



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

Lancashire



**Summary
Annual
Plan
2001–2002**

Enforcement, rehabilitation and public protection

Chief Officer's overview

Clear, decisive leadership focused on key Service outcomes will be critically important in delivering the aims of the National Probation Service and the Home Secretary's priorities. That leadership will need to be highly visible both locally as well as nationally. The National Director together with the new Lancashire Probation Board and myself as Chief Officer have the task of communicating and promoting the purposes and priorities of the National Probation Service and how these are to be given effect locally.

The formation of the National Probation Service presents an opportunity to re-affirm the uniqueness of our contribution in reducing crime and promoting better systems of justice. There is scope for joint leadership with chief officers in other criminal justice services, for example with the police in fulfilling our new statutory responsibilities for the management of sex offenders and other potentially dangerous offenders. The regional dimension is important too in promoting the probation contribution to crime and disorder strategies, working both with a new regional manager and the regional crime reduction director in the Government Office North West.

Working aims

The aims of the National Probation Service for England and Wales are:

- protection of the public
- reduction of re-offending
- the proper punishment of offenders
- the rehabilitation of offenders
- increasing offenders' awareness for victims

In pursuing these aims, the National Probation Service will contribute significantly to the achievement of:

Home Office aim 2: Delivery of justice through effective and efficient investigation, prosecution, trial and sentencing and through support for victims

Home Office Aim 4: Effective execution of the sentences of the courts so as to reduce re-offending and protect the public

Our mission and vision in Lancashire

We recognise that crime damages the fabric of society, causing disruption and distress to victims. As a law enforcement agency within the criminal justice system our mission is to reduce that damage, disruption and distress by helping to drive down crime and lessen the fear of it. In seeking to do this we will:

- be a confident and forward-looking organisation
- take pride in the quality and effectiveness of our work
- be specially attentive to the needs of victims and communities
- continually strive for excellence in the service we deliver
- value diversity and develop all our staff

Home Secretary's priorities:

- Supervision of offenders must be based on the What Works strategy and should address those factors which contribute to reducing re-offending so as, in particular, to reduce drug misuse, improve employability, reduce homelessness, and improve family links; and for those released from prison it should build on work undertaken whilst in custody.

- Supervision should comply with National Standards, so that community sentences provide credible and effective punishment. Orders should be enforced rigorously.

- Probation must work jointly with the police (and other agencies as appropriate) to assess and manage the risks posed by all sex offenders and other potentially dangerous offenders.

- Information to the courts, when required, should be speedy and enable prompt and effective sentencing and remand decisions.

- Achieve the Home Secretary's employment targets for the recruitment, retention and progress of minority ethnic staff and ensure that the Service's work with offenders is free from discrimination.

- Ensure high quality, fairness and value for money, maximising the contributions of partnerships with other statutory agencies and the private and voluntary sectors to meet the three key aims.

What we aim to do

- Implement the 'What Works' strategy
- Ensure at least 325 offenders complete accredited programmes
- Supervise 190 new Drug Treatment and Testing Orders
- Have our strategy and delivery arrangements in place by 31st March 2002 to meet the nationally-determined targets for basic skills and offender employment opportunities.

- Supervise offenders on community sentences and under licence from prison to the National Standards, ie at least 90% compliance for first appointments; 90% appointments \work sessions arranged 90% action taken on unacceptable absence

- Complete supervision plans within 5 working days for high risk offenders and 15 working days for all other offenders in 95% and 90% of cases respectively and to review every four months in 95% of high risk cases and 90% of all other cases.

- Achieve hostel occupancy of 90% and successful residency completion rates of 85%.

- Introduce jointly with Lancashire Constabulary, the multi-agency protection panels required by the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 and produce an annual report for the public.

- Complete 90% of pre-sentence reports within 15 working days of request,

- Achieve quality target : 85% satisfactory or better

- Of all court reports, increase to 20% the proportion which are specific sentence reports.

- Achieve the Home Secretary's target for 5.7% of the Lancashire Probation Service workforce to be of minority ethnic origin by 31st December 2001.

- Contribute to the delivery of community safety strategy objectives in all 14 Lancashire districts and to ensure that 20% of all community service work makes a positive contribution to community safety.

- Make contact with victims of serious sexual and violent offences within 8 weeks of the offender's sentence in 85% of cases where the sentence is for 1 year or more.

Working with others

We work in partnerships with a wide range of agencies and organisations in the voluntary and independent sector across the county, to help us provide services for offenders and communities, for example:

- to improve offenders' employability, job skills training and opportunities,
- to provide settled accommodation for offenders.

Major changes have been the large scale implementation of the 'What Works' initiative, the abolition of Training and Enterprise Councils and the introduction of Learning Skills Councils. Accommodation partnerships will be reviewed over the next three years and transferred to the 'Supporting People' initiatives. Audits of partnership activities are planned during 2001/2002.

Youth Offending Teams

We shall sustain and review our involvement and investment in the three Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. The Service is represented on each of their Steering Groups at Chief Officer level and contributes both probation officers on secondment and money to their operation. It also supervises community service placements on behalf of the three YOTs at no cost. Our Service is committed to doing all it can to ensure the success of the YOTs and recognises the importance of effective intervention with young people at an early stage. Protocols established with the YOTs in April 2000 will need to be reviewed in 2001/02 to ensure that they are operating effectively and facilitating smooth working at an operational level between the two agencies.

Tackling drug misuse

Our Service has laid a solid foundation for delivering Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs), having appointed a strong staff team and negotiated contracts for treatment and testing with four Health Authorities. The current arrangements for joint commissioning arrest/referral schemes will be extended to cover some aspects of DTTO's and provision will also be made to include the new Drug Abstinence Orders in due course. Our firm commitment to implementing the Government's ten-year drug misuse strategy will be maintained with continued participation in the Lancashire Drug Action Team (DAT) and also active participation in the two new DATs established in Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool from April 2001. We will use the opportunities provided by the new joint commissioning arrangements to advocate the needs of drug users involved in the criminal justice system and to highlight the importance of making adequate treatment provision to reduce offending.

Crime and Disorder Partnerships

Our Service currently makes a major contribution to crime and disorder partnerships in the county and has played a significant role in developing prolific offender schemes in Burnley, Nelson and Preston. The effectiveness of this contribution is kept under review and our service objectives are well integrated with those of the 14 local District Partnerships in Lancashire. We are directing Community Service work by offenders increasingly in projects contributing to community safety.

OUR FUNDING 2001-2002

Revenue budget 2001-200	£14,482,000
Hostels	£792,000
Prisons	£1,276,000
TOTAL	£16,550,000

SPENDING PLAN

Delivering services to courts and supervising offenders	£10,580,000
Partnerships, Youth Offending Teams contributions & operational support	£5,901,000
Capital projects	£69,000

Our staff

Our service employs 550 staff full-time part-time and sessional (481 full-time equivalent) of which 63% are women and 37% men.

The National Director has indicated that the service will grow by about 35% in the next 3 years.

This will bring a substantial number of extra staff, many of whom will be appointed as Probation Service Officers. This role (which we have revised in consultation with the staff unions) contributes to the modernisation of the service, particularly implementation of the 'What Works' approach.

The role of administrative staff is being reviewed to support the case management system. The overall aim is to create a multi-skilled workforce and the next three years will see the recruitment of psychologists and possibly education specialists to assist in the implementation of effective practice.

Diversity and equality

Lancashire Probation Service has already developed (and submitted to the Home Office) a Race Equality Action Plan in response to the HMIP thematic inspection on promoting race equality. This plan includes a number of action requirements extending into 2001-2002. During the year we will review our plan and make adjustments which will reflect both:

- the outcome of a planned research project with the University of Central Lancashire on Race Equality and Criminal Justice.
- progress in meeting the Home Secretary's targets for recruitment, retention and progression.

Work on this will be taken forward by the Service's Equality and Diversity Manager, reporting to the ACPO Human Resources. The Chief Officer Race Equality Group (CORE) will co-ordinate action.

Training in disability awareness is already being provided and will continue. In relation to staff and service users with a disability an audit of properties and facilities is planned. The Service holds the status of being an employer positive about disabled people and will plan to retain this hallmark of commitment.



What works with offenders



Our target for delivering Accredited Programmes in 2001-2002 is to offer at least:

- 70 Think First programmes
- 15 Addressing Substance Related Offending programmes.

Based on an average group total of 8 offenders attending, this will provide 680 places for offenders. On the basis of at least 489 (68%) completing the course and taking into account quality rating, the target is to ensure that at least 325 offenders fully complete these accredited programmes.

In the community in Lancashire, at any one time, we shall supervise approximately 4,100 offenders in the community and approximately 1,450 prisoners in custody and due for eventual release.

Estimated commencements of offenders for 2001-2002 are:

2,370	Community Rehabilitation Orders
1,435	Community Punishment Orders
340	Community Rehabilitation & Punishment Orders
1240	Custody sentences requiring supervision

Probation serving local communities in Lancashire



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

Lancashire

Probation staff are based in local communities throughout the county — in Probation Centres, in the Courts and in Lancashire's six prisons.

Our centres are:

Accrington Telephone 01254 232516

Blackburn Telephone 01254 265221

Blackpool Telephone 01253 394031

The Callum Centre, Blackpool

Telephone 01254 752030

Burnley Telephone 01282 425854

Chorley Telephone 01257 260493

Fleetwood Telephone 01253 874369

Leyland Telephone 01772 621043

Lancaster Telephone 01524 63537

Preston Office & Magistrates Court Team

Telephone 01772 552700

Morecambe Telephone 01524 416171

Nelson/Pendle Telephone 01282 615155

Rawtenstall Telephone 01706 217577

Skelmersdale Telephone 01695 720248

Crown Court

Burnley Telephone 01282 457443

Preston Telephone 01772 832404/5

Probation Hostels/ Accommodation

Accommodation Office

Telephone 01282 832299

Accrington Telephone 01254 395997

Blackburn Telephone 01254 59060

Probation's aims :

- protect the public
- reduce re-offending
- proper punishment of offenders
- rehabilitation of offenders
- increasing offenders' awareness for victims

Where to find us:



Probation Services in Prisons

HM Prison Garth Telephone 01772 622722

HM Prison Kirkham Telephone 01772 684343

HM Prison the Caste, Lancaster

Telephone 01524 385100

HM Prison Preston Telephone 01772 257234

HM Prison Wymott Telephone 01772 421461ext 483

HM Young Offenders Institution

Lancaster Farms Telephone 01524 848745

To find out more

This is a summary of our Annual Plan. If you wish to see the full plan and for information about our services, please contact:

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National Probation Service Lancashire,
Area Headquarters**

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