



# JUSTICE JOTTINGS

Newsletter of the Cumbria Criminal Justice Board

## Spring 2008

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public

CUMBRIA  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD



### VISION STATEMENT

'Working together for a safe Cumbria by delivering fair and effective services that:

- ❖ Reduce offending and anti-social behaviour
- ❖ Meet the needs of victims and witnesses
- ❖ Inspire confidence in the criminal justice system'

Welcome to Justice Jottings, the public newsletter reporting the activities and performance of the Cumbria Criminal Justice Board and its partner justice agencies.

Justice Jottings is produced four times per year and distributed electronically (as a PDF document) to our mailing list and also posted on the Board's website.

If you would like to receive an e-copy directly, please send your request by e-mail to: [ccjbenquiries@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:ccjbenquiries@cumbria.police.uk)



**Give respect Get respect**



Spring daffodils

- ❖ Improving services for victims
- ❖ Cumbria CPS win national award
- ❖ Question Time event held in Carlisle
- ❖ 'You be the Judge' event notice
- ❖ Performance measures
- ❖ CJS Online
- ❖ Board contacts

### CUMBRIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD MEMBER AGENCIES





## Improving services for victims

In the last edition of Justice Jottings, we reported that the national Victim Support network was to undergo a significant restructuring, designed to meet the challenges of contemporary service delivery. Victim Support Cumbria is part of this change and will move from being a self-contained charitable body to being part of the new single, unified national charity. The change will bring various benefits, including improved administrative efficiency, common systems for finance, human resources, data and performance management. There will be a regional structure underlying the single national body, and Cumbria will form part of the North West Region.

Alongside this restructuring is the roll-out of enhanced services for victims of crime. We can now provide more details on this improved service, referred to 'Victim Support Plus', which is being rolled-out from April 2008.

### Summary of scheme benefits:

- \* A more comprehensive and focused approach to victim care;
- \* Full needs assessment of victims;
- \* Better and closer partnership working with other appropriate agencies when required.

### Summary of the process

- \* Contacting by phone all victims who are referred or who self-refer;
- \* Conducting an initial needs assessment of each victim, offering immediate help when necessary;
- \* Commissioning the relevant service once need has been identified and agreed with the victim (Victim Support is not necessarily the service provider);
- \* Opening hours will be 8.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Friday.

### Monitoring the provision of the service will be by:

- \* Re-contacting victims after a few weeks;
- \* Checking that the service has been (or is being) delivered to the victim's satisfaction and that the victim is happy with the service;
- \* Conducting, if possible, a second needs assessment at this stage to see if the victim's needs have changed and if additional services are required.

### Some additional services:

- \* Counselling
- \* Transport
- \* Advocacy
- \* Childcare
- \* Loans and vouchers
- \* Lock fitting and burglar alarms



More information can be obtained from Victim Support Cumbria as follows:

Write to: Victim Support Cumbria, Lime House, Wetheral, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 8EW

Telephone (01228) 562638

Fax (01228) 562638

E-mail: [victimsupport.cumbria@virgin.net](mailto:victimsupport.cumbria@virgin.net)

**Victim Supportline 0845 30 30 900**

[www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/cumbria](http://www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/cumbria)



## Crown Prosecution Service in Cumbria wins ‘most improved’ national award

At a ceremony held last month in London, the Crown Prosecution Service in Cumbria won a national award for being the ‘most improved’ area, following Overall Performance Assessment (‘OPA’) review by HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

At the same ceremony, CPS Devon & Cornwall received a similar award, whilst the overall top five performing CPS areas were also recognised. These were: Norfolk, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Warwickshire and Humberside.

The awards were presented by the Attorney General, Baroness Scotland, who commented:

*“All in all I am delighted to give these awards - both to the five Areas (top performers overall) and also to the two Areas who have gone from low ratings and made leaps and bounds in the right direction.”*

Chief Crown Prosecutor for Cumbria, Claire Lindley, added:

*“Obviously, we are delighted that the progress that we have made in recent times has been recognised in this way. It follows on from a lot of hard work by the whole team. However, we all know that there is still much to do as we strive to achieve excellent ratings and provide an even better service to the people of Cumbria.”*



Baroness Scotland (second right) presents the award to members of CPS Cumbria staff who attended the presentation. Left to right: Linda Vance, Brenda Irving, John Pears, Claire Lindley and Sue Vernon.



## Board hold first 'Question Time' event

The Criminal Justice Board held its first 'Question Time' event at the Tullie House Lecture Theatre in Carlisle on the evening of 8th April.

Based on the BBC programme of the same name, the event gave the public the opportunity to pose questions on crime and justice related topics in an open forum. Questions were handed in just before the event started and then grouped into similar themes to ensure a range of topics could be covered during the time available.

Independently chaired by Ashley Tiffen from the University of Cumbria, the question and answer session allowed Board agency representatives to put forward their responses to the matters raised and then the floor was opened to additional comments from the audience.

Topics covered on the night included: balancing punishment and rehabilitation; community sentences as a deterrent; putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system; alcohol and drug abuse issues; the impact of inspections; improving the conviction rate for rape cases; and improving public confidence in the system.

All of those who attended were given an information pack about the Board to take away.

It is our intention that future similar events will be held around the county during the next twelve months.



Assistant Chief Constable and current Board Chairman Neil Rhodes begins the evening by explaining to the audience the nature and performance of the Board

## Advance notice - 'You Be The Judge' event

From the findings of both local and national research, we know that members of the public are often concerned about the sentencing of offenders at court. Predominantly, this is a concern that sentences are 'too light' or 'too soft' in relation to the crime actually committed. To help address these sorts of concerns, Her Majesty's Courts Service is hosting a community engagement event later this year, called 'You Be The Judge'. Using real-life examples (suitably anonymised), the event will explain some of the factors that have to be taken into account by magistrates and Judges in the Crown Court when sentencing offenders.

Following presentations of the circumstances of the case by Prosecutors and Defence Lawyers, and through the use of electronic voting equipment, the audience will be able to express a view as to the sentence that they think should be applied in each of the case studies. Thereafter the actual sentence imposed by the court will be revealed and explanatory remarks will be stated by either a magistrate or a Judge, according to the severity of the offence.



The first event of this type is to be held on **Wednesday, 11th June 2008 at Carlisle Combined Court, Earl Street, Carlisle commencing 5.30 p.m.** and lasting for a maximum of three hours. Further information can be obtained from Carol Eland at the Combined Court (01228) 882120 or e-mailing her: [carol.eland@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:carol.eland@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk).



## Performance Measures 2007/2008 (extract)

Below is a selection of just some of the various performance targets that the Board is responsible for in conjunction with its member agencies. The performance year runs from 1st April through to 31st March, and some year end data may be available by the Summer Edition. A full list of targets and actual performance can be obtained on request to the Board support team - contact details appear on the last page of Justice Jottings.

Measure	Explanation	Current target for year end 31st March 2008	Achievement so far (latest available data)
Increasing the number of offences brought to justice	Getting more offences into the justice system and dealing with them successfully	12,950	13,950 at November 2007
Public confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in bringing offenders to justice	Measuring public confidence through the quarterly British Crime Survey (annualised data)	52%	43% at September 2007
Increase the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	Penalties issued for eligible minor offences	909	470 at November 2007
Offences taken into consideration ('TICs')	Additional offences that a defendant also admits to when charged with an offence	To achieve 1,298 TICs by end March 2008	858 at January 2008
Persistent Young Offenders ('PYO') pledge	Requirement to reduce the 'arrest to sentence' processing time for persistent young offenders	Average processing time not to exceed 65 days	52 days in November 2007
Outstanding Fail to Appear ('FTA') Warrants	The number of orders (warrants) issued by the courts for the arrest of a person who has not appeared for trial	The number of outstanding warrants not to exceed 125	97 at December 2007
Fines payment rate	Ensuring all fines imposed by the courts are properly collected	To achieve a fines payment rate of at least 85% in the Magistrates' Court	88% year to date Feb 2008
Proceeds of Crime Act ('POCA') confiscations	Minimising the retained financial benefits to criminals of their offences	To obtain at least 32 POCA Orders	53 at December 2007
Proceeds of Crime Act ('POCA') confiscations	Minimising the retained financial benefits to criminals of their offences	To recover a value of at least £710,000 through POCA Orders	£1,184,186 at December 2007



## CJS online



There is a wealth of information about the criminal justice system available online. A wide range of sites provides support and assistance aimed at different users of the system i.e. victims, witnesses, defendants, jurors and professionals.

If you have access to the Internet, try some of these:

### Ministry of Justice

[www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)

### Office for Criminal Justice Reform

[www.cjsonline.gov.uk](http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk)

### Crown Prosecution Service

[www.cps.gov.uk](http://www.cps.gov.uk)

### Cumbria Constabulary

[www.cumbria.police.uk](http://www.cumbria.police.uk)

### HM Courts Service

[www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk](http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk)

### HM Prison Service

[www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk](http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk)

### Legal Services Commission (criminal defence and civil legal assistance)

[www.legalservices.gov.uk](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk)

### National Probation Service

[www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk)

### Victim Support

[www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

### Youth Justice Board

[www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk](http://www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk)

### The Judiciary of England & Wales

[www.judiciary.gov.uk](http://www.judiciary.gov.uk)

## Board support staff

The Board has a small support team to help deliver its work programme:

- Paul Bradley, Business Manager
- Barbara Adams, Performance Officer
- Mike Holme, Communications Officer
- Wendy Binks, Administrative Support Officer

All staff can be contacted at:

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CA10 2YE

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## Next edition

The next edition of Justice Jottings (Summer 2008) will appear in June.

## Feedback

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Ideas and comments are always welcomed.

