



The Probation Service in Lancashire

Punishing offenders, protecting the public & cutting crime.

Contents

● Who are we?

4

● What do we do?

4

● In Courts

5

● In the Community

5

● Community Payback

6

● Programmes

7

● Improving Skills

8

● Managing Sexual and Violent Offenders

8

● Approved Premises (Hostels)

9

● Supervising Offenders Released from Prison

10

● Working with Victims

10

● Keeping the Community Informed

11

● Want to know more?

12

Who are We?

Lancashire Probation Trust is a law enforcement agency protecting the public in Lancashire by punishing and rehabilitating offenders. Across the county we are working to reduce crime and to help build safer communities.



We are one of 42 probation areas in England and Wales that make up the National Probation Service. The Ministry of Justice has overall responsibility for the National Probation Service and is also responsible for courts, prisons and constitutional affairs.

We employ over 600 staff working from 16 offices across Lancashire. Our staff also work within the six prisons and 12 magistrates' courts across Lancashire and in the three Crown Courts based in Burnley, Lancaster and Preston.

We work closely with all the other criminal justice agencies: the police, the prison service, the Courts, the Crown Prosecution Service, and Victim Support as part of the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board.

Lancashire Probation Trust supervises adult offenders from the age of 18 upwards. We also have seconded staff working within Youth Offending Teams across Lancashire whose function it is to supervise young offenders in the community.

What do we do?

Our aims are to:

- Protect the Public
- Cut Crime
- Enforce Punishment of Offenders
- Rehabilitate Offenders to lead law-abiding lives
- Uphold the interests of the victims of crime

In Lancashire, we are responsible for the delivery of reports about offenders to the courts and the supervision of offenders in the community. We also deliver programmes and interventions to rehabilitate offenders and reduce the chance of them committing crime in the future.

DID YOU KNOW?
Lancashire Probation Trust's performance was rated as outstanding by the National Offender Management Service in 2009

DID YOU KNOW?
In Lancashire, we supervise around 8000 offenders every year

In Courts



Lancashire Probation is responsible for the preparation of Pre-Sentence reports for the courts. When an offender is found guilty, the Magistrates or Judge have the option to order a report from us. This is a formal report prepared by a probation officer that includes details on why the offence occurred, the circumstances, the offender's personal background and an assessment of the risk they may still pose to the public. The Sentencer can then consider the report when making their sentencing decision. Probation staff also prepare bail information reports which assess an offender's suitability for bail and arrange placements at approved premises (probation hostels).

DID YOU KNOW?
In Lancashire, we prepare around 7000 pre-sentence reports for the courts every year

In the Community

A lot of our work is centred on adult offenders who are ordered to serve their sentences in the community as part of a community order. There are twelve possible requirements that can be used to make up a community order and judges can sentence an offender to any combination from them. The twelve requirements are:

1. Unpaid Work (also known as Community Payback)
2. Activity (e.g. Basic skills courses)
3. Programme (a course to address offending behaviour)
4. Prohibited Activity (e.g. being banned from entering licensed premises)
5. Curfew
6. Exclusion (being banned from entering a specified place)
7. Residence (must live at a specified address)
8. Mental Health treatment
9. Drug Rehabilitation
10. Alcohol Treatment
11. Supervision (offender attends regular appointments with probation)
12. Attendance Centre (under 25s only)



DID YOU KNOW?
It costs around £3,500 per year for an offender to be on a community order, (depending on the number of requirements) but costs around £37,500 to send them to prison for a year

Community Payback



Unpaid work (Community Payback) can be a single requirement attached to a community order or can form part of a larger order.

The court can order the offender to complete between 40 – 300 hours of unpaid work depending on the seriousness of the offence.

The aim of unpaid work is to provide opportunity for offenders to payback to the community and to cut crime. We work in partnership with local communities to find suitable work placements for the offenders to complete. We also arrange placements which enable offenders to learn work skills to improve their employability and guide them away from crime.

We select work which:

- promotes community safety and public protection
- prevents crime and tackles causes of crime by better neighbourhood security
- makes good the harm caused by crime, repairing damage and helping victims
 - lessens fear of crime, for example making safer footpaths and environments



DID YOU KNOW?

You can nominate a project of benefit to your local community for offenders to complete. Simply visit www.lancashireprobation.co.uk and go to community payback

DID YOU KNOW?

Every year, offenders complete around 225,000 hours of Community Payback that directly benefit community projects across Lancashire



Programmes

We deliver nationally-accredited programmes that tackle why the offenders committed crime and to help them change their behaviour so they don't do it again. They are intense courses that can last over long periods of time. The programmes that the probation service delivers in Lancashire are:

- **Thinking Skills** is a group programme designed to change thoughts, attitudes and values behind criminal behaviour.
- **Addressing Substance Related Offending** It is a behaviour programme that looks at reducing substance abuse and preventing re-offending. Its focus is on changing attitude and solving problems.
- **Drink Impaired Driving** For offences of driving with excess alcohol or linked offences.
- **Community Sex Offender Programme** For adult male offenders whose victims are children. Specialist assessment is required for this intensive programme.
- **Internet Sex Offender Programme** For male offenders with convictions for internet only sex offences. It is designed to reduce the risk of future internet offending and progression to contact sex offending.
- **CALM** A programme for offenders to reduce aggressive and offending behaviour through teaching social skills, emotional management and cognitive techniques

DID YOU KNOW?

Annually, in Lancashire around 630 offenders complete a programme to help change their offending behaviour



- **Domestic Violence**

To reduce the risk of reoffending of domestic violence offenders

DID YOU KNOW?

Offenders who complete general programmes are 26% less likely to reoffend than those who don't

Improving Skills

To cut crime in Lancashire, we help offenders to lead law abiding lives. To do this we try to address their attitudes and beliefs, criminal history, substance misuse and lifestyle.



Many offenders struggle with basic skills such as numeracy and literacy, thereby limiting their prospects of gaining employment. It is important to address this as gaining a job is a major factor in keeping people away from crime.

DID YOU KNOW?

A stable home and family life is known to reduce offending by 20%

We work with colleges of further education to improve offenders' basic skills and with many other partners to address other issues such as lack of housing, financial difficulties, or mental health problems.

DID YOU KNOW?

Annually we help 1500 offenders access Skills for Life and get 800 into jobs

Managing Sexual and Violent Offenders

We know that protecting people – particularly children – from violent or sexual crime is one of the highest priorities that people in Lancashire have for the agencies that work together in the criminal justice system.

Lancashire Probation Trust, along with Lancashire Constabulary and HM Prison Service work closely together under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (known as MAPPA) to manage high risk sexual or violent offenders. The agencies carry out thorough assessments of the risk then prepare and implement plans to minimise it. We are supported by a range of other agencies which have a duty to cooperate including local authority housing, education and social services, the health service and job centres.

To find out more about how we work together visit www.saferlancashire.co.uk/mappa

Approved Premises (Hostels)

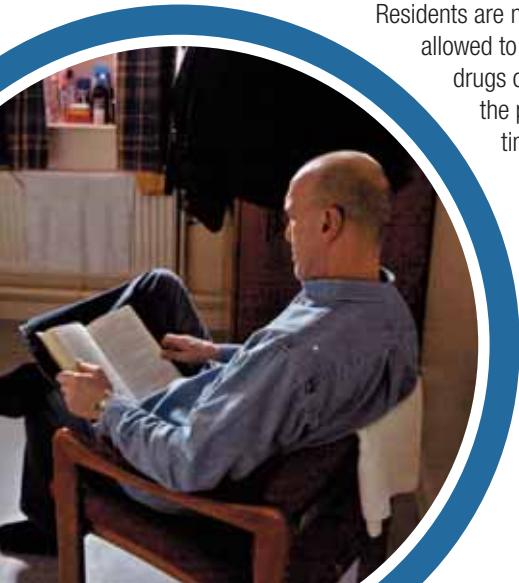
Approved Premises (also known as hostels) are places to live that provide enhanced supervision for offenders who are either serving community penalties, on bail awaiting sentence, or have been released from prison. In Lancashire, the Probation Service has two hostels for male offenders: one in Accrington and one in Blackburn. In total they can accommodate up to 48 offenders.

There are strict rules put into place at both our approved premises, including an overnight curfew which can be tailored to any offender. There are at least two staff on duty 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year to monitor the offenders and take immediate action if the rules are not followed. Some residents also have daytime curfews which are strictly enforced. The majority of residents are able to leave the hostel during the day to access local services such as the job centre.



Residents are not allowed to have drugs or alcohol on the premises at any time. Residents also take part in activities prescribed by the hostel staff: this includes training programmes to help offenders stop committing further crimes

If offenders do not abide by the rules, they will be sent back to court and/or prison and will lose their place at the hostel.



Supervising Offenders Released from Prison

Every offender sentenced to 12 months or more in prison is supervised on licence following their release. Our offender managers are responsible for developing release plans with the help of the prisons. This involves securing accommodation and finding employment. Offender managers also work with the prisons and the Parole Board to determine licence conditions to protect the public.

DID YOU KNOW?

That in 2008, around 89% of offenders under probation supervision did not commit a further crime



Probation staff also supervise prisoners who have been released on a life licence (usually after they have served part or all of a life sentence). This means that the offender is on licence for the rest of their life and will be monitored closely by probation staff.

Working with Victims

Lancashire Probation Trust believes that providing care and support to victims is of the utmost importance. We employ dedicated victim liaison officers who contact all victims of sexual or violent offences within 2 months of a prison sentence (of 12 months or more) being given to an offender. Through these officers, victims are updated about the sentence, as well as what will happen when the offender is released, and are able to voice their concerns and contribute to release proposals.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every year we help around 690 victims of sexual or violent offences



Keeping the Community Informed

We believe that it's important that all communities in Lancashire know about the work that we do and how we benefit them. That's why we regularly attend careers fairs and go out to meet many community groups to explain the work that we do across Lancashire.



Local magistrates and staff from the Lancashire Probation Trust work together to improve public confidence in sentencing and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community penalties. We meet up with any community groups across the county to deliver an interactive sentencing exercise, using a case study of an offender.

The presentation covers how sentencing decisions are made by magistrates and how probation supervises offenders in the community.

If you would like a presentation to your group, please contact the LCCS Coordinator via lccs.coordinator@btinternet.com



Want to find out more?

Visit our website www.lancashireprobation.co.uk or contact us at:

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If you need this leaflet in another language or format e.g. large-print, please contact the Communications Manager on 01772 201209.

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