



Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority update - June 2011

Welcome

This is the first e update from Lanarkshire CJA. We will:

- publicise developments that will be of interest to you
- circulate e updates to a wide range of partners and
- circulate the e update every three months

This update is one method we use to communicate how we and our partners contribute to reducing re-offending and community safety.

LCJA Website

Lanarkshire CJA website provides background information on the role of Community Justice Authorities and includes information on Board Members, staffing, contact details for the team and links to partner's websites. Current LCJA publications, such as, the Area Plan (2011-14), previous Annual Reports and all Board papers are also available for information.

If you would like any further information about the updates contained in this document or you are interested in supplying information for the next update, please visit our website at www.lanarkshirecja.org.uk or contact the team on 01698 454234 or at the following email address: roberta.reid@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



£3 million to upgrade sports facilities – Scotland Wide

£3m has been made available for a 'CashBack/Payback Link-Up Project' and a proportion of this fund will be allocated to the Lanarkshire area. Information based on costs contained in the National Audit of Scotland's Sporting Facilities, indicates this funding could, for example, be used to allow Community Payback teams to:

- improve football pitches
- improve pitches that would otherwise require replacement
- reconstruct bowling greens

Community Justice Authorities in partnership with Local Authorities will develop innovative relationships with *Sportscotland*. This funding is intended to supplement existing work programmes in a way which

provides opportunities to develop worthwhile projects for public benefit and which also enhance the future employability prospects of offenders.



£1 million Project Initiation Fund – Scotland Wide

A one off payment of £1m has been made available from the Scottish Government to Community Justice Authorities to buy materials and equipment for use by Community Payback Teams for unpaid work schemes. Examples of equipment that could be purchased are:

- graffiti removal tools
- larger capital equipment
- minibuses

The fund will allow local authorities to undertake larger, more innovative and more sustainable pieces of work which might otherwise not have been possible if the cost of the capital equipment required was prohibitive. The intention is that the fund will operate for the financial year 2011-12 only.

Lanarkshire Community Service – Audit of Immediacy and Speed

Scottish Government figures show that in 2010 the vast majority of offenders who received a Community Service Order in Lanarkshire received their review the same working day, had their order served the same working day and commenced their placement with 7 working days, as detailed below:

- 97.6% had their post sentence review the same working day as the court disposal
- 97.6% had their order served the same working day as the order was made by the court
- 90.2% commenced their work placement (not induction) within 7 working days of imposition of the order

Of those who successfully completed their order between 1 October and 31 December 2010 the average length of time taken to complete orders was as follows:

Length of order by hours	Number of days to complete (2010)	Number of days to complete (2009)
150 hours or less	355	455
151 -200 hours	493	532
201-250 hours	623	550
More than 250 hours	699	658

The above information shows that there has been a significant improvement in orders of up to 200 hours.

Community Payback Orders were introduced from 1st February 2011 replacing Community Service Orders, Probation Orders and Supervised Attendance Orders. Community Payback Orders will give courts the flexibility to impose one or more of a range of requirements, depending on the nature of the crime and the underlying issues that need addressed to stop the offending behaviour. When sentencing the offender to a Community Payback Order the court could require them to: carry out hours of unpaid manual work in the community; be



subject to periods of supervision; specific conduct requirements; comply with pay compensation to victim(s) and /or participate in alcohol, drug or mental health treatment interventions.

Please note that referral forms are available on the LCJA website for applications for unpaid work to both North and South Lanarkshire Council.



North Lanarkshire Council – Awareness Raising Events

North Lanarkshire Council has hosted several events focusing on the new Community Payback Orders. Service users were also encouraged to participate and Robert, a service user from North Lanarkshire, explained how he carried out his Community Service in a local workshop. With over 20 years of joinery experience Robert was given a range of projects to work on. He said, *"I'm a qualified joiner and was able to use my skills in the workshop. I also worked closely with other young people and taught them basic joinery skills. I helped make sandpits for local nurseries, a school pavilion and benches for memorial gardens. I really enjoyed the work and the experience and it was good to give something back to the community."*



South Lanarkshire Council Briefing Sessions to Courts

With the commencement of the Community Payback Order on the 1 February 2011, South Lanarkshire Council undertook briefing sessions for the Courts on behalf of both North and South Lanarkshire Council. The briefing sessions were provided for Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Court Officials and lawyers across Lanarkshire. These briefing sessions were intended to increase understanding about Community Payback Orders, answer any concerns and encourage communication in order to facilitate the smooth introduction of these new orders.



Community Payback Orders Imposed in Lanarkshire

The Scottish Court Service has collated information on early numbers of Community Payback Orders imposed during February and March 2011, as follows:

- Hamilton Sheriff Court imposed - 25
- Airdrie Sheriff Court imposed - 16
- Lanark Sheriff Court imposed - 8

Hamilton Sheriff Court imposed the second highest level of Community Payback Orders in Scotland. Please note further updates will be provided in our next e update in September 2011.

Lanarkshire MAPP (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) Annual Report 2010/11 is currently being produced. This year, the report will be published on LCJA website, rather than the Scottish Government website on a date to be confirmed by the Government.



Prisoner Numbers

The Scottish Prison Service supply LCJA with figures every month which provide a snapshot of the number of prisoners from Lanarkshire and all other CJA areas. The figures are broken down by gender, age and length of sentence and include specific information about the number of sex offenders in custody. In relation to the 12 months of the last financial year there has been an overall reduction of 10% in prisoner numbers for Lanarkshire and in particular a fall of 40% for those under 21.
