

Probation in Lancashire



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales
Lancashire

Business Plan 2004–2005 Summary

This is a summary of the Annual Business Plan of the National Probation Service Lancashire Area. The Business Plan in full is published on our website www.probation-lancashire.org.uk and available on request to: The Chief Officer, National Probation Service Lancashire, 99-101 Garstang Road, Preston. PR1 1LD

The business plan identifies how we will deliver the priorities and targets which the Government has set for the National Probation Service to:

- protect the public
- reduce re-offending and rehabilitate offenders
- ensure the proper punishment of offenders in the community
- make offenders aware of the effects of crime on victims and on the community

2004-2005 is a critically important year for the National Probation Service. We face the dual challenge of continuing to deliver effective, high quality services to courts, offenders, victims and communities whilst preparing for organisational change on an unprecedented scale. The transition to the National Offender Management Service will be radical and far-reaching in its effects but brings with it an exciting opportunity to transform the way in which offenders are managed both in the community and in custody. Whilst this will undoubtedly create a climate of considerable uncertainty for staff at all levels it is vital that we do not become distracted from the task in hand. This plan sets out how, in Lancashire, we shall focus our efforts over the year ahead. It confirms our priorities and targets for the year 2004-2005 and identifies those areas for improvement to which we shall give special attention. Key objectives for the National Probation Service for the year, published by the Director General are:

- ▶ effective implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003
- ▶ providing a more efficient and effective reporting service to courts
- ▶ effective management of offenders to reduce crime
- ▶ the delivery of programmes and interventions for offenders to reduce re-offending
- ▶ managing and reducing dangerousness
- ▶ providing a quality service to the victims of serious sexual and other violent crime
- ▶ valuing and achieving diversity within the Service and in the services we provide

In Lancashire we shall work to deliver each of these and to make our services relevant and accessible to the local communities we serve. We have set some specifically local objectives alongside the national ones, including contributing to a range of local partnership initiatives and pilot schemes in Lancashire, such as targeting persistent offenders, contributing to Crime and Disorder partnership community safety audits and implementing the North West Resettlement strategy designed to cut the rate of re-offending on release from prison.

John Crawforth Chief Officer

Tony Fowles Chair, Lancashire Probation Board

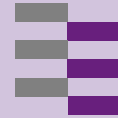
What we shall deliver

- **Interventions to reduce offending by:**
 - Accredited Programmes tackling offending behaviour
 - Enhanced Community Punishment
 - Intensive Control and Change targeting offenders aged 18-20
 - Drug Treatment and Testing Order to reduce drug-related crime
 - Increase offender's educational qualifications to improve employability
- **Enforcement**
Ensure action is taken against offenders who break the conditions of their Order or Licence
- **Compliance**
Level of offender compliance with Orders and Licences
- **Quality of Pre-Sentence Reports**
Measured by National Standards monitoring
- **Contact with victims of crime**
Ensure we offer contact to victims within 8 weeks when an offender is sentenced to 12 months' custody or longer
- **Achieving racial equality**
Increase proportion of minority ethnic staff and diversity in workforce
Ensure a clear recommendation in Pre-Sentence Reports on minority ethnic offenders
- **Organisational excellence and efficiency**
Reduce days lost through employee sickness

Our performance target

- 452 offenders completing
- 905 offenders commencing
- 90 offenders commencing
- 392 offenders commencing
- 965 offenders starting skills awards
- 90% (We achieved 85% last year)
- 70% (New target this year. We achieved this last year)
- 90% Assessed as satisfactory or better
- 85% minimum target. (We achieved 92% last year)
- 5.4% of total workforce (Already 5.9% and rising)
- 95% minimum (We achieved 87% last year)
- Reduce to 9 days per employee per year

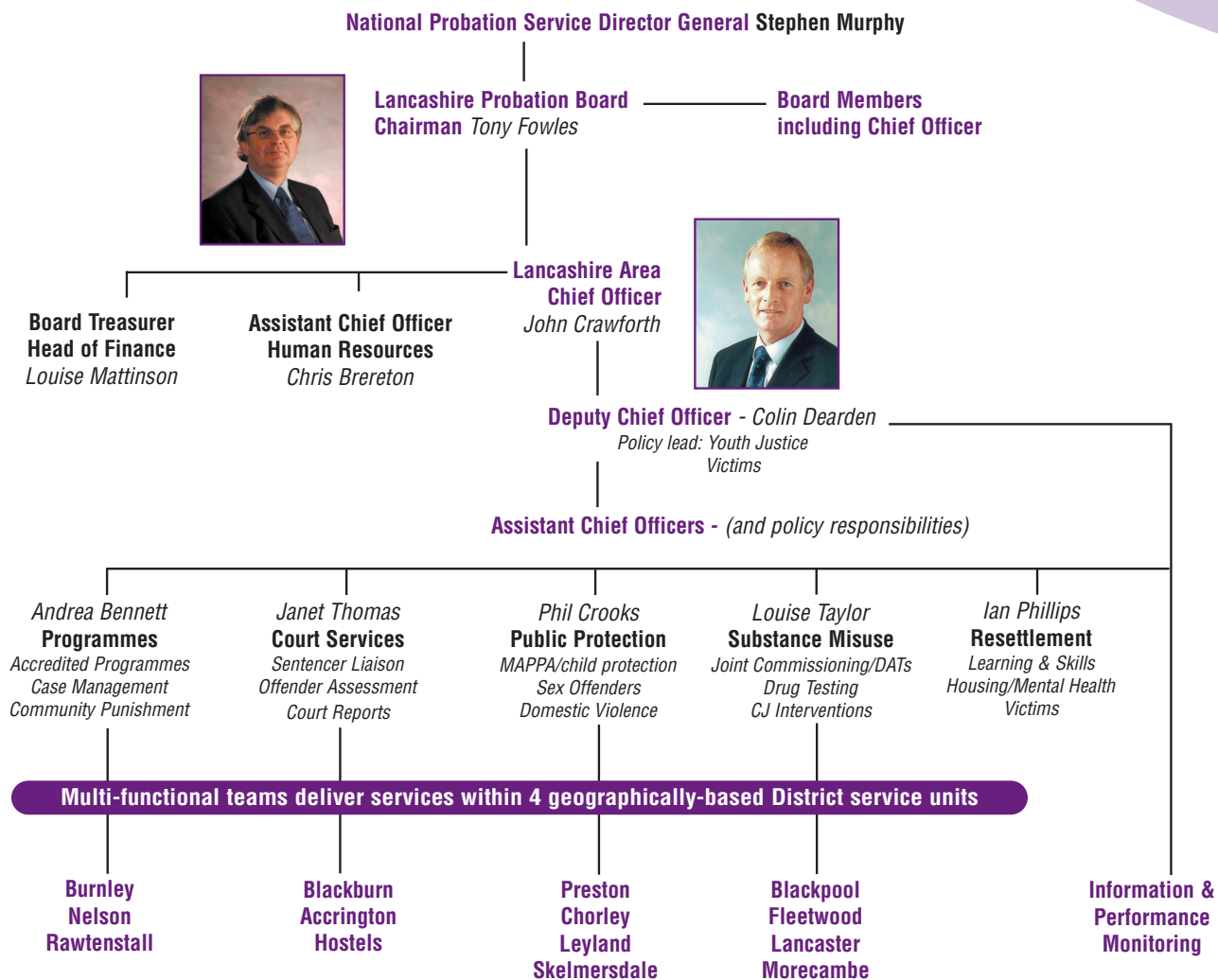
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Our organisation

Lancashire is one of 42 operational areas forming the National Probation Service which is led by the national Director General Stephen Murphy. Lancashire Probation Board oversees the work and performance of the service in Lancashire within the national framework. This organisational structure is to change in due course following the establishment of the National Offender Management Service, bringing together the Probation and Prison Services. **Funding: Resource allocation totals £18.6million for 2004-2005.** Our budget is determined on the basis of efficiency savings and details of these are set out in the full version of the plan.



Lancashire Probation Board decides the service strategic direction of the Service, draws up corporate and annual business plans and ensures delivery of planned results against national targets and objectives. Board members account to the National Director for the Area Services performance. The service is scrutinised by HM Inspectorate of Probation and local and district auditors. Board meetings are held in public at venues around the county to enable people in local communities to hear about the work the Probation Service does on their behalf and to raise any local issues and concerns.

The Board's main duties are to:

- employ staff
- provide for efficient probation work
- oversee the area's £18.6 million annual budget
- ensure that offenders and the community understand the nature of probation's services.

Board members:

Appointed by the Home Secretary :

David Booker, Chorley

Valerie Burke, South Ribble

Liz Housden, Chorley

Susan Hughes, Pendle

Ashok Khandelwal, Blackpool

Mahendra Kothari, South Ribble

Monica Lea, South Ribble

Anthony Nixon, Rossendale

Vali Patel, Preston

Marie Riley, Lytham St Annes

Les Sewell, South Ribble

Appointed by the Lord Chancellor: Judge Andrew Blake

www.probation-lancashire.org.uk