim & Witnesses update
- R & D Sub Group update

### NEW 'Crime & Sentencing in Suffolk' booklet, available from Feb 06...



This is a local version of the national booklet 'Crime, Sentencing and your community: sentencing explained' and includes examples of work carried out locally under Unpaid Work Orders, local projects, support available to Victims & Witnesses and useful website addresses. The booklet is available in pdf and hard copy.

**For further Information contact Louise Powell:**

**Tel: 01473 282146**

**Email:**

**[louise.powell@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:louise.powell@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)**

## Planning for 06/07

We are fast approaching the end of another financial year (end March) and we are already looking full steam ahead to 06/07.

Over the next couple of months the SCJB Sub Groups will be reviewing the delivery plan and communications plan from 05/06 and beginning to set out plans and actions for the next financial year.

Suffolk CJB would appreciate your views and input towards the content of the new delivery plan and communications plan.

For input towards the SCJB delivery plan please email:  
[tracey.hardy@cps.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.hardy@cps.gsi.gov.uk)

and for input towards the SCJB communications plan please email:  
[louise.powell@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:louise.powell@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

Alternatively, you can telephone:  
01473 282143

## Race & Diversity Sub Group update:

The SCJB R & D Sub group now has a new chair, Steve Pestell (Suffolk Probation) along with a member of the Criminal Justice Board to further support the group.

The research project into racist incidents at restaurants and small shops has now completed the information gathering stage, we have about 100 completed questionnaires and although if we get any more we will still accept them, we are now into the information analysis stage.

At the next meeting we hope to have a presentation on Disability and Access issues to assist Criminal Justice agencies to prepare their Disability Equality Schemes which must be completed during 2006.

## Victims & Witnesses Update:

The remaining two Witness Care Units went live on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 at Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds, and therefore from this date all victims and witnesses in criminal cases following charge will receive the improved services under the 'No Witness, No Justice' project.

In order to mark this, and in order to update everyone who participated in our original Consultation Event, an 'open morning' took place at St Vincent House on 29th November. This gave those involved in implementing the changes the opportunity to give an update on what had been achieved and also enabled visitors to look

around and talk to staff in the Trials Unit Witness Care Unit.

The latter part of the year also saw the opening of the third of the Police Victim Care Centres, and these Centres together with the Witness Care Units across the County should provide a comprehensive service for both victims and witnesses.

In addition, all of the Agencies have continued to work together to make further improvements to existing systems to implement the enhanced services to vulnerable and intimidated victims of crime in accordance with the Victim's Code and these systems will be operational from the beginning of January 2006. The Agencies will continue to meet to ensure all the im-

provements do deliver our obligations under the Code in order that by April, when the Complaints Procedures and possible appeal to the Ombudsman come into effect, Suffolk can be confident that the Code is being met.

As you will see this is another very busy time, and the next major piece of work which will be undertaken by the Agencies will be to revisit the existing Service Level Agreements on Witness Care with a view to producing an updated document to reflect the many changes and improvements that have been put into place.

**Pat Taylor, Chair of  
SCJB Victim & Witness  
Sub Group**

**Thank you for reading our update...**

**If you would like to comment on the content, contribute to future issues or learn more about SCJB and the Criminal Justice System in Suffolk as a whole, please get in touch with one of the SCJB team as follows:**

**John Budd, Chair of SCJB**

**Tracey Hardy, SCJB Area Performance Officer**

**Louise Powell, SCJB Communications Officer**

**Anne Scholefield, SCJB Support Officer**

**Tel: 01473 282143**

**Email: [Suffolk.lcjb@cps.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Suffolk.lcjb@cps.gsi.gov.uk)**

**Web: [www.scjb.co.uk](http://www.scjb.co.uk)**

