

# Working Together

Newsletter – Winter 2007

CLEVELAND  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



## NORTH EAST YOUTH JUSTICE FORUM Annual Assembly and Awards



Brian Leonard, Deputy Head of the South Tees Youth Offending Service, receives his award

**THE SECOND** North East Youth Justice Forum Annual Assembly was held on 2nd November at Wynyard Park near Billingham with the thought-provoking title 'Young People Urban Terrorists'.

Key speakers included Graham Robb, Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and Will McMahon, Deputy Director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, based at King's College London, which has done a great deal of work on youth crime issues.

Colin Wilson, Manager of South Tees Youth Offending Service who played a key role in organising the Assembly, said that the title of the event reflects widespread concerns over incidents across the country involving guns and knives, but he stressed it is not about scaremongering.

He explains "Of course, the public do become concerned when they see and hear about some of the tragic events which have occurred, for example in Merseyside, Manchester and London, over recent months and it is all too easy to actually believe that all our youngsters are literally becoming 'urban terrorists'.

"However, it is important to put things in perspective – and thankfully in the North East we do not have the scale of problems involving gun crime which exist in some areas.

"What we aimed to get across at the Assembly is that it is wrong – and totally counter-productive – to demonise young people, that we need to ask ourselves if criminalisation is always the best answer and whether what is required is a much wider approach based on prevention, support and community involvement."

The Assembly also saw the presentation of the North East Youth Justice awards, designed to highlight the work of both individuals and teams who work with young people, both offenders and those at risk of becoming involved in crime. The awards included a Special Recognition Award which went to Brian Leonard, Deputy Head of the South Tees Youth Offending Service, who has a record of almost 42 years in the criminal justice service. During his 31 years as a police officer Brian worked on many projects with young people and on joining the Youth Offending Service in 2001 he developed an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme which is recognised as being amongst the best in the country.

## INSIDE JUSTICE WEEK ANOTHER SUCCESS

**THE FIRST** week in November saw the third annual 'Inside Justice Week'



initiative, aimed at raising awareness of the role played by all those involved in the criminal justice system.

All the organizations involved in delivering justice locally, arranged events and published reports which gave the public a chance to improve their understanding of the system.

Events included a special one-day courts visit, the launch of a pioneering police cadet scheme, local justice awards recognizing the work and achievements of staff and volunteers, a Youth Justice Assembly and the unveiling of some very special art. The week also coincided with the publishing of some reports highlighting continued improvements in the local Probation Service, Cleveland Police and Multi-Agency Public Protection arrangements.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



## LOCAL HEROES RECEIVE THEIR JUSTICE REWARDS

Staff & Volunteers recognition at the Second Annual Local Justice Awards presentation ceremony at the Thistle Hotel, Middlesbrough on 8th November.

# A 'ROLLS ROYCE' MODEL

**A NEW centre to meet the needs of victims of sexual assaults across the Teesside area received high praise from Solicitor General and MP for Redcar Vera Baird. Says Ms Baird "the centre is a Rolls Royce model for looking after victims and a wonderful example of many different organisations and individuals working together to achieve a development which will hopefully transform the way in which vulnerable men and women can receive care, support and counselling – and increase the chance of bringing to justice the perpetrators of sexual crimes."**

The Solicitor General performed the opening of Helen Britton House, the Sexual Assault Referral Centre which is situated at North Ormesby Health Village.

The centre is named after the late Helen Britton, a well-known and devoted worker in this field. Her husband, Jason Britton assisted at the opening ceremony.

Said Vera Baird "I was especially pleased to be at the opening because, together with many others, I have been pressing for a number of years for the development of just this kind of centre. It is vital that victims of traumatic crimes such as rape and other sexual assaults know that there is somewhere they can go where they will receive the best possible expert medical care and counselling – and where their dignity and privacy will be totally respected.

As well as providing support to victims immediately following sexual assault, Helen Britton House will be able to provide ongoing counselling and access to the full range of sexual health and contraceptive services.

The Centre at Trinity Mews in North Ormesby became operational from September. It is accessible 24 hours a day and there will be the opportunity for people to go directly to or contact the centre for help. Victims who contact the police or seek help from health, social care and voluntary organisations can also be taken to the centre.



*Karen Hepburn Support Worker, Helen Britton House, Pam Andrews-Mawer Chair of Cleveland Police Authority's Community Protection Panel, Jason Britton (Helen Britton's husband), Vera Baird MP for Redcar*

# GIANT STEPS FORWARD

*THE ANNUAL assessment of all 43 police forces in England and Wales, published recently by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, shows that Cleveland, whose performance was assessed as the lowest in the country just four years ago, has shot up 11 places in just a year. Says Chief Constable Sean Price "This is testimony to the efforts of the police officers and staff of Cleveland Police who are determined to give the public a police force they can be proud of."*

Police Authority Chair Councillor Dave McLuckie described 'the giant steps we have taken in recent years in providing a better service to the public – and becoming one of the fastest improving forces in the country.'

The force's continuing improvement has also been underlined by the latest figures which show that in September overall crime in Cleveland fell by 13.8 per cent compared to the same month last year – with the number of crimes cut by over 800 – whilst detections rose by 7.6 per cent.

Both Councillor McLuckie and Mr Price say they are particularly pleased with the comments of the Inspectorate on the success of the first stage of the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing across the force. The response from the public to the pilot scheme in Hartlepool is amongst the best in the country.

Said Councillor McLuckie "It is not that long ago that it seemed as if the Force and Authority had a huge mountain to climb both in terms of a real financial crisis and unacceptable performance levels. We're not at the top of the mountain yet but this assessment – and indeed the latest crime figures – show we are well on our way.

"We are now on a firm financial footing and, as the assessment from the Inspectorate demonstrates, we are improving our front-line performance...and this is being recognised by the public. Improved performance in tackling crime is exactly what people want to see. Last year we cut overall crime by almost five per cent and are confident we can maintain the momentum as the figures for September demonstrate.

"Over the coming months the Authority, together with the Chief Constable and his team, will be looking in detail at the findings and comments from the Inspectorate, but I do believe that today's report should be a source of pride and encouragement for the force, the authority, our partners and, above all, the public who have a right to expect a quality police service."

# ON THE CASE



**AFTER** the success of the Education Pack distributed to all local secondary schools, the Criminal Justice Board has been developing another initiative aimed at raising awareness of the criminal justice system, and how it works, among young people.

The CSI project – building on the interest in forensic investigation generated by a strong succession of television series – was piloted at North Ormesby Primary School with great success. The children carried out a series of investigation activities including taking fingerprints, identifying shoeprints, chromatography and handwriting analysis as well as interviewing 'witnesses', building up a case file and eventually sitting as 'magistrates' to try a defendant.

Explained Criminal Justice Board Chair, Elaine Lumley, "We know from the previous work we have done, including the Education Pack developed for secondary schools, that children really are interested in how the criminal justice system works and, of course, they do see a lot of crime shows on television.

"This project really is 'hands-on', involving a number of different agencies to ensure that the children get as realistic an understanding as possible of how investigations are carried out and how what might seem the tiniest piece of evidence can make the crucial difference to solving crime."

# Awards

## OUR LOCAL HEROES RECOGNISED AGAIN

### Local Justice Awards – *Winners*



Darren Thwaites with **Andrea Wood**, Youth Offending Service  
**Outstanding contribution to working with offenders**



Darren Thwaites with **Andrew Woods**, HMP Holme House  
**Outstanding contribution to working and volunteering with victims & witnesses**



Darren Thwaites with the **Stockton Youth Offender Panel** – Ian Birch, Bob Bond, Janet Brennan, Barbara Connelly, Marilyn Curran, Carol Lythe, Geoff Lee, Jean Martin, Michelle Morris, Gordon Wills – **Team Award**



Darren Thwaites with **Roland Bruce**, Cleveland Police  
**Long service award for continued commitment and dedication**

**THE UNSTINTING** efforts of staff working in the local Criminal Justice System were recognized at this year's Local Justice Awards presentation ceremony held at the Thistle Hotel Middlesbrough on 8th November.

The Awards process is part of the annual 'Inside Justice Week' initiative, aimed at raising awareness of the role played by all those involved in the criminal justice system. This is the second year the awards have been held. The judging process was made difficult for Barbara McGuinness (*Assistant Dean of the School of Social Sciences & Law at the University of Teesside*), Peter Barron (*Editor of the Northern Echo*), Joy Yates (*Editor of the Hartlepool Mail*) due to the quality and number of nominations received by the Local Criminal Justice Board.

Four categories of awards were presented at the ceremony which was attended by staff from all the local criminal justice agencies including the Courts, Probation, Police, Prison, Youth Offending, Crown Prosecution and Victim & Witness Support Service. Editor of the Evening Gazette, Darren Thwaites presented the winners with their awards while LCJB members and representatives on their behalf presented all nominees with certificates.

Andrea Wood received her award for outstanding contribution to working with offenders where she independently created a 'knife crime' programme. This programme is aimed at educating young offenders who have committed knife crime offences and also young people who may be drawn into such behaviour, about the dangers and consequences of knife crime. Andrew Woods of HMP Holme House received an award for his outstanding contribution to supporting what are often the 'forgotten' victims of crime – the families of offenders.

Named as 'Team of the Year' were the group of volunteers who helped to establish Youth Offender Panels in Stockton and over the past five and a half years have made a major contribution to working with young people, confronting unacceptable and challenging behaviour and making offenders aware of the views of victims.

Roland 'Roly' Bruce received the long service award for continued commitment and dedication. He began his career as a special constable and then worked in numerous roles as a police officer for 34 years.

Said Elaine Lumley, Chair of the Cleveland Criminal Justice Board, which works to strengthen links and improve co-ordination across the local agencies "This is the second year we have organised our local awards and I believe that the remarkable people who have received awards tonight – and indeed all those nominated – show the huge amount of dedication and commitment of both staff and volunteers. These efforts may not always hit the headlines but do make a huge contribution, whether in tackling crime, bringing offenders to justice and working to deter them from criminal activity, or supporting all those who find themselves victims of crime."

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***"We feel very proud of our award winners – and I hope that pride is shared by the public we all serve."***

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# RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT

## NOMINATED

### Outstanding Contribution to Working with Offenders



Matt Spencer with **Melissa Beckett**  
National Probation Service – Teesside



Matt Spencer with **Linda Williams**  
National Probation Service – Teesside



Matt Spencer with **Jennifer Heaviside**  
National Probation Service – Teesside



Matt Spencer with **Gordon Wooding**  
National Probation Service – Teesside



Matt Spencer with **Susan Motson**  
National Probation Service – Teesside



Matt Spencer with **Jacqueline Fleet**  
Cleveland Police

### Team Award



Margaret Alderdice with the **Cleveland Police Diversity Team**



Margaret Alderdice with the **Community Domestic Violence Programme Team – Treatment Managers and Facilitators**



Margaret Alderdice with the **East Middlesbrough Community Justice Team**



Margaret Alderdice with the **NACRO Pyramid Team**



Sian Jones with the **South Tees Youth Offending Service Court Team**



Sian Jones with **Stockton ISSP and Twister Arts Team**



Sian Jones with **Tees Valley ISSP and TESSYO Team**



Sian Jones with the **Witness Service Team**

**“I believe that the remarkable people who have received awards tonight – and indeed all those nominated – show the huge amount of dedication and commitment of both staff and volunteers.”**

### Outstanding Contribution to Working with Offenders

**Melissa Beckett** – National Probation Service, Teesside

**Jennifer Heaviside** – National Probation Service, Teesside

**Susan Motson** – National Probation Service, Teesside

**Linda Williams** – National Probation Service, Teesside

**Nick Winn** – National Probation Service, Teesside

**Gordon Wooding** – National Probation Service, Teesside

**Jacqueline Fleet** – Cleveland Police

### Team Award

**Cleveland Police Diversity Team**

Members: **Ch. Insp. Steve Kieley, Insp. Simon Edwards, PC Andrew King, Lynne Thornton**

**Community Domestic Violence Programme Team – Treatment Managers & Facilitators**

Members: **Simon Bell, Mel Cotter, Dave Gavaghan, Andrew Hall, Lesley Hill, Christine Mackin, Debbie McKay, Rachel Taylor, Mike Waddington, Derek Hunter**

**East Middlesbrough Community Justice Team**

Members: **Hilary Askin, Rachel Beard, Ed Chicken, Barry Coppinger, District Judge Roger Eley, Will Fletcher, David Francis, Carole Freeman-Dunn, Debra Galloway, Ch. Insp. Steve Kieley, Russell Portues, Insp. Dave Smith, Mandy Walker, Toni Whitton, Colin Wilson, Graham Strange**

**NACRO Pyramid Team – Voluntary Organisation & HMP Holme House**

Members: **Gordon Fenwick, Kevin Gallgher, Emma Robinson, Carole Rudland**

**South Tees Youth Offending Service Court Team**

Members: **Patrick Convery, Phil Hampton, Susan Ibbetson, Donna Lennox, Emma Swindles**

**Stockton ISSP and Twister Arts Team**

Members: **Tony Chesser, Tanya Evans, Michael Farquharson, Kirsty McGrath, Helen McGrother, Mike McGrother, Lizzie Purdham, Stephen Sudlow**

**Tees Valley ISSP and the TESSYO Team**

Members: **Heather Keel, Sarah Richardson, Dave Scott, Joanne Scott, Emma Thompson**

**The Witness Service Team**

Members: **Tracy Angus, Denise Brette, Lynne Carter, Cath Davison, Isobel Fox, Joan Harris, Janice Horner, Judith King, Bill Metcalfe, Valerie Metcalfe, Grace Smith, Sandra Smith, Jessica Thompson, Janet Truran**

*More Nominated Awards overleaf*

## Outstanding Contribution to Working and Volunteering with Victims & Witnesses



Colin Wilson with **John Belbin**



Colin Wilson with **Tony Briers**



Colin Wilson with **Christine Fergus**



Colin Wilson with **Bill Guffick**



Colin Wilson with **Debbie Percy**



Superintendent Ian Richards with **Janet Waller**



Superintendent Ian Richards with **Michelle Warrior**



Superintendent Ian Richards with **Leonard Young**

### Long Service Award for Continued Commitment & Dedication



Elaine Lumley with **Brian Leonard**



Presenters of the Second Annual Cleveland Criminal Justice Board Awards included Elaine Lumley – Chair, CCJB and Darren Thwaites – Editor, Evening Gazette

## NOMINATED

### Outstanding Contribution to Working and Volunteering with Victims & Witnesses

**John Belbin** – Victim Support & Witness Service, Teesside

**Tony Briers** – Victim Support & Witness Service, Teesside

**Christine Fergus** – Victim Support & Witness Service, Teesside

**Bill Guffick** – Victim Support & Witness Service, Teesside

**Debbie Percy** – Victim Support & Witness Service, Teesside

**Mike Teate** – HMCS, Teesside Magistrates Court

**Janet Waller** – HMCS, Teesside Crown Court

**Michelle Warrior** – Victim Support & Witness Service, Teesside

**Leonard Young** – HMP Holme House

### Long Service Award for Continued Commitment & Dedication

**Brian Leonard** – Youth Offending Service

**Doug West** – National Probation Service, Teesside



# first impressions

**SOLICITOR General and Redcar MP Vera Baird QC unveiled artwork designed by local young people on Friday 9th November at the recently-established East Middlesbrough Community Court.**

The four large paintings entitled 'First Impressions' based on a 'photofit' theme were produced by students from the Unity City Academy in East Middlesbrough, during a project organized by the Cleveland Criminal Justice Board.

The East Middlesbrough Community Justice project, sponsored by the Criminal Justice Board, is one of ten schemes being piloted across England and Wales, aimed at giving local people a greater involvement in tackling crime in their area.

**Above: Solicitor General with pupils and staff of the Unity City Academy at East Middlesbrough Community Court**

## Fines surgery and much more in East Middlesbrough

**EAST Middlesbrough residents turned out to discuss some very personal problems at a recent special event.**

The East Middlesbrough Community Justice Initiative held a special Open Day in early December to help people deal with problems in paying fines and other matters such as high debts, benefit advice and alcohol and drug addiction.

Held at the Charlbury Road Community Centre people were given the chance to meet with a wide range of organisations working in the area and able to provide advice and support services.

Says Community Justice Project Co-ordinator Hilary Askin, "The idea started as a 'fines surgery' where we would be



available to discuss fines and help people draw up suitable arrangements, but we quickly realised that the question of fines and other financial problems had to be seen alongside the other difficulties faced by considerable numbers of people living in the area served by the Community Court.

"What we wanted to get across to local residents was that all the organisations taking part really can help them with problems which can sometimes seem virtually insurmountable if you are trying to deal with them alone. Often the difficulty is that people need help on a number of different fronts and that's what we offered at the Open Day."



## PUBLIC PROTECTION REPORT PUBLISHED

**THE ANNUAL report of the Multi-Agency Public Protection arrangements (MAPPA), which involves the Police, Probation and Prison services, shows that in March this year there were 357 registered sex offenders living in the Teesside area – a rise of three compared to the previous year.**

There were 97 others falling into the category of violent and other sexual offenders, compared to 146 in 2006. Meanwhile a further 301 other offenders are being monitored compared to 188 the previous year. Some of these are people with mental health and behavioural problems but the vast majority have committed domestic violence related assaults.

The rise in the latter category is largely a direct result of initiatives involving agencies working pro-actively with other support organizations to tackle domestic violence and to bring perpetrators within the MAPPA framework. The report shows that three offenders on the MAPPA register committed further serious offences during the year.

Although it only became mandatory to establish MAPPA procedures in 2001, the arrangements in Teesside have been in place since 1997 and much of the work in supervising those offenders on the register is undertaken by the joint Police and Probation Public Protection Unit based in Middlesbrough. Meanwhile the Prison Service has systems in place for identifying those offenders who are likely to come under MAPPA supervision on release.

Detective Chief Superintendent Mark Braithwaite, Head of Crime Operations with Cleveland Police, who chairs the Strategic Management Board for MAPPA on Teesside, said "Public protection and the management of offenders within the community is a challenging task of critical importance and one which all those involved take extremely seriously in the discharge of their responsibilities.

"Our aim is to monitor offenders to ensure that any risk they might pose is reduced to the lowest possible level. Through MAPPA we work together – that is Police, prison, probation, housing, health, education and other partners – to assess individual offenders and determine the appropriate level of supervision and/or other intervention that we consider might be required."

Julie Allan, Assistant Director with the Probation Service added "Whilst it will never be possible to eliminate entirely the risk posed by offenders in the community, the public should be reassured that everything possible is done to minimise any risk that might be posed and that is what we work to achieve through the MAPPA process".

"It is important to underline that the number of offenders who do need the kind of intrusive supervision undertaken through the system is relatively small compared to the wider population. The key to managing them and the other categories of offenders falling within the MAPPA framework is through close co-operation, sharing of information and constantly reviewing our systems to ensure public safety which is our number one priority."

# Taking justice closer to local people

**FIGURES** just released show that in the first six months of operation the pioneering Community Justice Initiative in East Middlesbrough handled well over 200 cases – proof says the Chair of the Project Board that ‘it is making a real impact in taking justice closer to local people.’

The East Middlesbrough Community Court, which handles offences from the wards of Beckfield, North Ormesby, Brambles Farm, Pallister, Park End and Thorntree, is one of ten pilot Community Justice Initiatives operating across the country.

Each case coming before the court is handled by specially-selected and trained magistrates and there is close co-operation with Middlesbrough Council and community interests in overseeing its operation and identifying the issues concerning local people.



Since coming into operation in mid-April to the end of September 238 cases were completed – with 176 involving adults and 62 involving young people. In the vast majority of cases penalties imposed by the court involved fines and community orders – and of the cases completed to the end of September there had been no breaches of community orders imposed.

Said Colin Wilson, Chair of the East Middlesbrough Community Justice Project Board “I think that the figures show that so far the initiative has gone well – and indeed that was the view of national officials who visited us recently.

“What has been very encouraging has been the tremendous enthusiasm of all the many people contributing to the project – including the Council, the magistrates, police and other criminal justice agencies – and above all the people of East Middlesbrough themselves, who I think do see this as a chance to have an input into how crime is tackled in their area...and how sentences, such as unpaid work, can be turned to the benefit of the community as a whole.

# HITTING THE TARGETS



Elaine Lumley

**THE PROBATION SERVICE** in Teesside is ‘continuing to deliver a quality service, whether in dealing with offenders, diverting people away from crime or supporting victims.’

That is how Elaine Lumley, Chief Officer for Teesside, sums up performance figures for the first six months of the financial year.

The figures show:

- 97 per cent of court reports delivered on time as against a target of 90 per cent
- 94 per cent of victims being contacted within eight weeks of offenders receiving 12 months or more imprisonment
- Well over 70 per cent of licences and orders being completed successfully
- Over 800 referrals to the Learning and Skills Council for ‘skills for life’ courses
- Almost 450 completions of Unpaid Work programmes
- Over 160 offenders starting drug treatment programmes
- Almost 200 other programmes for offenders delivered – including 27 relating to domestic violence.

Says Elaine Lumley “After a very successful record last year, when we met or exceeded the vast majority of our targets I believe the performance

for the first six months of this year once again underlines the very real achievements of our staff who at any one time are involved in managing around 2,500 offenders in the community and a further 1,000 serving custodial sentences.

“The Probation Service has a multitude of roles – from preparing reports for the courts and ensuring offenders meet the requirements of their sentences to a whole range of measures aimed at diverting individuals away from a criminal lifestyle...and, of course, supporting victims of serious crimes.

“Delivering on all these aspects is extremely challenging but I believe these latest performance figures show that we are providing a quality service. It is especially pleasing that in those areas where we are trying to break the circle of crime – in other words preventing re-offending and enabling people to become law-abiding citizens – we are generally performing ahead of our targets.

**“That is good news for both the individuals and the public as a whole.”**



Making contact...

If you want to know more about the work of the Cleveland Criminal Justice Board or you have any comments and suggestions about our local criminal justice service please contact:

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