



LCCS

A Blueprint for Practical Community Engagement



'How To Do It' Handbook

"Magistrates and probation working together with your community to improve public confidence in sentencing and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community penalties."

December 2010

“By working together establishing local LCCS initiatives, Magistrates and the Probation Service can have a real impact, improving public confidence and understanding of the effectiveness of community penalties.

The work of LCCS is very timely and important. I hope this ‘how to do it’ toolkit will help other agencies to adopt an LCCS type approach and follow the lead of the highly effective work that has been achieved to date.”

The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales



LCCS Founding Patron

The Rt Hon The Lord Woolf of Barnes

Patrons

The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, The Rt Hon The Lord Judge of Draycote
The Rt Hon The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers
Baroness Linklater of Butterstone

Acknowledgement

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Introduction

LCCS – Local Crime: Community Sentence – is a successful community engagement programme building public confidence in sentencing and raising awareness of the effectiveness of community penalties.

Since the project was piloted in 2001 and formally launched in 2003 presentations to community groups throughout the country, involving over 16,000 members of the public have been given.

Its success rests in the development and delivery of structured interactive presentations jointly by committed stakeholders, using illustrative crime media reports to dispel myths and prejudices. LCCS is a powerful model – recognised in the award of an annual grant from the Ministry of Justice since 2007 – which can be used to enhance community confidence in local agencies and the way they tackle local crime issues.

The report explains how LCCS works and how the approach could be adopted by other organisations which aim to influence and enhance public confidence.

It is a blueprint that could be applied to a wide range of community engagement initiatives – from trading standards to youth offending, neighbourhood safety to anti-social behaviour. This report is a ‘how to do it’ guide.

“I didn’t think Community Service was a good idea but now I have a clearer understanding and believe that it is a good way of punishing.”

Member of general public attending a presentation.

Over 60% of audiences change their attitudes and views about the criminal justice system after a LCCS presentation. They have more confidence in the criminal justice system and change from thinking a prison sentence the most appropriate to thinking a community sentence a better option for some cases on the cusp of custody.

(Source: National evaluation of LCCS: Centre for Crime and Justice Studies 2009).

Chapter 1: What makes the LCCS approach effective

LCCS is a robust programme delivered locally which challenges perceptions and changes attitudes by providing information and improving understanding to a wide range of audiences. LCCS is not about 'preaching to the converted'.

It has been achieved by developing an interactive presentational style which develops close engagement and participation with community audiences.

Easy to use, case-study materials which look behind the headlines of media reports of local crime are used to underpin joint presentations by magistrates and probation. The media reports are deliberately eye-catching and often economical with the truth. Step by step more details are revealed about the offence and offender and a discussion of 'before and after' attitudes towards sentencing is encouraged.

With this approach audiences are more open-minded to change their attitudes when confronted with in-depth facts about offences and offenders which are explained.

The case-study material used in the presentations has been developed nationally but messages can be tailored locally. There is the freedom to select and choose the most relevant material for different audiences.

By using structured presentations and case-study material it is easy for presenters to present confidently and work together as a team – with equal weight and authority.

Through the presentations, audiences understand more about sentences served in the community, as well as realising that what they usually read about a case is a sensational headline which does not always reflect the facts of the case.

Who does LCCS reach in the community?

A wide range of audiences have been reached including victims groups, neighbourhood watch, women's groups, pensioners, students, business organisations, district and parish councils, religious groups, minority ethnic and disabled groups, police community support officers and police probationers.

How we know LCCS works

The project has been evaluated nationally by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies for the past five years and has consistently shown that audiences gain an increased confidence in community sentences and also a greater sense of personal safety in their homes and local area.

Analysis by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies in the national evaluation report of LCCS showed that:

- *Over 64% per cent of those who initially chose the prison option changed their minds after the presentation.*
- *Over 60% of attendees felt that the presentations had increased their confidence in community sentences.*

What do people say about LCCS?

"The presentation gives us the opportunity to explain what we do and audiences understand what community sentences are about – instead of thinking they are a soft option."

Magistrate presenter

"I didn't realise magistrates were people just like you and me. I thought they'd be wearing wigs!"

Member of general public,
attending a presentation

"Before an LCCS presentation, very few people know anything about probation. They leave understanding the crucial work we do."

Probation officer presenter

"There is no other programme quite like it that raises community confidence in the criminal justice system."

Police cadet attending LCCS presentation

"I am convinced that this sort of project brings balanced discussion about the CJS to the community."

Magistrate presenter

Why LCCS works

LCCS has proved highly effective in changing attitudes towards community sentences and enhancing community confidence in the criminal justice system. This is because:

- Presentations use local 'news' type scenarios. The joint presentation style with magistrates and probation is interactive. The presentations are semi-structured and get audience involvement while giving presenters confidence to stay 'on message'.

- There is a choice of presentation material – local presenters can select to ensure relevance to the wide range of audiences whether they are law students, police probations or diverse community, business or faith groups.

- Local contacts and networks to identify community groups are used through the setting of local steering groups and knowledgeable local central points of contact.

There are further benefits to the LCCS approach. LCCS has found that:

- As important in some ways as the project itself, is the bringing together of magistrates and probation staff. LCCS creates a close working relationship and mutual understanding and confidence, as those who have participated in LCCS can testify.

- Local organisations and groups involved have used presentation case-study material and the presentation structure to form part of induction training or in training programmes.

LCCS National Support

LCCS has both a national and local dimension. Guidance and support has been provided by the LCCS National Steering Group led by the Magistrates' Association and the Probation Association (see appendix for details of members) which developed the presentation case-study material presentation format and training materials.

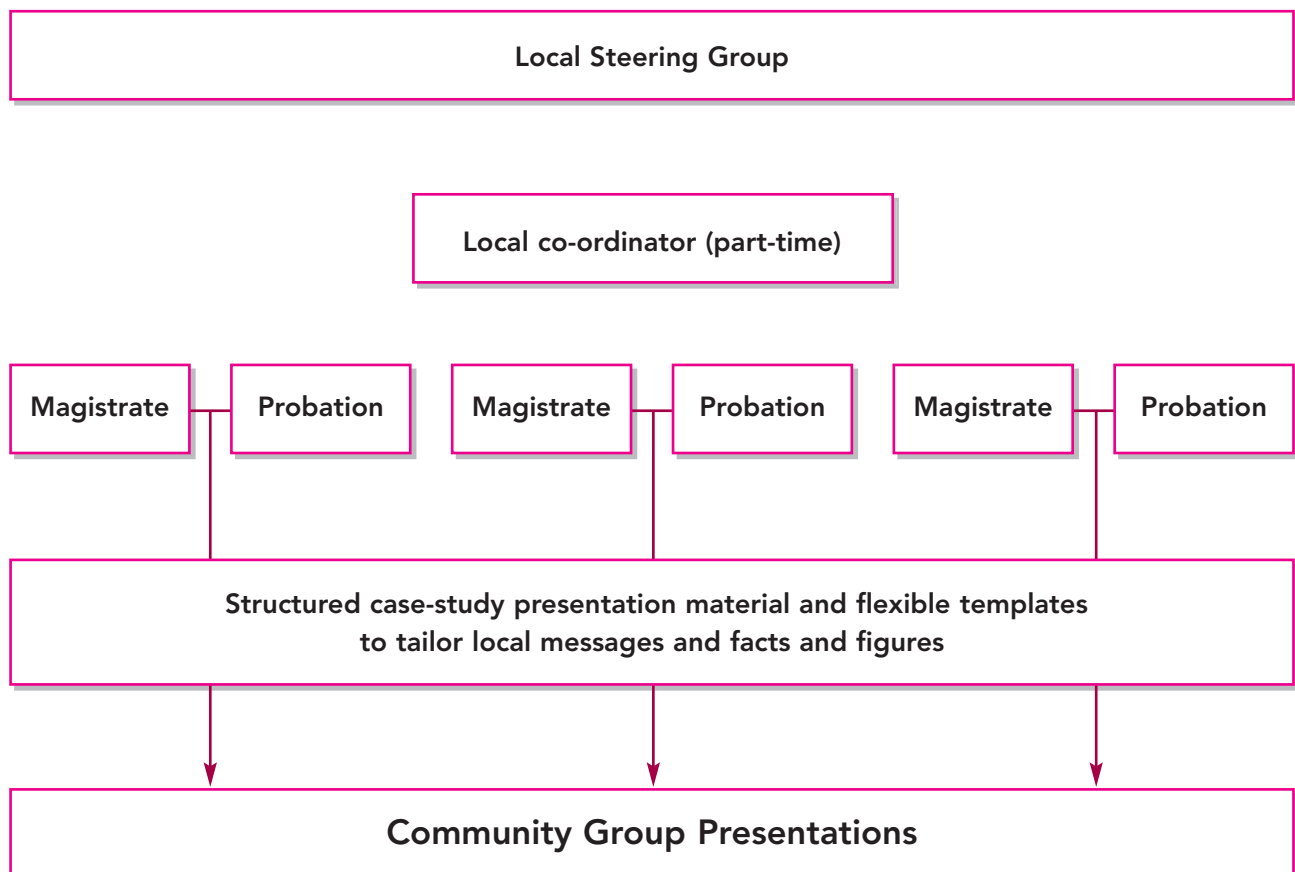
There is also a part-time national co-ordinator (salaried pro rata) who advises local areas on the roll-out of LCCS and training required.

Local areas are autonomous and are responsible for running the project in their area. It is down to the local area to decide how active they wish to be and which community groups they wish to target.

An annual seminar for area co-ordinators involved in LCCS to come together is also held to discuss common issues and forward developments.

LCCS Locally

Each local participating LCCS area has convened a steering committee (made up of interested local organisations in criminal justice) and has established a co-ordinator who instigates approaches to community groups and makes arrangements for presentations. The presenting team is always made up of a probation member of staff and a magistrate.



Participating LCCS Areas

Building on the successful project pilot which was completed in 2003, local magistrates and probation are now working to deliver an LCCS programme in over 30 areas in the UK:

Avon & Somerset, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Co Durham and Teeside, Cumbria, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, London, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Norfolk and Suffolk, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and West Midlands, Surrey and Sussex, Thames Valley, Wales, Warwickshire, West Mercia, Wiltshire, West Yorkshire.

LCCS Presentation toolkit

'Daily News' Reports

There are six different case-studies and 'fictional' front page newspaper hand-outs for audience consideration and discussion – see appendix for full details.

Suite of films

There is a suite of eight short films available on DVD with accompanying guidance notes and suggested scripts to support the delivery of two of the case studies. The films (four for each case study) add dramatic impact to LCCS presentations, making the experience more exciting and memorable for audiences. A two-minute taster film, called the *Introduction*, has also been developed which can be used to persuade community groups to book a full presentation. This has been uploaded to YouTube and other websites to generate interest in LCCS presentations.



The fourth film for each case study reveals 'What Happened Next' and shows the offender turning their life around after completing their order. This adds a feel-good conclusion to the presentation format.

The films are designed to enhance and not replace the role of presenters and the presenters can play the films at key points during LCCS presentations.

Technology has also been developed for audiences to use 'Quizdom' (where facilities exist to enable press-button audience voting) and the DVD contains PowerPoint pre-loaded video templates.

Handouts/Factfile background notes

A background hand-out on community orders and a summary of 'Did You Know?' type facts and figures about crime statistics and trends with relevant web links were also developed. These handouts can be locally tailored for use in the introduction to a LCCS presentation – see appendix for full details.

LCCS Website

Materials are made available to presenters from the LCCS website. www.lccs.org.uk. They are also available on disc with regular updates.

Key components

The LCCS blueprint for successful local community engagement comprises the following key components:

A Local Steering Group: Senior representatives of local organisations with interest in criminal justice (eg: magistrates, probation, police, local criminal justice board, HMCS, local council) help identify community groups and presentation opportunities.

Local Co-ordinator: nominated single point of contact (part-time and also on the local steering group) to make approaches to community groups, handle the administration and book and arrangements for presentations and co-ordinate attendance by pairs of magistrates and probation staff.

Presenting teams: teams of magistrates and probation staff as LCCS presenters to undertake joint presentations to community groups.

Use of Structured Presentation materials: Presenters choose from a selection of case-studies (see appendix) for the most appropriate for different local groups/circumstances.

Simple key messages are embodied into the presenter notes: eg:

- *The aim of the LCCS project is to improve public confidence in sentencing and to raise awareness of the effectiveness of community sentences*
- *To reduce crime and the number of victims of crime, we need to change the way offenders behave. Prison has a role to play but is not always the best answer.*
- *Community sentences are tough and demanding. They can be more effective than prison reducing re-offending and protecting the public.*

Setting up a Local Steering Group

Experience has shown that the formation of a steering group is essential in helping to secure commitment and opportunities for the local roll-out of LCCS. As LCCS is a partnership project, both sides of the probation service/magistrate partnership should be involved from the start.

This group may need to meet two-three times to set up the project and thereafter three or four times a year.

Membership may include the following people (some of whom should be presenters) representing the following:

- Probation
- Magistrates
- HMCS
- LCJB*
- Local co-ordinator and trainer

* Current CJS multi-agency partnerships may be appropriate representation.



TIPS

Invite magistrates and probation from another local area to present an LCCS presentation to the steering group – so steering group members can see the materials and project aims first hand.

Each steering group member could be asked three questions to help start identifying local LCCS opportunities for the project.

- Think of three groups who you are in contact with who might benefit from an LCCS presentation.
- How can the LCCS initiative be utilised to increase community confidence?
- How can the LCCS initiative support the engagement and development of staff within your organisation?

Agree clear aims and objectives with the steering committee as to which audiences will be targeted and set a target for how many presentations will be delivered in the first year.

How often the local steering group meets will obviously vary and be a matter of how active the area chooses to be. Initially, it will need to meet more frequently to get the project onto a good footing but ultimately the pace of work is in the hands of the local co-ordinator.

Where areas are geographically large some regions have created 'county' roll-out of LCCS with 'county champions' being established for different 'county' areas – rather than for a large area as a whole.

Seeking funding/resourcing for LCCS: Some areas have had success seeking financial support for the project and where the LCJB* is appointing a communications manager, making the role of the LCCS local co-ordinator part of their responsibilities.

Some probation areas now incorporate LCCS presentations as part of their new staff and board induction programme as a perfect way to raise awareness of the programme and embed key messages.

* Current multi-agency CSJ representation may be appropriate representation

Appointing a local co-ordinator

The importance of appointing a local co-ordinator who has overall responsibility for administering the project locally, is critical to the success of the project.

The local co-ordinator might be:

- Probation Trust or board member
- Magistrate
- Recently retired senior manager
- Probation Communications Manager
- LCJB communications manager
- Probation accredited volunteer

Sufficient time should be given to ensure the scheme is supported in the start-up.

The key roles and responsibilities of the local co-ordinator are to:

- be the single point of contact in an area for LCCS
- identify potential community audiences
- make contact with community audiences and arrangements for presentations
- liaise with the magistrates and probation trainers, organising relevant materials and training
- produce/update local information
- undertake publicity and media relations



TIPS

It is crucial that the co-ordinator is not only computer literate (Microsoft Word/email and web browsing), but has easy access to computer and printing facilities, access to the internet and phone and fax facilities as well as an email address.

Keeping in touch with magistrates and presenters and the steering group is a key role of the co-ordinator. Consider setting a local email distribution group, an LCCS local Facebook or Google group (restricted access to those involved in the local LCCS project), or feature LCCS on the local probation website so it is easy to keep in touch and update with news.

Selecting Presenting teams

Some areas have issued a blanket invitation to local magistrates and probation inviting them to volunteer to become LCCS presenters. Other areas have decided to alert all magistrates and probation that presenters are being sought by attending meetings, sending out letters and flyers and then by approaching possible presenters which seems to work well.



TIPS

Consider a letter from the Chief Executive to staff to emphasise that the project has the backing of senior management in the area.

The Magistrates' Association helped with initial contacts with local magistrates and details of the local branch. The local Magistrates' Association branches were also asked if flyers could be distributed for court notice boards and/or news to be placed in Justices' bulletins.

It may be possible to organise an 'add-on' to a pre-existing magistrate or probation meeting a possibility to explain about LCCS eg: before or after a bench meeting, Magistrates' Association branch meeting, or probation liaison meeting.

Some areas selected pairs of magistrates and probation that work together as a team for several years. Other areas prefer to 'mix and match' magistrates and probation according to availability and geographic location of presentations. Another formula used in some areas is to match an experienced presenter with an inexperienced one.

See appendix for a Sample Chief Executive letter.

Presenter Training

A one day training programme was devised and is delivered in each new area for the first group of presenters. It provides a full background briefing to the LCCS project and gives presenters the chance to observe the presentation and then, prepare parts of the presentation in pairs to present to the group in the afternoon. Experienced trainers from another area deliver this first training day. Before the training day a local trainer is identified, and subsequently, the local area trains new presenters as required. Most areas bring all the presenters together once a year to assess the year's work and may offer a short top up training.

Selecting a Local Trainer

- The local trainer should be identified at an early stage and be a member of the steering group.
- He/she should be a presenter who is either a magistrate or a member of the probation service.
- The local co-ordinator will assist the trainer in the planning, organisation and delivery of training.
- The trainer reports to the chair of the local steering group.
- He/she should be prepared to travel to adjacent new areas to provide the training element of an initial training day.



TIPS

All the material needed for the trainer is available on the LCCS website or by email/disc from the National Steering Group Administrator.

The programme is tried and tested and covers all the the essential elements. Programme changes should be agreed nationally.

All delegates on the training should be given an opportunity to participate in part of a presentation.

The trainer should always evaluate the training day and give feedback to the national and local steering groups.

Getting the message across: Delivering presentations

There isn't a prescriptive PowerPoint presentation that is available to magistrates and probation staff to deliver a LCCS presentation. Using a set PowerPoint can be too rigid as experience has shown that presenters prefer to have freedom to mould presentations according to different audiences and presenter styles.

What is available is a suggested structure for the presentation which can make use of a particular case-study which can be selected from the range of national toolkit materials appropriate to the audience. Each case study comes with crib sheet notes regarding the crime and sentencing considerations. See appendix for more details.

Together with the local co-ordinator, presenters select which case-study to use as the most appropriate for the audience group.



TIPS

Stick to the selected case and LCCS key messages and don't get diverted into 'hot topics' currently being debated in the media (eg Baby P, internet paedophiles, knife crime etc).

Hand-outs/local background information: Hand-out background literature on LCCS and other relevant topics, such as probation or Magistrate in the Community material at the meeting or develop local tailor made literature that can be given out to the audiences to back up the presentations.

Reaching Community Group audiences

There are a wide range of community groups that LCCS presentations have been made to. It makes sense to use local contacts and knowledge wherever possible. As well as going direct to the general public, LCCS presentations are also very effective to organisations already with an interest in the law and criminal justice such as law students and police probationers to raise their awareness and confidence.

Example Community Groups

- Women's Institute/women's groups
- Senior citizen groups eg Probus clubs/University of the Third Age
- Religious Groups
- Business organisations
- Rotary/Round Table Groups
- District and Parish councils
- Minority/ethnic groups (assisted by interpreter when necessary. Welsh groups can have presentation in Welsh).
- Resident Associations and community forums
- Hearing impaired groups (signers are provided by the groups)

Groups with interest in criminal justice/community safety

These are often the groups first targeted as they can have potential influence over the public.

- Community Safety Partnerships
- Police Community Support Officers
- Police Cadets
- Neighbourhood Watch Groups
- Victim groups and Witness support
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Staff in CJS agencies

Young people (16+) and media

- 6th Form Colleges
- Law students
- Media/journalism course students



TIPS

Where the Probation Trust's Communications Officer is not actually taking on the role of the LCCS local co-ordinator, it makes sense to make use of their local knowledge as they often have very good contacts with local media and community groups which can serve to 'kick-start' the project.

Experience has shown it is wise to 'start small' and get agreement from magistrates and probation as to the time they are prepared to commit across a year. Maybe book only a small number of presentations in the first three to six months – it is better to walk before you can run and build confidence.

Often community groups calendars work far in advance – don't be surprised if the first engagement possible is for six months in advance. Often one event will lead to the offer of another.

Some areas give LCCS presentations as part of their community engagement activities as a follow-up to court house open days and Magistrate in the Community presentations.

Clearly there is no point finding audiences until presenters are trained and presented. On the other hand audiences may have talks booked a long way ahead and presenters will be keen to get started.

Evaluating impact of presentations

The impact of each LCCS presentation is simply tracked by the audience answering questions (printed on postcards) before the facts of a case have been fully explained, and then after. The numbers of those changing their mind as a result of presentation is then calculated.



TIPS

Presentations can be evaluated by use of questions printed on simple postcards which are handed out and collected (see appendix for sample) or longer surveys can be devised which link to other local community confidence objectives, or wider initiatives.

Simple data regarding attitudes can be captured and/or wider demographic and ethnicity data also sought.

Getting local interest and publicity

A perfect way to raise the profile of LCCS in an area is to consider holding a launch event to introduce the LCCS concept locally and to the media. Attendees can be invited to discuss what community groups might benefit from an LCCS presentation and how LCCS could help community confidence.

See appendix for a sample launch event programme.

In addition to a launch event, why not consider issuing a press release to your local media to let them know about LCCS and/or invite to the launch event. Sample 'launch' press release in the appendix.



TIPS

Photo-captions with photographs of presenters attending community group presentations can also be drip-fed through to the media on an on-going basis with the aim of getting publicity in local media.

Also send up-dates for local organisation newsletters

LCCS local costs

At a local level the main costs for rolling out LCCS are travel expenses for presenters to attend training sessions and community group meetings and miscellaneous costs such as photocopying, internet, phone/fax costs.

Some areas have also funded a launch event and the production of leaflets with locally tailored messages.

Costs are shared between probation and magistrates. The main cost is ½–1 day a week local co-ordinator and for probation in time, out from work. Miscellaneous costs may be met by probation or the LCJB. Magistrates' expenses are met by HMCS, again meeting their community engagement requirements. Some areas receive grants from LCJBs and other organisations.

Recognising local achievements

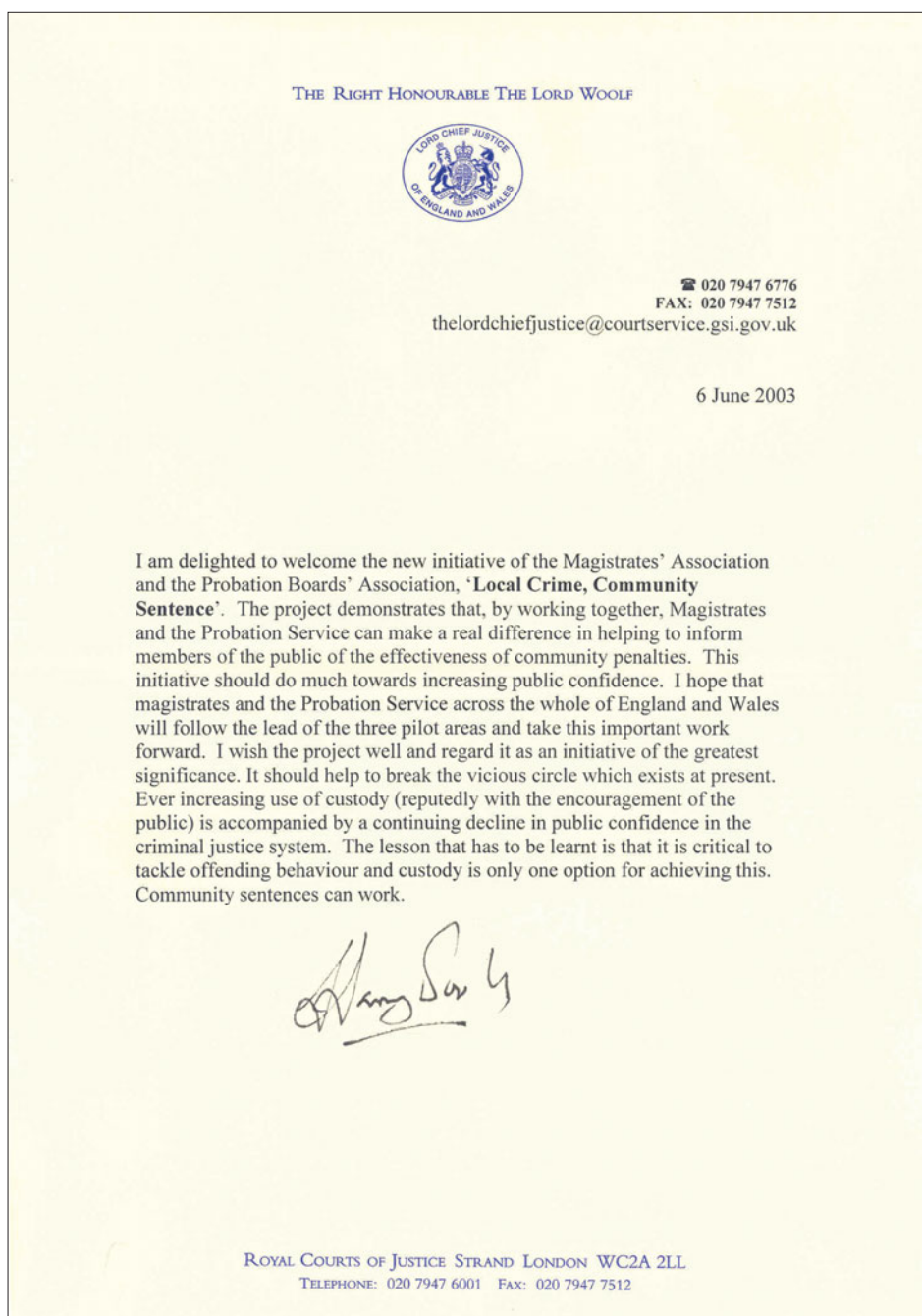
To celebrate and recognise the work done by the LCCS local teams around the country, national LCCS awards have been established and are presented annually by the Lord Chief Justice to individuals and teams for their outstanding contribution and innovation.

Local publicity of the award winners creates further opportunities to raise the local profile of LCCS in these areas too.

Chapter 4: Background to the Development of LCCS

In 2001, the Magistrates' Association was awarded a grant to pilot a public awareness-raising project from the 'Rethinking Crime and Punishment' initiative of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. It started with the modest idea of promoting public confidence in sentencing and in community sentences, following the success of the 'Magistrates in the Community' initiative. From the beginning it was known that this would be a project that would develop and evolve over time and the pilot period would be a learning process. At the outset however there was no idea of the future impact LCCS would have and how the momentum, ambition and scope would grow.

By the end of the pilot period in 2003 and in the light of a very positive evaluation report conducted by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, Lord Woolf, the then Lord Chief Justice wrote an open letter commending the LCCS project and urging magistrates and the probation throughout England and Wales to follow the lead of the three pilot areas and take LCCS forward.



LCCS Pilot Project

The pilot project was co-ordinated overall from the centre by a National Steering group made up of the project initiators under the chairmanship of Stephanie North (The Magistrates' Association and the Probation Boards' Association (now the Probation Association) and probation and magistrate representatives drawn from each of the three areas participating in the pilot as well as representation from the Association of Black Probation Officers.

Initially three areas were involved: Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Northumbria and Lancashire and each took a slightly different approach to the project so that the best model could be identified.

The initial idea of joint presentations – a magistrate and probation staff member working together – proved to be the core technique of the project but the steering group also saw possibilities to develop the project further by creating other 'tools' for the project; a radio project has been developed with the aid of Mike Thomson from the Radio 4 'Today' programme; a theatre script has been produced by the Geese Theatre Company for use with large-scale audiences where time and scale permits. The LCCS website was also commissioned and came on stream in the early spring of 2003 – aiming to be a source of materials and help for presenters and local coordinating teams alike and a way for the general public to get in touch.

The starting times for the three areas to come on board were staggered so that each area learnt from the previous one and each area was given three months to carry out the pilot and was charged with making 24 presentations each. The three areas were chosen for their differences in demographic make-up and took a different approach in setting up and administering the project locally – again, each one learning from the one before in terms of effective approaches to running the project. Each one identified its own particular choice of target audiences to approach and give presentations to. All areas produced a report and each time, the project moved a stage further on as materials and approaches were adapted.

The pilot was completed in 2003. By 2008, 27 other areas had rolled out local LCCS programmes.

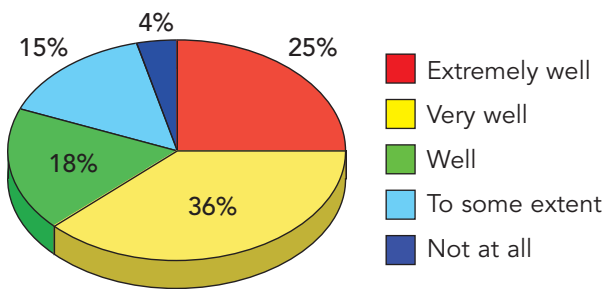
Pilot Evaluation

The evaluation by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies looked in some detail at the third pilot area (Lancashire) and the material tools of the project and analysed audience responses from two out of the three pilot areas (Northumbria and Lancashire).

Evaluating the pilot, the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies reported: *“It is clear that majorities of the audiences felt that the presentations had increased their knowledge about community sentences, the magistracy, the probation service, and sentencing generally. A majority felt that the presentations had increased their confidence in community sentences.”*

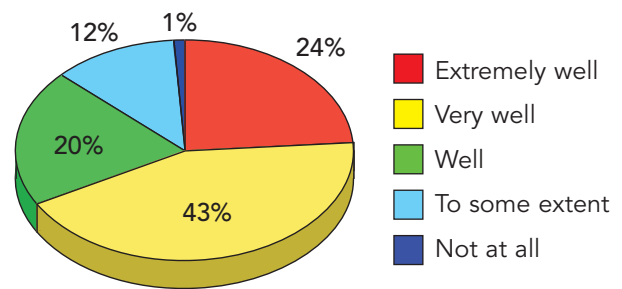
Audience results from Lancashire Pilot

Has this presentation helped you to understand the Magistrate’s role?



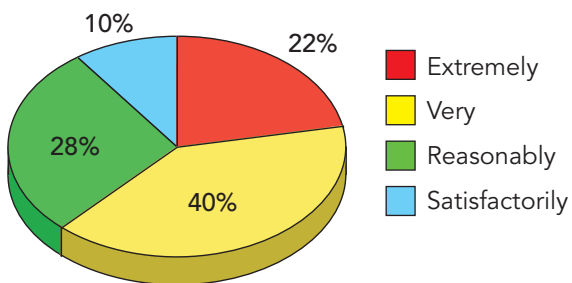
Total count: 101

Has this presentation helped you to understand the role of Probation?



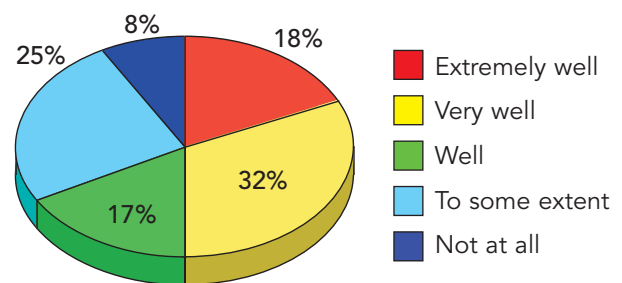
Total count: 101

Do you feel better informed about Community Sentences?



Total count: 96

Has this presentation increased your confidence in Community Sentences?



Total count: 95

The pilot was completed in 2003 and the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies report concluded “the end of the pilot period is not the end of the story and steering group hopes to develop it still further, adding more materials and other tools as areas sign up to be part of the LCCS family. ”

Magistrates and probation staff involved in pilot were very positive about what LCCS achieves:

"I am convinced that this sort of project brings balanced discussion about the CJS to the community"
LCCS Magistrate Presenter

"Very satisfying talking to the general public and enjoyed rising to the challenge of difficult questions"
LCCS Probation Presenter

National Evaluation 2008/9

The national evaluation of roll-out of LCCS was also then conducted in 2008 by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (see appendix for details). Their report showed equally successful results as the initial pilot area evaluation.

The report concluded that the LCCS project was successful "in achieving its aim of altering individual's opinions over whether an offender should go to prison or serve a community sentence".

Nearly two thirds – 64.6% of those who initially selected the prison option changed their minds after a presentation.

Conclusion: LCCS a Blueprint for Success

At the heart of LCCS is the challenge to change perceptions and increase confidence in sentencing and probation, as part of the wider need to raise public confidence generally in the criminal justice system.

The LCCS project is led by a steering group with representatives of the Magistrates' Association, the Probation Association and criminal justice advisers but it is driven locally by magistrates and probation working together. It is a tried and tested blueprint which other agencies could adopt as part of their community engagement programmes at either a national or local level (or both).

Under the Public Sector Agreement 23 for example, local authorities are challenged with the task to increase public confidence in local agencies dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter to people in their local area.

The LCCS model could also be successfully adopted by other stakeholders such as those working with young offenders, trading standards issues, or other areas such as acceptable behaviour contracts involving parents and schools.

National evaluation of LCCS has shown what a powerful tool, interactive presentations to community groups can be. Experience shows critical to the success of LCCS is a strong steering group, focused local co-ordinators and local stakeholders who work together closely.

We hope this guide will help others understand what this type of approach entails and use it as a blueprint to develop or incorporate into their own effective community engagement programmes.



Rachel Lipscomb
LCCS Chairman

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A. LCCS PRESENTATION TOOLKIT

Case-studies

There are six different LCCS case-studies in the form of fictional media reports that presenting teams can use.

Case-study 1: John Dunn – Fictional Media Report

40p

Daily News

INSIDE YOUR BUMPER ISSUE TODAY:



CREDIT CRUNCH COUPON

Two for one on pizzas. See Page 4

Weather P2

News P2-15

Features & TV P16-19

Community P20-24

Announcements P25

Classified P26-32

Sport P33-40

FEATURE OF THE DAY

Paying us b: Why offenders are busy working in Tubrey Woods



YOUR local newspaper – still only 40p

Heroin addict steals drugs after attacking 75-year-old patient and her paramedic

PENSIONER MUGGED IN BACK OF AMBULANCE

Frail Flora was not even safe during paramedic treatment



A frail pensioner was being treated by paramedics for a suspected broken wrist when jobless heroin addict, John Dunn, 23, attacked her and her paramedic.

Dunn made off with the ambulance medical bag after pouncing on 75-year-old Flora Johnson (pictured left) and paramedic Janet Finch, 35. Plucky local man Gerald Baker, 43, tackled Dunn but he got away. He was later arrested in Blackstone Street.

A shocked Flora said the incident was the most frightening moment of her life.

Turn to page 6, column 4

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Do you think that street crime is getting worse? We want YOUR views - see page 10 for our survey on Crime. How does your area measure up?

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Case-study 1: Notes for presenters

John Dunn

(age 23)

Summary of the facts

- 7.45pm, one evening, two paramedics (Janet Finch and Mike Dougal) responded to a 999 call to attend an injured elderly lady (Flora Johnson) in sheltered accommodation. She had fallen and had a suspected broken wrist.
- Janet was in the back of the ambulance attending to Flora. She was approached in a threatening manner by a man demanding drugs.
- Janet called for assistance from Mike.
- John Dunn, climbed into the back of the ambulance, pushed Janet on top of the woman being treated and grabbed the medical bag.
- Janet tried to grab the bag back and was punched in the face by John Dunn who then jumped out of the ambulance and ran off, pursued by Mike down the street.
- A member of the public witnessed the scene and tried to trip up John Dunn. John Dunn escaped but dropped the bag.
- Paramedics and witnesses gave good descriptions and police were alerted.
- John Dunn was found within hours and arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm and attempted theft.
- Janet sustained bruising to her face and the elderly victim had a graze to her forehead.

The Charge: John Dunn was charged with **assault causing actual bodily harm**

The purposes of sentencing

- 1 Punishment
- 2 Rehabilitation
- 3 Protection of the public
- 4 Reparation
- 5 Reduction in re-offending

In this case all 5 purposes are relevant

Court's initial assessment of seriousness

On the basis of facts alone the offence is so serious as to warrant a prison sentence.

- John Dunn attacked and caused injury and distress to a public servant – a paramedic – who works on behalf of the public.
- John Dunn caused distress to an elderly victim.
- Previous relevant convictions (theft might be relevant to a drugs offence).

In order to aid the decision of the court, a report on the offender is requested.

Report (made available to the court) on the offender

- One interview with the offender carried out.
- Prosecution documents seen.
- List of all previous convictions:
 1. Driving without insurance four years ago – resulting in a fine.
 2. Two shoplifting offences in the last two years:
 - the first resulting in a conditional discharge for 12 months and costs
 - the second resulting in a fine and costs.
- Liaison with drug treatment agency.
- Liaison with Social Services and Police Domestic Violence Unit.
- No previous contact with the probation service.

Offence analysis:

- Immediate guilty plea – John Dunn accepts he acted with disregard for the safety of the elderly woman and paramedic.
- Recognises the frightening impact on the victims.
- Explanation of prior events: He was suffering from drug withdrawal symptoms and acted on impulse.
- He is now thoroughly ashamed – never before behaved like this.
- Recognises that heroin is the root cause of his problems and has already arranged treatment.
- He is keen for an opportunity to apologise to the victims.

Offender background assessment

The aim of the report writing – to ensure fairness and consistency; written according to specified national standards.

The report writer will look for offence-related issues.

In this case particularly:

1. Education, training and employment.
2. Long term drug use.
3. Accommodation situation.
4. Attitudes, behaviour and relationships.

John Dunn:

- Has lived in the same area all of his life.
- Had a settled upbringing until age of 16.
- Gained 6 GCSE's prior to leaving school at 16.
- Started a GNVQ in catering.
- The sudden death of his parents in a road traffic accident when he was 17 had a dramatic effect – he abandoned the catering course, which led to series of short term jobs and periods of unemployment.
- Got into the wrong company and started on drugs as an escape from depression.

Current situation:

- Has held on to his present job for three months; despite spending the majority of his earnings on heroin.
- Has started to take action to deal with his drug taking – has referred himself to a drug counselling service.
- Is not mixing with previous drug-using friends.
- Has a settled home address.
- His employer knows of the court proceedings but despite this, is still prepared to keep him on.

Risks identified

- Medium risk of re-offending.
- Medium risk of serious harm to the public.
- High risk of self-harm through the drug taking.

Report Conclusions

- Due to the seriousness of the offence, prison is being considered by the court.
- John Dunn is well aware he could be sent to prison, but there are a number of factors which might influence this decision
- Prison would jeopardise his employment.
- Prison would break the link with the drug counselling he is already undertaking and put at risk his progress.
- Other options could be looked at given the purposes of sentencing – punishment, rehabilitation, protection of the public and reduction in re-offending.

Having looked at the levels of risk, the following is the suggested option:

A Community Order with three Requirements: The aim is to

1. Address the level of seriousness of the offence and the potential risk to the public.
2. Address the reasons behind the offending.

The Order could contain the following requirements:

- **Rehabilitation:** A requirement for drug treatment to be supervised by a drug specialist and he would be monitored to make sure he complies. Reports would be provided to the court on progress. His employer is supportive and is willing to release him for treatment;
- **Rehabilitation:** Supervision for a period of 12 months to keep track of his progress
- **Punishment/reparation:** A specified amount of unpaid work in the community (Community Payback) as directed and appropriate to the nature of the offence.

Additionally, the court may wish to consider further reparation – the court might want to consider financial compensation to the victims.

The decision of the court

Decision must be based on the requirements being the most suitable for the offender and the restriction of liberty imposed by the order must match the seriousness of the offence.

Magistrates' decision takes into account:

- The seriousness of the offence.

But also:

- The fact that John Dunn recognised the harm he had caused.
- The fact that he pleaded guilty straight away.
- The fact that the crime was not premeditated.
- That he has tried to address the problem of his drug taking himself.
- That he has held onto his job and the fact that his employers are willing to help.

The court decides:

Rather than going to prison, John Dunn will serve his sentence in the community. The court decides to make a Community Order for 12 months with three Requirements

1. **Punishment:** Unpaid work in the community (Community Payback) of 160 hours
2. **Rehabilitation:** Undertake drug rehabilitation requirement.
3. **Rehabilitation:** 12 months supervision by a responsible officer to monitor his progress

In addition to a contribution to prosecution costs, the court also requires him to pay compensation to the victims: £100 to the paramedic and £50 to the elderly woman.

It is made clear that if John Dunn does not comply with the order he will be brought back to court and the court would either increase the order or re-sentence him which would probably mean prison.

Case-study 2: Janice Ashton

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News

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FEATURE OF THE DAY
Paying us back: Why offenders are busy working in Tubney Woods

Young mother is chased down street by builders after snatching pension money

YOUNG MUM ATTACKS PENSIONER AT CASHPOINT



Attacker should be locked up says victim's daughter

A 71-year-old grandmother was attacked while using her local cashpoint this week. Jobless Janice Ashton, 24, snatched the handbag of Flora Budd (pictured left) in Newsome Street. The bag contained Flora's pension money. Local father and son builders, David and Fred Harris, caught Ashton as she ran down Featherstone Street. Shaken Flora was being comforted by her daughter, Alice Budd, 46. "It's shocking," said Alice. "And to think she's got kids. I think she should be locked up for what she did to my mum."

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Case-study 2: Notes for presenters

Janice Ashton

(age 24)

Summary of the facts

- 11am one morning, frail pensioner Mrs Flora Budd, having withdrawn cash from a local cash point, as she did at the same time every week, had her bag stolen by a young woman.
- She had placed it on the ground in order to adjust her scarf and the young woman snatched it.
- Several pedestrians witnessed the incident and shouted after the young woman as she ran away.
- Two workmen, who had seen what happened, caught her, recovered the bag and held on to her until the police arrived.
- The young woman identified herself to the police as Janice Ashton
- Witnesses told the police that she'd been seen loitering near the cash point for some time.
- Janice Ashton said that she was desperately short of money.
- The victim was very shaken but not physically harmed.

The charge: Janice Ashton was charged with **attempted theft**

The purposes of sentencing

- 1 Punishment
- 2 Rehabilitation
- 3 Protection of the public
- 4 Reparation
- 5 Reduction in re-offending

In this case all 5 purposes are relevant

Court's initial assessment of seriousness

On the basis of facts alone the offence is so serious as to warrant a prison sentence.

- The theft was pre-meditated.
- It caused distress to an elderly and vulnerable victim.
- Janice Ashton has no previous convictions of a similar nature

In order to aid the decision of the court, a report on the offender is requested.

Report (made available to the court) on the offender

- One interview with the offender.
- Prosecution documents seen.
- A list of all previous convictions – there are 2, both are for shoplifting:
 1. First offence she received a conditional discharge.
 2. For the second offence she was fined.
- Liaison with Social Services and Police Domestic Violence Unit.
- No previous contact with the probation service.

Offence analysis:

- She admits the offence and is very ashamed.
- The current offence was committed after her partner left, taking with him the benefit books.
- She reported this to the benefits agency but didn't get any immediate help, leaving her in dire financial straits.
- At the time of the offence, she and her children were under threat of eviction from her privately rented accommodation due to rent arrears.
- She admits planning the offence – waiting for more than an hour for an easy target.
- She is ashamed and shocked at her behaviour.

Offender background assessment

The aim of the report writing – to ensure fairness and consistency; written according to specified national standards.

The report writer will look for offence-related issues.

In this case particularly:

1. Education, training and employment.
2. Accommodation situation.
3. Attitudes, behaviour and relationships.
4. Financial management.

Janice Ashton:

- Had a secure upbringing.
- She has had various jobs since leaving school.
- Started a relationship with her partner when she was 17 and has three children, the youngest is three.
- Her partner has an alcohol problem and there are frequent rows, some involving domestic violence, with Janice as the victim.
- All previous offences were committed during the periods of separation from her partner.
- The turbulent relationship has led to her estrangement from her parents.
- Although she is on medication for anxiety, there are no problems with drugs or alcohol and in all respects she appears to be a competent and caring mother.

Current situation:

- Her benefits have been reinstated and she has negotiated repayment of the rent arrears with her landlord
- She plans to look for employment when all the children are of school age.

Risks identified

- Medium-high risk of re-offending.
- Medium risk of serious harm to the public.
- Low risk of self harm.

Report Conclusions

- Due to the seriousness of the offence, prison is being considered by the court.
- Janice is well aware she could be sent to prison but there are a number of factors which might influence this decision.
- She acknowledges the offence as serious, foolish and selfish, with potential to cause both physical and emotional harm to the elderly victim.
- The court may accept that her behaviour was related to her high levels of stress and anxiety prior to the offence and the breakdown of her relationship meant she was unable to cope.
- A prison sentence would probably result in her children being taken into care.
- Her accommodation would be lost, which would impact on the children.
- Due to the effect of her separation from her children, and as a victim of domestic violence, she could be vulnerable in prison and may become a victim.
- Other options could be looked at, given the purposes of sentencing: punishment, rehabilitation, reparation, protecting the public and reducing re-offending.

Having looked at the levels of risk, the following is the suggested option:

A Community Order with two Requirements: The aim is to

1. Address the level of seriousness of the offence and the potential risk to the public.
2. Address the reasons behind the offending.

The Order could contain the following requirements:

- **Rehabilitation:** A supervision requirement, where Janice will have to meet with a probation officer weekly and look at the reasons for her offending and the effects on her victim, and also to attend a women's programme.

- **Punishment/reparation:** A specified amount of unpaid work in the community (Community Payback). Given her domestic situation, the suggestion is for a shorter number of hours than would normally be given for this level of seriousness.

NOTE: Presenters should ensure that it does not sound as though women offenders are treated differently to men, but that specific circumstances are taken into account for ALL offences.

The decision of the court

Decision must be based on the requirements being the most suitable for the offender and the restriction of liberty imposed by the order must match the seriousness of the offence.

Magistrates' decision takes into account:

- The seriousness of the offence.
- The previous convictions.
- The fact that it was a selfish act, with no regard for the victim.

But also:

- There was evidence of genuine remorse.
- The fact that Janice Ashton recognised the harm she had caused.
- The fact that she pleaded guilty straight away.
- The stolen money was recovered.
- Her personal and family circumstances.

The court decides:

Rather than going to prison, Janice Ashton will serve her sentence in the community. The court decides to make a Community Order with two requirements:

1. **Punishment:** Unpaid work in the community (Community Payback) of 100 hours reduced from 150 because of the guilty plea.
2. **Rehabilitation:** 12 months under supervision by a responsible officer to address the issues identified in the report to the court.

The court makes an order for compensation of £50 to the victim but no court costs because of her financial situation.

It is made clear that if Janice Ashton does not comply with the order she will be brought back to court and the court would either increase the order or re-sentence her which would probably mean prison.

Case-study 3: Jacob Bell

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FEATURE OF THE DAY
Paying us back
Why offenders are busy working in Tubrey Woods

Police arrest 21-year-old after high-speed car chase through Pearson Estate



**JOY-RIDING YOBS
TERRORISE
LOCAL ESTATE
– AGAIN**

Resident's car stolen twice in six months

Local residents are worried that someone may soon be killed after yet another high-speed car chase through Pearson Estate. In the latest incident, 21-year-old Jacob Bell was arrested after crashing a stolen car into a wall. He and an accomplice had driven around the estate at high speed, before crashing and trying to flee the scene. Bell was arrested by police but the second man escaped. The car belonged to resident Jim Heath, who said it was the second time in six months that his car had been stolen. 'It's time this stopped

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Case-study 3: Presenter notes

Jacob Bell

(age 21)

Summary of the facts

- Ford Mondeo being driven at speed late at night was seen by the police.
- The Police followed.
- The car crashed into a wall and 21 year old Jacob Bell plus a passenger ran away from the scene.
- Officers gave chase and once arrested, Jacob Bell was identified but refused to give the police the name of his passenger who escaped arrest.
- He pleaded guilty when he first appeared in court.

The Charge: Jacob Bell was charged with **aggravated vehicle taking and driving whilst disqualified.**

The purposes of sentencing

- 1 Punishment
- 2 Rehabilitation
- 3 Protection of the public
- 4 Reparation
- 5 Reduction in re-offending

In this case all 5 purposes are relevant

Court's initial assessment of seriousness

On the basis of facts alone the offence is so serious as to warrant a prison sentence.

- Car was stolen.
- Jacob Bell left the scene.
- He caused criminal damage.
- He did not co-operate with the police.
- He has previous road traffic convictions.
- He ignored a court order (disqualification).
- Possible harm to other by not being insured.

In order to aid the decision of the court, a report on the offender is requested.

Report (made available to the court) on the offender

- One interview with the offender.
- Prosecution documents seen.
- Recently disqualified for two offences related to insurance and also speeding for which he was fined a total of £300 and disqualified for six months.
- Liaison with Social Services and Police Domestic Violence Unit.
- No previous contact with the probation service.

Offence analysis:

- Offence took place in the early hours of the morning.
- Jacob Bell states that it was the passenger's idea to steal the car.
- He had to drive it because his friend was over the drink/drive limit.
- Jacob had been recently disqualified for driving without insurance and speeding.
- No evidence of remorse for what he has done.
- Has a long-term obsession with cars – clearly linked to the pattern of previous offending.
- Previous periods of disqualification have had little impact on his behaviour.

Offender background assessment

The aim of the report writing – to ensure fairness and consistency; written according to specified national standards.

The report writer will look for offence-related issues. In this case particularly:

1. Indications of substance abuse
2. Education, employment and training
3. Accommodation situation
4. Attitudes, behaviour and relationships

Jacob Bell:

- He is estranged from his family.
- Appears isolated with few friends – he offends in order to win recognition and approval.
- Had a poor school attendance record. He left school at 16 with no qualifications and lacks basic reading, writing and numeracy skills;
- He is unable to accept the impact of the offence on the victim (sees car crime as 'victimless').

Current situation:

- Has been in regular employment – mainly car-related.
- No problems evident with substance abuse.
- Living in rented accommodation with other young men with similar patterns of behaviour.

Risks identified

- High risk of re-offending.
- High risk of serious harm the public.
- No evidence of self-harm although offending behaviour clearly places him and others at risk of injury.

Report Conclusions

- Due to the seriousness of the offence, prison is being considered by the court.
- Jacob Bell is well aware he could face prison.
- But there several factors that might influence this decision:
- Custody would further confirm his deviant self image.
- Custody would not address his social needs and employment.
- Other options could be looked at given the purposes of sentencing – punishment, rehabilitation, protection of the public and reduction in re-offending.

Having looked at the levels of risk, the following is the suggested option:

A Community Order with three Requirements: The aim is to

1. Provide deterrence that if he re-offends or breaches, he will face the risk of going to prison.
2. Address the reasons behind the offending.
3. Restrict his liberty during the hours when he is most likely to offend.

The Order could contain the following requirements:

- **Rehabilitation:** Supervision for 12 months to keep track of his progress and to encourage him to engage in more constructive skills.
- **Rehabilitation:** Attendance on the Enhanced Thinking Skills accredited programme
- **Punishment:** Night time curfew.

Additionally, the court may wish to consider further reparation – the court might want to consider financial compensation to the victims.

The decision of the court

Decision must be based on the requirements being the most suitable for the offender and the restriction of liberty imposed by the order must match the seriousness of the offence.

Magistrates' decision takes into account:

- The seriousness of the offence.
- The criminal damage.

But also:

- The need to address the reasons behind his offending.
- The early guilty plea.

The court decides:

The court decides that the offence is so serious that custody is justified. However, having regard to the need to address the reasons behind the offending and the early guilty plea, the court decides to make a Community Order with three requirements.

1. **Punishment:** he will be subject to a curfew between the hours of 7pm and 7am for three months.
2. **Rehabilitation:** 12 months supervision by a responsible officer to ensure he addresses the issues identified in the report.
3. **Rehabilitation:** Attendance on the Thinking Skills programme.

In addition to a contribution to prosecution costs, the court also requires him to pay £200 compensation for damage to the car and wall.

He will be disqualified from driving for 24 months.

It is made clear that if Jacob Bell does not comply with the order he will be brought back to court and the court would either increase the order or re-sentence him which would probably mean prison.

Case-study 4: Sam Goodwin

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FEATURE OF THE DAY
Paying us back
Why offenders are busy working in Tubney Woods

Dozens of drunken youths involved in fight outside Redford's Cavern nightclub

BINGE DRINKER HURTS TWO POLICE OFFICERS IN EARLY AM BRAWL

A senior police officer has criticised Redford's binge drinking culture after two officers were badly injured while trying to break up a mass brawl outside a High Street nightclub.

Chief Insp Bob Polly said a scuffle which started inside the Cavern Nightclub spilled on to the street in the early hours of Sunday. 'It turned into a full-scale brawl. One of my officers sustained a nasty back injury during this incident and it was only luck that saved her from more severe spinal damage.

'A second officer was kicked in the knee and groin while trying to arrest the drunken man responsible. Binge drinking by young people in Redford is increasing, resulting in violence on the streets and my officers are on the front line when it comes to containing these incidents.

'Young people who drink to excess and then fight on our streets pose a risk to the general public as well as my officers,' he said.

■ A 21-year-old local man, Sam Goodwin, has been charged with both assaults.



LEFT: The arrested man is led away by officers. ABOVE: One of the binge drinkers sleeps it off after the brawl. RIGHT: The fight started in the Cavern Nightclub and spilled outside

Case-study 4: Presenter notes

Sam Goodwin

(age 20)

Summary of the facts

- At 1.30am on Saturday 11th November, police officers were called to an incident in Redford High Street.
- When they arrived they found half a dozen young people fighting outside the Cavern Night Club. One male had a bleeding nose and another one had severe bruising consistent with having been kicked when on the ground.
- All the young people appeared to be very drunk.
- Sam Goodwin was identified by a witness as one of the group who had been egging others on although he did not take part in the fight.
- P C Beckett went to speak to the group who swore at her and refused to cooperate with the police officer.
- When warned about his behaviour by PC Beckett, Sam Goodwin spat at the officer and pushed her backwards onto a railing, causing bruising to her back.
- PC Jarvis then attempted to handcuff Sam, who kicked him in the knee and groin, causing bruising and soreness. PC Jarvis had to radio for assistance.
- Sam Goodwin was finally arrested, and was transported to Redford Central Police Station.
- He has previous convictions for being drunk and disorderly and S5 public order.

The Charge: Sam Goodwin was charged with

- (a) assaulting PC Jarvis causing actual bodily harm
- (b) assaulting PC Beckett causing actual bodily harm

The purposes of sentencing

- 1 To punish
- 2 To rehabilitate
- 3 To protect the public
- 4 To make reparation
- 5 To reduce re-offending

In this case all 5 purposes are relevant

Court's initial assessment of seriousness

On the basis of facts alone the offence is so serious as to warrant a prison sentence.

- Injury to two police officers
- The assault included kicking.
- He failed to respond to warnings.
- It was in a crowded public place
- He was very drunk

In order to aid the decision of the court, a report on the offender is requested.

Report (made available to the court) on the offender

- One interview with the offender.
- Prosecution documents.
- List of previous convictions.
 1. Drunk and disorderly 18 months ago resulting in a fine.
 2. Section 5 Public Order offence, for which he received a Fixed Penalty.
- No previous contact with the probation service.
- Court's Fines Office contacted regarding payment of compensation.
- Police Domestic Violence Unit contacted.
- Mother contacted for consent to install electronic equipment in the home.

Offence analysis:

- Pleaded guilty at first hearing. He had no recollection of the offence but accepted the prosecution version of events.
- He said that there had been an argument earlier with a group from the neighbouring housing estate who he did not like.
- Admitted that he had drunk at least 10 cans of strong cider that evening and half a bottle of vodka and was very drunk.
- He would be prepared to pay compensation or a fine if it was imposed.
- Realises that his actions were unacceptable.

Offender background assessment

The aim of report writing – to ensure fairness and consistency, written according to specified national standards

What the report writer looks for are offence-related issues.

In this case, particularly:

- 1 Alcohol issues
- 2 Aggression
- 3 Accommodation situation
- 4 Attitudes, behaviour and relationships

Sam Goodwin:

- Lives at home with his mother and two younger siblings who are still at school.
- He gained 4 passes at GCSE before leaving school at 16.
- Has been in work almost continually since he left school

Current situation:

- He has been working for the past 18 months as a fork lift driver in a warehouse.
- Has a settled home life.
- His employer is aware of the court proceedings but is still prepared to keep him on.
- He stated that he only drinks at weekends when he goes out with friends but then usually has some vodka and 12 to 14 cans of cider or lager on both Friday and Saturday nights.
- Sam has realised that heavy drinking is a road to ill health and for the last two weekends has stayed at home on Friday and Saturday evenings to break the link with his friends' drinking habits. A telephone conversation with his mother has confirmed this information. She does not condone Sam's behaviour but is supportive of his efforts and will continue to provide a home for him. There are no issues with behaviour in the home or relationships within the family. As the tenant of the property Mrs Goodwin would be content for Sam to be on an electronic tag at the home address.

Risks identified

- Medium risk of re-offending.
- Medium risk of serious harm to the public.
- Low risk of self-harm.

Report Conclusions

- Due to seriousness of the offences, prison is being considered by the court.
- Sam Goodwin is aware that he could be sent to prison.
- He has demonstrated by his subsequent behaviour an awareness of the unacceptability of his behaviour and of some of the factors which contributed to it.
- He pleaded guilty at the first opportunity.
- He has recognised that his alcohol use has been problematic and taken steps to distance himself from his drinking peer group.
- He is in stable employment, which remains open to him as things stand but might be jeopardised by a period in custody.

Having looked at the level of risk and the pattern of offending, the following is the suggested option:

A Community Order with three Requirements: The aim is to

- 1 Reflect the seriousness of the offences.
- 2 Address the reasons behind the offending; alcohol binge drinking, peer pressure and lack of victim awareness.

The Order could contain the following requirements:

- **Punishment:** unpaid work (Community Payback) or a curfew.
- **Rehabilitation:** Supervision for 12 months.
- **Rehabilitation:** Requirement to attend the offender substance abuse programme.

Additionally, the court may wish to consider further reparation – the court might want to consider financial compensation to the victims.

The decision of the court

Decision must be based on the requirements being the most suitable for the offender and the restriction of liberty imposed by the order must match the seriousness of the offence.

Magistrates' decision takes into account:

- The seriousness of the offence.
- The injuries caused to the officers.
- That it was a prolonged incident involving more than one officer.

But also:

- He has taken steps to control his binge drinking.
- He has demonstrated remorse.
- He pleaded guilty at the first hearing.

Therefore rather than going to prison, Sam Goodwin will serve his sentence in the community.

The court decides:

Rather than going to prison, Sam Goodwin will serve his sentence in the community. The court decides to make a Community Order with three Requirements:

- 1 **Punishment:** Curfew, from 7pm to 6am, for a period of 3 months on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. (Reduced because of the guilty plea)
- 2 **Rehabilitation:** Supervision for 12 months.
- 3 **Rehabilitation:** Attendance on the offender substance abuse programme.

He will also be required to pay £150 compensation to each police officer and contribute to prosecution costs.

It is made clear that if Sam Goodwin does not comply with the order he will be brought back to court again and the court would increase the order or re-sentence him which would probably mean prison.

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FEATURE OF THE DAY

Paying us back
Why offenders are busy working in Tubrey Woods



Shame of local disabled man caught drink-driving in a specially-adapted car

DISABLED DRIVER IS 3X OVER LEGAL LIMIT

Witness says it's lucky no-one was killed



LEFT: Charles Dart
MAIN PICTURE: The scene of his arrest on the corner of Turnham and Wheat Street, Radford

A witness who saw a disabled motorist racing through a red light on the corner of Turnham and Wheat Street in Radford said it was a wonder no-one was killed.

Mary Henshall, 46, said she saw the driver, identified as 24-year-old Charles Dart, arguing with police after his arrest. 'He was so drunk,' said Mary, 'he could have killed someone.'

Dart, of Marsham Road, was arrested for exceeding the legal drink-drive limit after being stopped by police late on Thursday night. Dart was driving a specially-adapted car when

Turn to page 6, column 4

We think it's shameful that nothing is being done. It's time to get tough...

Do you think that street crime is getting worse? We want YOUR views - see page 10 for our survey on Crime. How does your area measure up?

Case-study 5: Presenter notes

Charles Dart

(age 24)

Summary of the facts

- One evening, just before midnight, Charles Dart, a 24 year old man, was at his home drinking alone.
- He received a call from his girlfriend. She is a nurse and had just finished a late-shift at the local hospital. Her lift had let her down and she had no money for a taxi. She was panicking about being alone late at night with no way of getting home.
- Charles Dart got into his car and drove off to collect her.
- Driving in excess of the speed limit, he was seen by a police patrol car driving through a red light.
- Police pursued him and pulled him over.
- At first he refused to cooperate.
- Police required him to take a roadside breath test, which was positive.
- He was arrested and at the police station, he was found to have 143 microgrammes (just over four times above the legal limit of 35 microgrammes alcohol in the breath).
- He admitted the offence and was charged.

The charge: Charles Dart is charged with **driving with excess alcohol**.

The purposes of sentencing

- 1 Punishment
- 2 Rehabilitation
- 3 Protection of the public
- 4 Reparation
- 5 Reduction in re-offending

In this case, purposes 1, 2, 3 and 5 are relevant

Court's initial assessment of seriousness

On the basis of facts alone the offence is so serious as to warrant a prison sentence.

- The excess alcohol meant his ability to drive was seriously impaired.
- He was driving with excessive speed and drove through a red light.
- Initially uncooperative with the police but pleaded guilty when charged.
- He has a previous conviction of a similar nature.

In order to aid the decision of the court, a report on the offender is requested.

Report (made available to the court) on the offender

- One interview with the offender.
- Sight of all prosecution documents.
- A list of all previous convictions – there is one relevant conviction for excess alcohol three years ago when he was disqualified for 12 months and fined.
- Liaison with Social Services and Police Domestic Violence Unit.
- No previous contact with the probation service.

Offence analysis:

- Explanation of prior events: the call from his girlfriend who sounded very frightened meant that he didn't stop to think about the consequences of driving after having been drinking.
- He is disabled, having lost a leg as a result of an industrial accident, and has recently purchased a specially adapted car and wasn't totally familiar with driving it.
- He didn't cooperate fully with the police at the time because he was worried about this girlfriend.
- His girlfriend confirmed his story and the fact that she was frightened and had asked him to pick her up quickly.

Offender background assessment

The aim of the report writing – to ensure fairness and consistency; written according to specified national standards.

The report writer will look for offence-related issues.

In this case, particularly

1. Indications that he drinks too much
2. Accommodation

Charles Dart:

- He left school at 16 with 4 GCSEs and got a job as an engineering apprentice with a local firm.
- He became disabled having lost a leg at the knee in an industrial accident when he was 18.
- The accident ended his career prospects with the company.
- He started to drink heavily following the accident, seeing his life as seriously curtailed as a result of it.

Current situation:

- A local disability support group had encouraged him to sign up for a course in computing at which he has made good progress to date.
- He has recently acquired a new job but is dependent on the car to get him to and from work.
- He has recognised that he has an alcohol problem and that his drinking is a means of dealing with his circumstances.
- His wish to be independent following the accident meant he wasn't willing to accept help from his family.
- Now he recognises he needs support.
- He recognises that he will be disqualified but his family is willing to help him with his transport needs.
- He is in a stable relationship and lives with his girlfriend.

Risks identified

- High risk of re-offending.
- Medium risk of serious harm to the public.
- Some Risk of accidental self harm due to the nature of his offending

Report Conclusions

- Due to the seriousness of the offence, prison is being considered by the court.
- Charles Dart is well aware he could be sent to prison.
- But there are a number of factors that might influence this decision:
- Prison would jeopardise his new job.
- A job and his independence are linked to his ability to cope with his disability.
- Other options could be looked at given the purposes of sentencing – punishment, rehabilitation, protection of the public and reduction of re-offending.

Having looked at the levels of risk, the following is the suggested option:

A Community Order with three Requirements: The aim is to

1. Address the level of seriousness of the offence and the potential risk to the public.
2. Address the reasons behind the offending.

The Order could contain the following requirements:

- **Rehabilitation:** attendance on the Drink Impaired Drivers programme
- **Rehabilitation:** Supervision for 12 months to look at the reasons for his alcohol intake.
- **Punishment/Reparation:** through a specified amount of unpaid work in the community (Community Payback).

The decision of the court

Decision must be based on the requirements being the most suitable for the offender and the restriction of liberty imposed by the order must match the seriousness of the offence.

Magistrates' decision takes into account:

- The seriousness of the offence,

But also:

- That he pleaded guilty when charged.
- That he has recognised that he has an alcohol problem but that the way he has been coping with the impact of the industrial accident is destructive.

The court decides:

Rather than going to prison, Charles Dart will serve his sentence in the community. The court decides to make a Community Order with three requirements:

1. **Punishment:** Unpaid work in the community (Community Payback) 60 hours.
2. **Rehabilitation:** To attend a drink impaired drivers programme.
3. **Rehabilitation:** Supervision by a responsible officer for a period of 12 months to focus on his alcohol consumption and to monitor his progress.

Taking into account that his previous excess alcohol offence was within the last 10 years, Charles Dart will be disqualified for four years with immediate effect.

He will also be required to contribute to the prosecution costs.

It is made clear that if Charles Dart does not comply with the order he will be brought back to court and the court would either increase the order or re-sentence him which would probably mean prison.

40p *Daily*
News

YOUR local newspaper – still only 40p

INSIDE YOUR BUMPER ISSUE TODAY:



CREDIT CRUNCH COUPON
Two for one on pizzas. See Page 4

Weather P2
News P2-15
Features & TV P16-19
Community P20-24
Announcements P25
Classified P26-32
Sport P33-40

FEATURE OF THE DAY
Paying us back
Why offenders are busy working in Tubney Woods

Muslim shoved to the ground after suffering racial abuse in unprovoked attack

EX-ARMY MAN IN RACIST FIGHT IN PUB CAR PARK

Former soldier is facing prison after incident outside Swan Inn



Recovering: Ikbal Malik at home yesterday

A former soldier was arrested for assaulting a young Muslim outside a pub.

Arthur Wilson, 35, of Stern Avenue, is accused of knocking Ikbal Malik, 20, to the ground in the Swan Inn car park last Friday evening. The victim's friends, Salim Khan, 21, and Shana Wilson, 19, who were with Mr Malik when it happened, said the attack was unprovoked and that Mr Wilson had shouted racist insults at Mr Malik before pushing him to the ground. The pub is popular with locals and the landlord, Peter Raison, said that this type of incident was

Turn to page 6, column 4

We think it's shameful that nothing is being done. It's time to get tough...

Do you think that street crime is getting worse? We want YOUR views - see page 10

Case-study 6 Presenter Notes

Arthur Wilson

(age 35)

Summary of the facts

- Just after last orders were called on a Friday night, Police were called to the car park of the Swan Inn.
- A violent argument had taken place between Arthur Wilson and Ikbal Malik, who sustained bruising above his left eye.
- Wilson appeared to have been drinking and it was alleged that he pushed the victim to the ground.
- It was reported that the argument followed Arthur Wilson coming out of the pub to see Ikbal Malik leaning against Arthur Wilson's car (a Porsche), talking to his friends.
- It was alleged that Arthur Wilson shouted at Ikbal Malik to get away from his car, using offensive and racist language.
- This escalated into a violent argument.
- Arthur Wilson was arrested.

The Charge: Arthur Wilson was charged with **racially aggravated common assault**.

He pleaded not guilty, but the case was proved against him.

The purposes of sentencing

- 1 Punishment
- 2 Rehabilitation
- 3 Protection of the public
- 4 Reparation
- 5 Reduction in re-offending

In this case all 5 purposes are relevant

Court's initial assessment of seriousness

On the basis of facts alone the offence is so serious as to warrant a prison sentence.

- The motivation for the offence was racial.
- The offence took place in a public place and there were other people present; (it was recorded on CCTV).

In order to aid the decision of the court, a report on the offender is requested.

Report (made available to the court) on the offender

- One interview with the offender carried out.
- Prosecution documents seen.
- A list of previous convictions seen: there is one: a football-related offence for which he received a fine and a three year banning order in respect of the football ground, currently in force.
- Liaison with Social Services and Police Domestic Violence Unit.
- No previous contact with the probation service.

Offence analysis:

- Arthur Wilson said the argument started because he didn't like Ikbal Malik leaning on his car. He referred to the victim as a 'fucking Paki';
- He admits shouting at the victim to get away from the car;
- The victim ignored him so he admits losing his temper but denies assaulting him or using racist language.

Offender background assessment

The aim of the report writing – to ensure fairness and consistency; written according to specified national standards.

The report writer will look for offence-related issues.

In this case particularly:

1. Indications of substance abuse.
2. Attitudes, behaviour and relationships.
3. Anger management.
4. Education and training.

Arthur Wilson:

- Wilson has one son (8 years old) by a previous marriage. Since his ex-wife's recent death, he has sole custody of his son.
- His previous conviction suggests he has difficulty in controlling his temper.
- Although he initially denied the assault charge, he does finally admit the assault but, he sees the event as trivial
- He has no understanding of the impact of the racist language used on the victim.
- He gave clear indications that the ethnic background of the victim was a factor in the increased level of aggression.
- Arthur Wilson left school when he was 16 without any formal qualifications.
- Substantial time served in the army with exemplary record, and service in the Gulf resulted in his being decorated.
- During this time he witnessed colleagues killed due to actions of a suicide bomber.
- Subsequently, personal impact of his time in the Gulf led to voluntary discharge from the army.
- Since leaving the army he has been in regular employment and is now working as a self-employed haulage contractor.
- His haulage business sponsors and supports his son's local community football team.
- Alcohol use is infrequent and limited to social use.
- His basic reading and writing skills suggest that there may be difficulties in this area, despite his good employment record.

Current situation:

- Is in employment.
- Is undertaking voluntary work.
- Has sole custody of his son.
- Has strong community links.
- He is in stable accommodation – own home.

Risks identified

- Risk of re-offending is medium.
- Risk of serious harm to specific sections of the public is high.
- Low risk of self-harm

Report Conclusions

- Due to the seriousness of the offence, prison is being considered by the court;
- Arthur Wilson is well aware he could be sent to prison;
- But there are a number of factors that might influence this decision:
- The racist attitudes behind his offending would be more effectively addressed within the community.
- The impact of prison on his son – who would probably be taken into care as there is no other immediate family;
- Prison would put his business and home at risk (he would be unable to keep up the mortgage payments while in prison).

- Other options could be looked at given the purposes of sentencing – punishment, rehabilitation, reparation, protection of the public and reducing re-offending;

Having looked at the levels of risk and the pattern of offending, the following is the suggested option:

A Community Order with three Requirements: The aim is to

1. Address the level of seriousness of the offence and the potential risk to the public.
2. Address and challenge the discriminatory attitudes and beliefs that led to the offence.

Additionally, the court may wish to consider further reparation – the court might want to consider financial compensation to the victim.

The Order could contain the following requirements:

- **Rehabilitation:** Supervision, one of the purposes of which would be to address the prejudiced attitudes of the offender.
- **Rehabilitation:** An appropriate programme to address the specific issues behind the offending.
- **Punishment/Reparation:** unpaid work in the community (Community Payback) as appropriate, given the nature of the offending.

Additionally, the court may wish to consider further reparation – the court might want to consider financial compensation to the victim to reinforce the seriousness of the offence.

The decision of the court

Decision must be based on the requirements being the most suitable for the offender and the restriction of liberty imposed by the order must match the seriousness of the offence.

Magistrates' decision takes into account:

- The seriousness of the offence – an unprovoked racist attack.
- The previous offence.
- The lack of remorse expressed.
- No understanding of the impact of his actions on the victim,

But also:

- Current voluntary work being carried out in the community.
- Impact on the care of his son.
- He was convicted after trial so there is no credit for a guilty plea.

The court decides:

Rather than sending Arthur Wilson to prison, he will serve his sentence in the community. The court decides to make a Community Order with three Requirements.

1. **Punishment:** Unpaid work in the community (Community Payback) of 180 hours – (this could have been reduced to 120 hours if he had pleaded guilty);
2. **Rehabilitation:** 12 months supervision by a responsible officer to ensure he addresses the issues identified in the report
3. **Rehabilitation:** Requirement to attend a programme to address racist attitudes and behaviour.

In addition to contributing to the court costs, the court also orders him to pay compensation of £100 to the victim in recognition of the injury caused, raised to £150 because of racial aggravation.

It is made clear that if Arthur Wilson does not comply with the order he will be brought back to court and the court would either increase the order or re-sentence him which would probably mean prison.

FACTFILE SUPPORTING NOTES/'DID YOU KNOW?' HANDOUT

Notes or handouts made up of noteworthy national and local facts and figures (updated from relevant websites and research sources) are compiled to support the local presentations. Often audiences are surprised by the statistics so a selection are frequently also quoted as part of the presentation. A template can be used and adapted locally and updated.

Statistics include for example:

- Number of offenders probation supervises in a year in a local area
- The amount of unpaid work carried out by offenders in a local area
- Numbers of magistrates' courts and magistrates in a local area and the range and numbers of cases they deal with
- Adult re-offending rates (for custodial sentences and community penalties)
- Crime trends and levels of different types of crimes (and if relevant to the audience pertinent differences between gender)

Relevant statistics and 'Did You Know?' type facts can be gained from some of the following websites and links:

- www.judiciary.gov.uk.
- www.magistrates-association.org.uk
- www.probationassociation.co.uk
- www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk
- www.victimsupport.org.uk

Recently published research (some sources below may only remain pertinent for a year or so).

- <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research.htm>

Specifically useful may be:

- Public confidence in the Criminal Justice System (findings from the British Crime Survey 2002-2008) <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/confidence-cjs-british-crime-survey.pdf>
- Community Payback and local criminal justice engagement initiatives <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/community-payback-research.pdf>

Recently published (routinely collected) statistics, <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm>

Specifically useful may be:

- Conviction Histories of Offenders <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/conviction-histories-offenders.htm>
- Reoffending by adults <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm>
- Reoffending by juveniles <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm>
- Offender management caseloads <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm>
- The Story of the Prison Population 1995-2009 <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prison-population-story.htm>

Crime statistics (from the British Crime Survey) are available from the link: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/whatsnew1.html> (published on 15 July)

Anyone who wants to subscribe to a weekly round-up of recent research and announcements should drop a line to justicepolicygroup@justice.gsi.gov.uk asking to be added to the circulation.

SAMPLE HANDOUT ON COMMUNITY ORDERS: WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SENTENCE

Community Order

The community sentence is called the **Community Order**. There are 12 possible 'Requirements'. Judges and magistrates may choose a single Requirement or combination of Requirements depending on the seriousness of the offence and the potential risk of harm the offender poses.

The 12 Requirements are:

- **Unpaid Work** – between 40 and 300 hours, to be completed in 12 months. Each year probation staff in the [AREA] supervise about [NUMBER] hours of Unpaid Work by offenders in local communities. Projects include creating gardens, refurbishing community centres, carrying out environmental improvement work, painting schools and removing graffiti. This work is called 'Community Payback'.
- **Activity** – this could consist of packages of work on Basic Skills, Employment, Training and Education or include activities leading to reparation, such as Restorative Justice. The aggregate number of days specified for the 'activity' can be up to 60.
- **Programme** – aimed at changing offending behaviour. These are Ministry of Justice accredited programmes, such as 'Think First' designed to address the attitudes and patterns of behaviour that contribute to offending. Programmes are also available for sex offenders, domestic violence perpetrators or those who misuse drugs.
- **Prohibited activity** – the offender must refrain from participating in activities on a specified day or days or during a period set by the court.
- **Curfew** (*usually with electronic monitoring*) – the offender must remain for certain periods at a specified place; the order may last for up to 6 months and may be for up to 12 hours a day.
- **Exclusion Order** (*usually with electronic monitoring*) – from certain areas; the offender may not enter a specified place for a period up to two years.
- **Residence Order** – the offender must reside at a specified place.
- **Mental Health Treatment** – the court must be satisfied that the mental condition of the offender is such that this kind of treatment is needed and that the offender is susceptible to it. *This Requirement may only be given with the consent of the offender.*
- **Drug Rehabilitation** – the offender is required to have treatment to reduce or eliminate his/her dependency on or propensity to misuse drugs and provide samples for drug testing on a random basis. *This Requirement may only be given with the consent of the offender.*
- **Alcohol Treatment** – the offender is required to attend treatment to reduce or eliminate dependency on alcohol. *This Requirement may only be given with the consent of the offender.*
- **Supervision** – requires the offender to attend additional appointments with the National Probation Service or another nominated responsible officer. The purpose of supervision is to support the work undertaken through other Requirements.
- **Attendance Centre** (*for offenders under 25 years of age*) – the offender must attend a specified attendance centre.

Further Information:

[Probation Area]

Website

If you would like an interactive presentation on how magistrates and probation work together, visit www.lccs.org.uk

Or contact: [Local Co-ordinator Name and Details]

Other penalties courts can impose:


- Compensation
- Costs
- Confiscation/Destruction Order
- Driving Disqualification, Penalty Points

SAMPLE PRESENTATION EVALUATION POSTCARDS

One side of the first postcard is used at the beginning of the presentation and then after the discussion the audience is asked to turn over. A second postcard is used to evaluate the presentation overall.

CARD A

"Magistrates and probation working together with your community to improve public confidence in sentencing and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community penalties."



HAVE YOUR SAY

Should this person go to prison?


Yes No

Now should this person go to prison?

Yes No

CARD B

"Magistrates and probation working together with your community to improve public confidence in sentencing and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community penalties."



The Probation Service is effective at preventing criminals from re-offending

Strongly agree Tend to agree Neither agree nor disagree Tend to disagree Strongly disagree

The courts are effective at punishing offenders convicted of a crime

Strongly agree Tend to agree Neither agree nor disagree Tend to disagree Strongly disagree

The criminal justice system as a whole is effective

Strongly agree Tend to agree Neither agree nor disagree Tend to disagree Strongly disagree

Overall, how do you rate our presentation?

Very good Fairly good Neither good nor poor Fairly poor Very poor

B. SETTING UP LCCS LOCALLY

Sample letter to recruit presenters
Sample launch event programme
Sample press release

SAMPLE PROBATION CHIEF EXECUTIVE LETTER TO RECRUIT PRESENTERS

Local Crime Community Sentence (LCCS) in.....

"Magistrates and probation working together with your community to improve public confidence in sentencing and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community penalties."

New to the Local Crime Community Sentence (LCCS) project aims to boost community confidence about the way crime is being tackled.

This lively audience participation project provides interactive talks to local public groups given by a magistrate and member of probation working together as a team. It offers a valuable insight into how community sentences are effective in punishing the offender, cutting reoffending and paying back to the community. LCCS is an accredited national scheme, delivered locally and has been evaluated by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies at King's College, London.

It is vital to ensure that the public inhave confidence in community sentences. They need to understand what they involve and why they are effective in keeping crime down in local communities. Merseyside Probation Trust and local Magistrates have a shared duty to challenge misconceptions about community sentences including that they are somehow a lesser alternative to prison. Community sentences are, in fact, very demanding on the offender and often more effective at cutting reoffending than a short-term prison sentence.

LCCS presentations last about an hour and they are available to all sections of the community. This is not about reaching only those who are already supportive of our work and LCCS is particularly keen to reach groups where our level of **community engagement** needs building up. It also keen to develop **staff engagement** by delivering LCCS presentations to staff in partner agencies so they have a better understanding of what we do. The only criterion is that the group concerned is asked to issue an invitation before the presentation can happen.

The success of the LCCS project will depend on the volunteer probation staff and Magistrates essential to run it. They will need a sound working knowledge of the Criminal Justice System, a good presentation style and, above all, a sense of humour. Full training and support is given and you need to know that most presentations take place outside normal working hours. Nevertheless, they are fun and professionally rewarding events.

If you want to find out more about becoming a presenter, please contact the LCCS Co-ordinator on ...

SAMPLE LAUNCH EVENT PROGRAMME

Local Crime Community Sentence Merseyside Launch

Programme of Events

09:30 – 10:00	Registration and Coffee
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and Opening Address John Stafford, CEO Merseyside Probation Trust
10:10 – 10:20	LCCS National Perspective Rachel Lipscomb JP OBE, National Chair LCCS
10:20 – 10:30	HMCS Local Perspective Paul McGladrigan Area Director of Her Majesty's Court Service for Cheshire and Merseyside
	Vote of thanks to the volunteer Magistrates and Probation Presenters
10:30 – 10:40	LCCS Merseyside Agreement Signing Ceremony John Stafford, Chief Executive Officer, Merseyside Probation Trust Rachel Lipscomb JP OBE, National Chair LCCS Paul McGladrigan Area Director, Cheshire and Merseyside, Her Majesty's Court Service
10:40 – 11:30	Interactive LCCS Presentation Norman Watton JP and Julie Aney Probation Officer
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee and Marketplace Stands in the Becher's Suite
12:00 – 13:00	LCCS Delegate discussion* and Feedback Steve Chambers, Assistant Chief Officer, Merseyside Probation Trust
13:00 -13:45	Lunch

* Attendees were invited to discuss what community groups might benefit from an LCCS presentation and LCCS could help community confidence. Key points were feedback by each group at the event.

SAMPLE 'LAUNCH' PRESS RELEASE

Embargo until 09:00 hrs 11 March 2010

PRESS RELEASE

Kathy Felton-Aksoy, Communications Officer,
Merseyside Probation Trust, 4th Floor, Burlington House,
Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 0PJ
Tel: 0151-920 9201 Ext. 211 Fax: 0151-949 0528
Mobile: 07745 563 505



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



NATIONAL
PROBATION
SERVICE

MERSEYSIDE
PROBATION
TRUST



PROBATION CHIEF WELCOMES LAUNCH OF LOCAL CRIME COMMUNITY SENTENCE PROJECT

John Stafford, Chief Executive, Merseyside Probation Trust says:

"New to Merseyside, the Local Crime Community Sentence (LCCS) project aims to boost local community confidence about the way crime is being tackled."

This lively audience participation project provides interactive talks to local public groups by a Magistrate and Probation Officer. It gives a valuable insight into how community sentences are effective in punishing the offender, cutting reoffending and paying back to the community.

Members of the media are invited to attend the launch event for LCCS Merseyside at 9.30 am on Thursday, 11th March 2010 at the Valentines Suite, Aintree Racecourse. A flier for the event is also attached.

John Stafford, Chief Executive Officer of Merseyside Probation Trust said:

"I want to ensure that the public in Merseyside have confidence in community sentences and understand what they involve, and why they are effective in keeping crime down in their communities. Merseyside Probation Trust and local Magistrates have a shared duty to challenge misconceptions about community sentences, particularly those that view them as a soft option. Community sentences are very demanding on the offender and often more effective at cutting reoffending than a short term prison sentence."

"We are working hard to put this message across and welcome the commitment of Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Magistrates' Association and Magistrates from across Merseyside, the Police and all the other organisations involved in this role. LCCS on Merseyside carries out important and innovative work that demonstrates and promotes community sentences as a vital part of a healthy criminal justice system."

LCCS presentations last about an hour and they are available free of charge to all sections of the community. If you belong to a community group that wants to look behind the newspaper headlines to find out how the Courts and Probation really tackle crime, and if you want to have your say about how to deal with offenders, contact the LCCS Co-ordinator on Merseyside, Paddy Dodgson, telephone 0151 920 9201, or email lccs@merseyside.probation.gsi.gov.uk to book your presentation.

Note to editors

The reoffending rate following a short custodial sentence is 59.7%. These short sentences can lead to problems with employment, housing and family relations and there is insufficient time to tackle the causes of an offender's behaviour. The reoffending rate following a community sentence is 37.9 percent. That is why we want to see greater use made of the best community sentences which for some offenders could be more effective at reducing re-offending than short custodial sentences.

Merseyside Probation Trust supervises adult offenders on Community Orders and those released on licence from prison. On any given day, staff will be supervising:

3,300 Community Orders

1,600 Suspended Sentence Orders

1,000 Offenders release on licence from prison

2,000 Prisoners

Staff also write approximately 7,000 court reports per year in order to assist sentencing decisions.

Each year offenders on Community Payback (unpaid work) save Merseyside communities over £1 million in unpaid labour. There are over 90 Community Payback projects running across Merseyside at any one time.

The Trust is a multi-award winning organisation, having received many national, regional and international accolades for its work. Its pioneering and creative approach has drawn attention from as far afield as Australia, and staff from Merseyside have participated in the training of probation staff in countries across the world.

Merseyside Probation Trust and its partners on the Merseyside Criminal Justice Board are fully committed to the successful delivery of the Government's Public Service Agreement number 23 to, 'Make Communities Safer'.

For further information about the Merseyside Probation Trust, please visit our website at:www.merseysideprobationtrust.org

END

C. LCCS PATRONS AND NATIONAL STEERING GROUP

LCCS Founding Patron

The Rt Hon The Lord Woolf of Barnes

LCCS Patrons

The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, The Rt Hon The Lord Judge of Draycote

The Rt Hon The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Baroness Linklater of Butterstone (Trustee of Esmée Fairburn Foundation)

LCCS National Steering Group

Rachel Lipscomb OBE JP

George Barrow

Sally Dickinson

Ann Flintham JP

John Fassenfelt JP

Stan Hardy

Steve Hemming

Honor Juniper JP

Neil Lampert

Jim Leach

Julian Roberts

Robert Ritchie

Jeanette Whitford

Yasmin Doyle

LCCS Chairman

Head, Criminal Justice Group Communications

Chief Executive, Magistrates Association

Communications Manager, Magistrates' Association

Deputy Chairman, Magistrates Association

Chair, West Yorkshire Probation Trust

Chief Executive, Humberside Probation Trust

Former Board Member, Thames Valley Probation

PR & Communications Manager, Probation Association

LCCS National Co-ordinator

Centre for Criminology, Oxford University

Criminal Justice Reform Directorate

Retired Probation Chief Officer

LCCS NSG Administrator, Probation Association

D. LCCS NATIONAL EVALUATION REPORT

**Independent Evaluation of the fifth year of LCCS:
July 2008 – June 2009**

Report on the national results

**by Dr Roger Grimshaw and Felicia Silberhorn-Armantrading
Centre for Crime & Justice Studies, King's College London
for and on behalf of the LCCS National Steering Group**

December 10 2009



Introduction

The aims of the LCCS presentations are to inform the audience about community sentences and to provide information that will lead to a change of view among those who initially favour the use of imprisonment for the case study discussed.

The main objectives of the analysis are to describe the audience members, to measure the changes of opinion among them and to determine if there are differences in the findings from those reported in the previous year. In addition, because a new questionnaire was introduced during the year, we should examine what it tells us about the attitudes it has measured.

Time scale

The events at which questionnaires were completed lay within the period from June 2008 to July 2009.

Types of Questionnaire

A new LCCS questionnaire was introduced during the year covered by the analysis. A small quantity of the new questionnaire data was recorded by Quizdom software in interactive presentations using 'voting' devices controlled by the audience members. In this transitional year there were 1440 old questionnaires and 4059 new questionnaires of which 78 were in Quizdom format. No areas were using only the old questionnaires.

New questionnaire results

The analyses of the new paper questionnaires are presented in the rest of the report. As far as possible, comparisons will be made between the new results and the previous annual set of responses, because a number of the key questions are similar.

Key Points

This report considers evidence about the impact of LCCS case study presentations based on paper questionnaires completed by 3981 attendees at 160 groups in 14 areas.

The audiences comprised of three fifths women (61 per cent) and just under two fifths men (39 per cent), similar to the previous year.

The audiences predominantly consisted of the young (19 per cent) and the much older over 60s (50 per cent) sections of the population. Young adults and the middle-aged were relatively less well represented; however, there was a slight increase in their proportion compared with the previous year.

As last year, one in twenty attendees described themselves as members of minority ethnic groups.

Nearly two thirds – 64.6 per cent – (1189 out of 1841) of those who initially selected the prison option changed their minds after the report presentation. This was an increase in the previous year’s 58 per cent of attendees. It also indicates that the LCCS project was successful in achieving its aim of altering individuals’ opinions over whether an offender should go to prison or serve a community sentence.

For the individuals who changed their mind from prison to the community sentence option, after the LCCS presentation, recognition of the help that can be given by probation programmes and knowledge of the offenders’ background and past experiences were influential in changing their minds.

Among the decisive considerations for those who had initially selected the community sentence option but then chose prison were: the offender’s attitude to the offence, such as remorse, and the belief that imprisonment protects the public better than probation.

The largest proportion (two fifths) of the attendees felt that the LCCS presentation had increased their understanding of the role of probation ‘a little more’. In addition, the largest proportion – nearly half (47 per cent) – of the attendees said that after hearing the presentation their understanding of the role of magistrates had increased ‘a little more’.

Over three fifths of the attendees felt that their confidence in community sentences had increased after hearing the presentations. As the question format had changed the results are not strictly comparable with the previous years; however, the increase measured was not as great as in the previous year.

MAIN FINDINGS

Areas

Table 1 Area		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
LCCS Cheshire	69	1.7
LCCS Dyfed Powys	66	1.7
LCCS Greater Manchester	270	6.8
LCCS Hampshire	303	7.6
LCCS Humberside	256	6.4
LCCS Kent	528	13.3
LCCS Lancashire	183	4.6
LCCS Lincolnshire	582	14.6
LCCS London	176	4.4
LCCS South Wales	403	10.1
LCCS Staffordshire	123	3.1
LCCS Suffolk	298	7.5
LCCS Sussex	100	2.5
LCCS Thames Valley	624	15.7
Total	3981	100.0

The table shows the representation of the fourteen areas submitting questionnaire returns. The number of areas has increased by one since last year. Compared with the coverage of the previous year, Derbyshire, North Wales and Warwickshire have withdrawn, whilst Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Sussex have begun to participate and London is participating again after an absence in the previous year.

The largest number of participants completing the new questionnaires was in the Thames Valley area comprising 16 per cent of the total. In the previous year the highest number of participants, nearly twenty percent of the total, was in the Kent area. Dyfed Powys had the smallest number of participants completing the new questionnaires – just 1.7 per cent, whereas in the previous year North Wales and Derbyshire were the areas in which less than two percent of all the participants were found. This could have been an indication of their withdrawal this year. The median ranking for numbers of new questionnaires was taken by Greater Manchester.

Audience Composition

Table 2 Gender of attendees		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
Male	1553	39.3
Female	2399	60.7
Total	3952	100.0

Base: 3952; missing 29

Similar to the two previous years the audience composition was just over three fifths women (61 per cent) and almost two fifths men (39 per cent).

Table 3 Age of attendees		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
16-20	740	18.8
21-30	428	10.9
31-40	214	5.4
41-50	264	6.7
51-60	341	8.7
over 60	1953	49.6
Total	3940	100.0

Base: 3940; missing 41

The age groups were altered this year, compared with the previous year, as the 21-25 years and the 26-30 years were combined to create the 21-30 years, and the 41-60 years were divided to create the 41-50 years and the 51-60 years.

As was the case in the previous year, the highest percentage of attendees appear to be from the age groups at the two extremes: for instance around half of the attendees were over 60 years old, an increase of 15 per cent from the previous year, and almost a fifth (19 per cent) of the attendees were aged between 16 and 20 years old. Despite this significant value, there has been a fall of nearly 50 per cent (from 36 per cent last year, to 19 per cent this year) in the number of 16-20 year old attendees. There was, again, a relatively low representation of young adults and the middle-aged, as the 21-60 year olds formed 32 per cent of the audience, a slight increase on the previous year's 29 per cent, but still less than a third.

Table 4 Ethnicity of attendees

	Frequency	Valid Percent
White – British	3572	91.0
White – Irish	35	.9
White – Other White background	73	1.9
Mixed – White and Black Caribbean	16	.4
Mixed – White and Black African	8	.2
Mixed – White and Asian	17	.4
Mixed – Any other mixed background	9	.2
Asian or Asian British – Indian	41	1.0
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	31	.8
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	9	.2
Asian or Asian British – Other	19	.5
Black or Black British – African	31	.8
Black or Black British – Caribbean	34	.9
Black or Black British – Other Black background	6	.2
Chinese	9	.2
Other ethnic group	16	.4
Total	3926	100.0

Base: 3926; missing 55

The ethnic groups included in the questionnaires were also altered this year and became more specific. For instance, there is no longer a single white category; instead it has been broken down into White: -British, -Irish and -Other White background. There is now a Mixed category, which includes Mixed: – White and Black Caribbean, – White and Black African, – White and Asian, – Any other mixed background. Previously the “Black” ethnicity groups read: Black-Caribbean, for instance, but they now have the addition of Black or Black British preceding -African, -Caribbean and -other Black background. In addition, Asian or Asian British precedes the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic groups, unlike in previous years.

There has been a slight fall (approximately 2 per cent) in the number of attendees who identified themselves as members of white ethnic groups. As a result, the percentage of attendees from minority ethnic groups rose marginally compared with the previous year, therefore, this number remains at just over one in twenty attendees. Despite the addition of more ethnic groups, which arguably makes this question easier to answer, a slightly higher proportion of attendees this year did not answer it compared with last year. Perhaps the number of new options took longer to read and understand. However, for both years, the 'no response' rate was around only 1 per cent.

Media

Response	YES		NO	
	Frequency	Valid Percent	Frequency	Valid Percent
Done in the past week				
Read/ listened to any news or current affairs programme on radio or TV	3352	85.9	549	14.1
Read a local newspaper	2425	62.2	1476	37.8
Read one of the following tabloid newspapers: Mirror, Sun, Star, Express, Daily Mail	1733	44.4	2168	55.6
Read one of the following broadsheet newspapers: Times, Guardian, Telegraph, Independent	1580	40.5	2321	59.5
Done none of these things	71	1.8	3830	8.2

Base: 3901; missing 80

This table shows that 86 per cent of the attendees had read or listened to any news or current affairs programme on the radio or TV in the past week, and that just over three fifths of the attendees had read a local newspaper in the past week. In addition, 40 per cent of the participants had read one of the following broadsheet newspapers in the past week: Times, Guardian, Telegraph, or Independent; and a slightly higher proportion of attendees had read a tabloid newspaper in the past week. Less than 2 per cent of the participants said that they had done none of these things.

Confidence in community sentences

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Decreased a lot	66	1.8
Decreased slightly	111	3.0
No change	1180	31.4
Increased slightly	1729	46.0
Increased a lot	673	17.9
Total	3759	100.0

Base: 3759; missing 222

Less than 5 per cent of the participants felt their confidence in community sentences had decreased after hearing the presentation, whilst 64 per cent felt that their confidence in community sentences had increased. Just under a third of the attendees said that there had been no change in the extent of their confidence in community sentences. In the previous year, participants were encouraged to select the extent to which their confidence in community sentences had increased yet participants who felt that their confidence had decreased or not changed were left only with the option of 'not at all'. One in ten of the attendees last year said that the presentation had 'not at all' increased their confidence in community sentences. The remaining 90 per cent of the attendees last year felt that their confidence in community sentences had increased at least to a 'limited extent'. Therefore, since last year there has, arguably, been a decline in the proportion of attendees who felt that their confidence in community sentences increased. This year less than 6 per cent of the attendees did not respond to this question unlike the 20 per cent in the two previous years who did not answer. This could indicate the improved choice and clarity of the new questionnaires.

Table 7 Rating of confidence in community sentences		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
Very poor	157	4.2
Quite poor	341	9.0
Neither poor nor good	866	23.0
Quite good	2050	54.4
Very good	356	9.4
Total	3770	100.0

Base: 3770; missing 211

Around two-thirds of the attendees rated their confidence in community sentences as good; however, over a fifth of the attendees felt that their confidence in community sentences was neither poor nor good. This is a question found only on the new questionnaires; therefore there are no previous data to compare these results with.

Presentations

Table 8 Overall rating of the presentation		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
Very poor	46	1.2
Quite poor	60	1.6
Neither poor nor good	232	6.1
Quite good	1576	41.7
Very good	1863	49.3
Total	3777	100.0

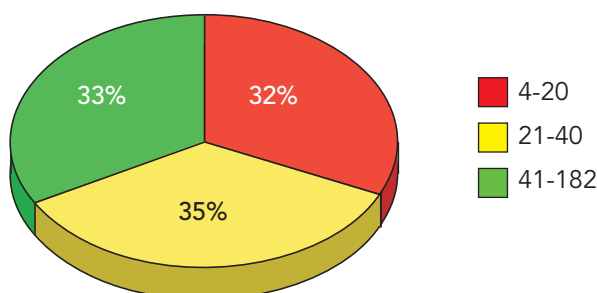
Base: 3777; missing 204

91 per cent of the attendees rated the presentation as either quite good or very good, less than 3 per cent considered it to be poor and 6 per cent of the attendees felt that the presentation was neither poor nor good. There has been a slight increase in the amount of attendees who rated the presentation as good compared with the previous year's 86 per cent. This year there has been a decline of 1 per cent in the number of attendees who rated the presentation as poor, as last year the total was 4 per cent. In addition, there has also been a drop in the number of attendees who felt that it was neither poor nor good, as in the previous year 9.6 per cent rated it as this.

Events

The attendance at the 160 LCCS events over the year varied substantially.

Number of attendees in audience



Base: 3981; missing 0

The range of the size of the events was from four people to 182 people. The median number of attendees attending events of various sizes was 27. Only 32 per cent of the participants attended a group sized between 4 and 20 people. Just over two-thirds (67 per cent) of the attendees were in an event size between 4 and 40 people.

Case Studies

Table 9 Case studies used		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
Case Study 1 - John Dunn	2808	70.5
Case Study 2 - Janice Ashton	224	5.6
Case Study 3 - Jacob Bell	466	11.7
Case Study 4 - Mandy Baker	155	3.9
Case Study 5 - Charles Dart	180	4.5
Case Study 6 - Arthur Wilson	148	3.7
Total	3981	100.0

Base: 3981; missing 0

The most commonly used case study at the events was Case Study 1 – John Dunn; it was used for 70 per cent of the questionnaires. This was also the case in the previous year. In both years, the least used was Case Study 6 – Arthur Wilson.

Impact of the LCCS Case studies

The attendees provided information about their views before and after the background report was presented.

To test if any changes were significant statistically, the McNemar Test for binary variables in non-parametric related samples was applied. Graphical presentation of results:



Base: 3658; missing 323

- Just under two-thirds – 64.6 per cent – (1189 out of 1841) of those who initially selected the prison option changed their minds after the report presentation. This value has increased in comparison to the previous year's total of 58 per cent.
- Nearly half (48 per cent) of the attendees chose not to send the offender to prison at any stage. This was also the case in the previous year.
- In contrast, just 69 (approximately 4 per cent) of the 1817, initially against the prison option switched later to imprisonment.

(McNemar Test, significance= 0.000)

Reasons for a change of mind

The participants of the LCCS project were given more information about the circumstances of the hypothetical offence and offender and about the concept of community sentences, and were then asked if they had changed their minds about whether the offender should go to prison or not. If so, they were provided with a list of 8 reasons and asked to select their 3 main reasons for changing their mind.

Main Reason	Frequency	Valid Percent
The help that can be given by probation programmes	643	57.5
The offender's background and past experiences	455	40.7
The offender who disobeys (breaches) a community order can be sent to prison	453	40.5
The offender can do unpaid work for the community	424	37.9
The supervision of the offender by a probation officer	406	36.3
The offender's attitude to the offence (e.g. remorse)	401	35.8
A community order can prevent re-offending	348	31.1
The cost of imprisonment compared with probation	224	20.0

Base 1119; missing 70

The main reason that nearly three fifths of the attendees chose for their change of mind from prison to community sentence was 'the help that [could] be given by probation programmes'. The next most common reason chosen by two fifths of the attendees was 'the offender's background and past experiences'. This reason was also a popular selection in the previous year. In addition, 40 per cent of the attendees felt that the fact that an 'offender who disobeys (breaches) a community order [could] be sent to prison' was one of their main reasons for changing their initial choice of prison to a community sentence. In contrast, in the previous year, this was not one of the most commonly chosen main reasons for a change of mind from prison to community sentence. Lastly, just 6 per cent of the attendees who changed their mind from prison to community sentence did not select any reasons for this change.

Main Reason	Frequency	Valid Percent
The offender's attitude to the offence (e.g. remorse)	26	44.8
Imprisonment protects the public better than probation	25	43.1
Unpaid work for the community is not a sufficient punishment	23	39.7
Imprisonment can prevent re-offending	23	39.7
Imprisonment is a deterrent	22	37.9
The effect of the offence on the victim	20	34.5
The help that can be given by prison programmes	20	34.5
Imprisonment is worth the cost	5	8.6

Base: 58; missing 11

Around 45 per cent of the attendees who had not originally chosen the prison option, but then after the presentation decided that the offender should be sent to prison, said that their main reason for this change of mind was the 'offender's attitude to the offence (e.g. remorse)'. The next most commonly chosen reason, by 43 per cent of the attendees who changed their mind to being in favour of prison, was 'imprisonment protects the public better than probation'. It can therefore be argued that these attendees regarded the offenders as somewhat dangerous to the public. Furthermore, approximately two fifths of this group felt that 'unpaid work for the community [was] not a sufficient punishment'; therefore they opted for prison rather than their initial selection of community sentence. Also, 16 per cent of the attendees who had had this change of mind did not select any reasons for the change.

Understanding the roles of probation and magistrates

	Frequency	Valid Percent
No change	374	9.9
A little more	1523	40.3
Much more	1351	35.7
Very much more	532	14.1
Total	3780	100.0

Base: 3780; missing 201

The highest proportion of attendees (two-fifths) felt that the LCCS presentation had increased their understanding of the role of probation 'a little more'. Only approximately 10 per cent of the attendees claimed that there had been 'no change' to their understanding about the role of probation, after the presentation. This question was not part of the previous year's questionnaires; therefore there are no data to compare these results with.

Table 13 Change in understanding about the role of Magistrates

	Frequency	Valid Percent
No change	465	12.4
A little more	1762	46.8
Much more	1117	29.7
Very much more	420	11.2
Total	3764	100.0

Base: 3764; missing 217

The majority, 47 per cent, of the attendees who completed the new paper questionnaire felt that the LCCS presentation had increased their understanding about the role of magistrates a 'little more'. In addition, 12 per cent of the attendees felt that after hearing the LCCS presentation there had been 'no change' to their understanding of the role magistrates. This question was inserted into the new questionnaires; therefore there are no data from the previous years with which we can compare these findings.

Conclusions

- Firstly, a new type of questionnaire was introduced, in which questions were structured more clearly and some could be completed using 'voting devices' and then recorded with Quizdom software.
- Secondly, a number of different areas were introduced into the project, namely Sussex, Greater Manchester and Hampshire, whilst London was reintroduced.
- Thirdly, with the inclusion of the new questionnaire it has become difficult to assess the participants' change of confidence in community sentences after hearing the presentation. If we compare the 'no change' figure from this year with the 'not at all' figure from the previous year, it seems that there has been a threefold increase (from approximately 10 per cent to 31 per cent) in the number of attendees that felt this way, compared with last year. In addition, compared to last year there has been a decrease in the number of participants who found that the presentation increased their confidence in community sentences. Therefore, the old questionnaire does not seem to have been picking up the unconvinced view points to a similar degree as the new paper questionnaire.
- Also, there has been an increase in the proportion of participants who initially select the prison option but then change their mind to a community sentence after hearing the whole presentation. This year, around two thirds (64.6 per cent) changed their mind in this way, whereas last year it was 58 per cent.
- Furthermore, a number of last year's responses about why people changed their mind from prison to community sentence reappear this year, for instance: 'background of the offender' and 'attitude to the offence'. However, the findings from this year are much more specific as they are based on the points coded from last year's spontaneous responses. The most common reason given by the attendees who had changed their mind in this way was: 'the help that can be given by probation programmes'.
- The relatively small number of responses collated in Table 11 'Not prison before; prison after' are unable to be compared with the previous year's data as such analysis had not been previously carried out.
- The largest proportion (two fifths) of the attendees felt that the LCCS presentation had increased their understanding of the role of probation 'a little more'. In addition, the largest proportion – nearly half (47 per cent) – of the attendees said that after hearing the presentation their understanding of the role of magistrates had increased 'a little more'.

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