



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

National Offender  
Management Service

Gloucestershire  
Probation Trust



# Gloucestershire Probation Trust

Community Payback Annual Report 2011



Community  
Payback

# Foreword



One of the best known sentences carried out by Gloucestershire Probation Trust is Community Payback. Community Payback has a significantly better success rate for some offenders than a short term prison sentence and has been developed over many years to deliver the current positive outcomes. It is a combination of punishment and rehabilitation which is of benefit to both the community and the offender.

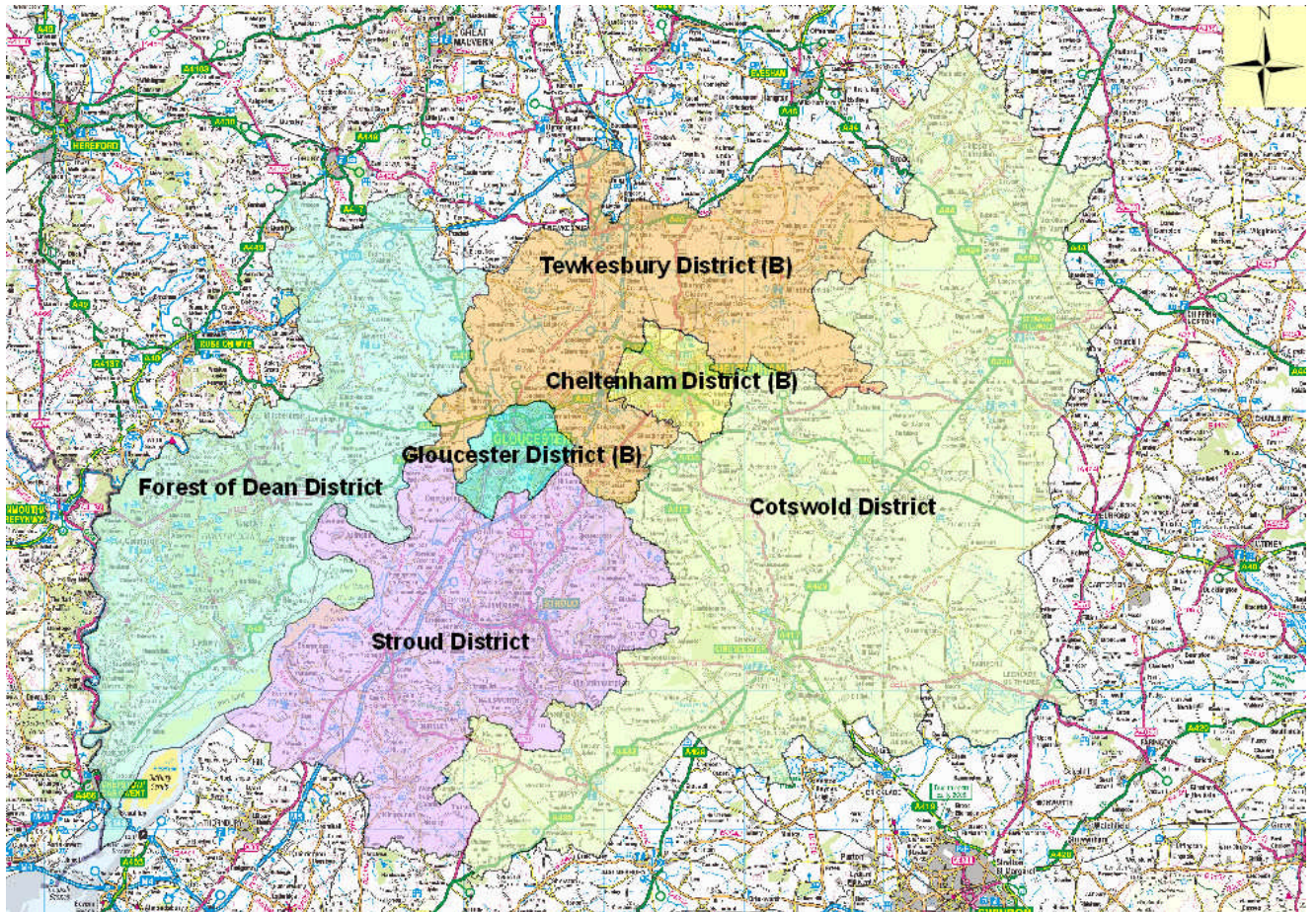
In Gloucestershire we have a team of dedicated and trained staff who supervise and motivate about 350 offenders undertaking 27 different projects every week. Our supervisors provide stringent oversight of groups of up to 8 offenders wearing high viz jackets and they insist that offenders don't mangle!! Although occasionally an offender may down tools and say they'd rather be back in prison, some also request to stay beyond their allotted hours.

The process starts at Court when Probation staff undertake an initial assessment of suitability (not all offenders are suitable). Sentencers can then impose up to 300 hours of unpaid work to recompense the community. All unemployed offenders sentenced to over 200 hours must work at least 18 hours a week and employed offenders complete their Community Payback at the weekends.

All offenders are assessed for their suitability to undertake work in a particular setting, taking into account the type of offence, potential risk of harm and health issues. For some offenders this may be their first taste of structured work experience where they can learn new skills and gain qualifications. They are also offered the opportunity to gain basic skills in the 3 Rs as well as completing CVs. All of these skills and education opportunities increase the chances of gaining employment and thus reduce the risk of re-offending. The organisations that benefit from Community Payback are in every part of the County, including schools, Parish Councils, Charity shops and lunch clubs for the elderly. The range of work undertaken includes ground clearance, decorating, providing meals, clearing graffiti, restoring park benches and building school playgrounds, and we regularly receive glowing feedback for jobs well done.

In this report you will see the variety and volume of projects that have benefited from Community Payback.

## Probation Trust and Geographic Area



- GPT Unpaid Work requirement provided in rural and urban districts
- Offenders subject to UW requirements are usually picked up by GPT Community Payback buses and taken to sites
- Individual UW requirement placement are provided throughout the county
- Contractual links to local Social Enterprise – Reach
- Strong links with Safer and Stronger community partnerships enabling GPT to complete community projects in all the local communities
- Opportunity for Education, Training and Employment up to 20% of the sentence hours
- Opportunity to gain qualifications on site – NOCNs

## Unpaid offender hours 2011

Detail the number of offender hours worked in the community in 2011.

Figures for the Calendar year 2011

- Total number of offender hours : 56814
- Offender hours in individual placements: Estimate of 3229

Brief overview of the number of offender hours in comparison with earlier years.

	2009	2010	2011
Unpaid work hours	51720	49,300	56814
Value to community at minimum wage.	£300,000	£292,400	345,429

Minimum wage used:- 2009 = £5.80      2010 = £5.93    2011 = £6.08

## Projects Completed

Listed below are 63 projects completed in the community in 2011:

Apperley Community Field	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Barton Community Centre	Painting	Completed
Bee Guardian Foundation	Painting	Completed
Bishops Cleeve Fayre	Community Day- Marshalling	Completed
Blakeney Village	Grounds Clearance/ Painting	Completed
Blockley Cemetery	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Bournstream Project	Grounds Clearance/ Painting	Completed
Brimscombe Church	Grounds Clearance	Completed
CAFCAS	Grounds Clearance	Completed
CANDI- Youth Centre	Painting	Completed
Cashes Green Youth and Community Centre	Painting	Completed
Cheltenham Borough Council- Montpellier Park	Event Preperation	Completed
Cheltenham Borough Council- Nature Reserve	Conservation	Completed
Cheltenham Borough Council- Parks	Grounds Clearance/ Graffiti Removal	Completed
Cheltenham Borough Council- Promande	Bench Restoration	Completed
Cheltenham Borough Homes	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Chesterton Subway Project	Painting/ Graffiti Removal	Completed
City Farm- St James	Painting	Completed
Dean Magna School	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Dymock Cricket Club	Grounds Clearance	Completed
GL Communities	Garden Clearance	Completed
Gloucester City Council- Allotments	Grounds Clearance	Completed

Gloucester City Council- Benches	Refurbishment	Completed
Gloucester City Council- Clean Up Community Day	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Gloucester City Council- North Cerney	Bridge Installation	Completed
Gloucester City Council- Park Railings	Painting	Completed
Gloucester City Council- Recycling Bag Project	Office work	Completed
Gloucester Race Equality Centre	Painting	Completed
Gloucester Resource Centre	Painting	Completed
Gloucestershire County Council- Kissing Gate Fitting	Labouring/ Improvement of access	Completed
Hillfield Gardens	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Joys Green	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Ledbury Pony Club	Labouring	Completed
Littleddean Memorial Garden	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Longhope Church	Grounds Clearance/ Labouring	Completed
Moreton In the Marsh Council	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Newlands Church	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Newlands Village Hall	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Northway Park	Clearance	Completed
Northway Skate Park	Painting/ Graffiti Removal	Completed
Pagan Hill Church Railings	Painting	Completed
Parkend Baptist Church	Painting/ Labouring	Completed
Poultton Church Grounds	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Prinknash Abbey	Allotments	Completed
Rudford Village Hall	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Saul Old School	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Severn Vale Housing	Graffiti Removal	Completed
St Christophers Church	Painting	Completed
St Ethelberts Church	Grounds Clearance	Completed
St Pauls Bollards	Painting	Completed
St Pauls Garden Project	Construction	Completed
Stronger Community Team- Cheltenham	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Stroud Scout Hut	Painting/ Grounds work	Completed
Tetbury Council Projects- Enviromental Clearance	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Tetbury Council Projects- Play Area	Painting	Completed
The Rock- Youth Project	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Two Rivers Housing- Allotment	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Two Rivers Housing- Garden Project	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Twyning Horse Show	Labouring	Completed
Westbury Church	Grounds Clearance	Completed
Westonbirt Arborteam	Conservation	Completed
Woodmancote Village Hall	Painting	Completed
Apperley Cricket Club	Grounds Clearance	Completed group-ongoing as an IP

# Successful completion of Community Payback sentences

Successful completions of Community Payback Orders or Community Order with an Unpaid Work requirement calendar year = 395

## Beneficiaries

- Approximate number of beneficiaries = 44
- Types of beneficiaries include Charities , Local Authority , Public etc
- Beneficiary feedback or comments:-

Redecoration of the exterior of building:

*Many thanks to you and your supervisors, worker etc for the excellent work , and there have been many favorable comments. Article to be published in our Parish Newsletter.*

Richard Hennel  
Woodmancote Village hall  
Woodmancote, Cheltenham

Clearance of cemetery:

*Thank you for a job well done! We have been delighted with the hard work and achievement of the crews who can to clear the cemetery. The staff were polite and the 'probationers' were also polite when I spoke to them to explain the job in hand. The ground has been cleared, the trees trimmed and the rubbish all left where we asked them to leave it.*

Alexia Monroe  
Blockley Cemetery

Clearance:

*For some time now we have been working towards and from an extensive area of wetland creating a Nature Reserve in Tewkesbury.*

*Earlier this year I contacted Ms Walker regarding the possible involvement of the Community Payback Scheme. Ms Walker visited the site and together we discussed the preparatory work needed to clear the access area. It would be an understatement to say it was unsightly – overgrown and a dumping ground for rubbish.*

*The reason for writing to you is to make you aware of the tremendous impact they have had in clearing the area and opening it up for a site to be further developed both for the intended access and a community allotment.*

*It really has been a fine example of how effective and productive the scheme can be.*

Councilor Brian Calway  
Prior's Park ward  
Tewkesbury Borough Council

Church Ground clearance, repointing of stone wall:

*During the past few weeks All Saints church has once again been fortunate enough to have teams of Community Payback offenders working at the churchyard. They have always done amazing work and enabled the Church to have skilled work done that would have been financially impossible for us to do. They have laid a concrete path to the toilet giving us full disability access which has obviously benefitted the community plus hundreds of other visitors we get each year. They have also done ongoing maintenance of paths, trees etc. during their visits they have always been well supervised and in the majority of access worked willingly and competently. I have worked closely with them over a period of time and seen the beneficial changes in their attitudes. They have learn new skills, worked as part of a team and have come to have mutual respect for each other.*

*I cannot commend highly enough the supervisors we have been lucky enough to have again this time. I hope that in the future All Saints Church may once again be able to benefit from this excellent scheme which certainly shows the advantages of Community Service over time spent in prison. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with the teams.*

Vicky Harper  
Visit Organiser  
All Saints Church

- **Note: all the above beneficiary feedback projects were charged.**

## Developments

### New Initiatives

- Gloucestershire Probation Trust Community Payback Team provides free labour, protective clothing and offender transport. This year we commenced charging £100 per day, as a contribution to the cost of the skilled supervisor. There is a clear charging criteria and work directly contributing to the community remains a priority.  
- See GPT website
- Established contractual working links with local Social Enterprise – Reach. This is mutually beneficial as it enables this non profit organisation (Reach) to complete community projects and, for GPT Community payback to have a stable and consistent work at a reduced cost to the Trust
- Centralised pickup of offenders, assisting the environment and reducing fuel costs
- Increased individual placements in outlining areas, thereby reducing the offender time spent in transport.
- The community payback team underwent a restructure to increase efficiency

## Criminal Justice Partners

Trust Status has enabled the organisation to start to develop a more holistic approach to working with offenders. Gloucestershire is unique in that we do not have to cross county boundaries to get access to agencies that we work with. The infrastructure in the county is good and being a small county there is the opportunity for good communication and partnership working between all the agencies

The CEO, of Gloucestershire Probation Trust, John Bensted, has this year become Chair of the Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Community Justice Commission. This pulls together the strands of partnership work across the county, with both statutory and non statutory organisations to coordinate the work undertaken to ensure that the public can feel more confident about how crime and the effects of crime is dealt with in Gloucestershire.

## Examples of Recent Press

### Offenders on Community Payback renovate benches for Gloucester

CRIMINALS helped to put the finishing touches to a clean-up of open green space in Tuffley.

Newly-renovated benches have been installed at Holmleigh Park last week by members of the Community Payback scheme.

The scheme runs unpaid work placements for offenders ordered to take part by the courts.

City council spokesman Marcus Grodentz said: "We did a community clean-up in Holmleigh Park back in November, and last week, the benches were brought back in to finish off the clean-up."

*This article also appeared on the "This is Gloucestershire" website on 30th December, 2011.*



Matthew Dobbin, Community Payback supervisor, and Katie Wren, neighbourhood co-ordinator

### Royal Wedding Lunch

Offenders sentenced to unpaid work by the courts and supervised by Gloucestershire Probation Trust prepared a feast fit for a king at the St Mark's Community Centre Lunch Club to celebrate William and Kate's wedding. This Community Payback project gives catering skills and experience to offenders which help them find employment.

