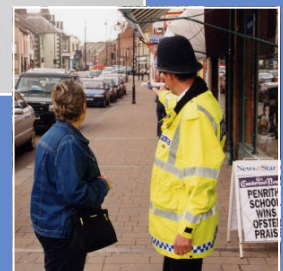
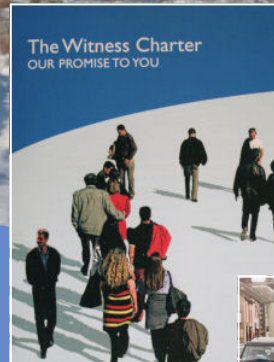


Justice Jottings...



OUR VISION

'Safer and stronger communities in Cumbria through effective partnership working, which:

- ❖ Reduces offending
- ❖ Encourages respect
- ❖ Provides excellent services to victims and witnesses
- ❖ Promotes public participation and confidence

Welcome

Welcome to Justice Jottings, the public newsletter reporting the activities and performance of the Cumbria Criminal Justice Board and its partner justice agencies.

Justice Jottings is produced at various times during the year and distributed electronically (as a PDF document) to our mailing list and also posted on the Board's website.

If you would like to receive an e-copy directly, please send your request by e-mail to:

ccjbenquiries@cumbria.police.uk



Annette Hennessy
Chief Officer, Cumbria Probation Service &
Chair of Cumbria Criminal Justice Board

Board contacts

The Board has a small support team to help deliver its work programme. They can be contacted at:

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Carleton Hall
Penrith
CA10 2AU

E-mail: ccjbenquiries@cumbria.police.uk

Telephone: (01768) 217655

CUMBRIA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



Criminal justice online

There is a wealth of information about the criminal justice system available online. A wide range of sites provides support and assistance aimed at different users of the system i.e. victims, witnesses, defendants, jurors and professionals.

If you have access to the Internet, try some of these:

Ministry of Justice

www.justice.gov.uk

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

www.cjsonline.gov.uk

Crown Prosecution Service

www.cps.gov.uk

Cumbria Constabulary

www.cumbria.police.uk

HM Courts Service

www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk

HM Prison Service

www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Legal Services Commission (legal aid)

www.legalservices.gov.uk

National Probation Service

www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk

Victim Support

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Youth Justice Board

www.yjb.gov.uk

The Judiciary of England & Wales

www.judiciary.gov.uk

The Magistrates' Association

www.magistrates-association.org.uk

Sentencing Guidelines Council

www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk



Local communities to be informed of criminal convictions



People are to be given more and better information about the punishments given to criminals in their area, Justice Secretary Jack Straw announced recently.

Offenders' crimes and their punishments will be shared more frequently with local communities under new Government guidelines published in December, which encourage the police and other criminal justice agencies to make this information more widely available. The move is part of a wider Government drive to make justice more visible and provide better information in a way that is easy to find and understand.

It is part of the process of fulfilling the Justice Secretary's pledge to make court outcomes available online. The Government is working on plans to develop a website to make court results available to the public in a way that is simple, clear and informative.

This follows a Government poll that showed more than two thirds of people think it is important for the public to be told about the sentences handed out to offenders, but only a quarter currently feel well informed.

Justice Secretary Jack Straw said:

"If people are to have confidence in our criminal justice system, justice must be done – and be seen to be done.

"Individual crimes often get a lot of media coverage and news can spread across communities quickly that a crime has been committed. However, the news that someone has been caught, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced does not travel as far.

"This guidance explains, once and for all, that authorities can publish the details of crimes and the punishments criminals have received, and that the Government actively encourages them to do so. It is vital people know that criminals will not escape the consequences of their crimes."

Mr Straw urged all agencies involved in delivering justice to follow the successful examples set by those police forces and local councils who are already regularly providing this information on websites and in leaflets.

Home Secretary, Alan Johnson, said:

"People want to know what happens to criminals in their area once they are convicted because it shows that there are consequences to breaking the law.

"If those consequences are visible to the public, it builds their confidence in the criminal justice system by reassuring those who have had to live alongside these criminals or those who have been their victims that taking a stand against them and supporting the police and local agencies to bring them to justice has been worthwhile.

"Publicising criminal convictions opens up the criminal justice system, making it more transparent and accountable to the public."

Verdicts and sentences are given out in open court and are already a matter of public record. Copies of the court register, containing the outcomes of criminal cases and details of upcoming court cases, have been available to local newspapers and regularly reported for many years.

This announcement ties in with the 'Justice Seen Justice Done' campaign, a key part of which is about building the public's confidence that the criminal justice system is on their side. This campaign follows on from Louise Casey's Cabinet Office review 'Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime'.

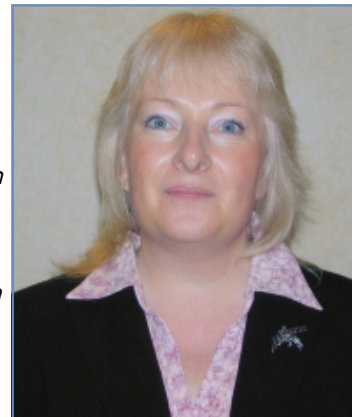
**JUSTICE SEEN
JUSTICE DONE**

Dee Taylor leaving Victim Support

Following a major national restructuring, Victim Support - Cumbria Area Manager and Cumbria Criminal Justice Board member, Dee Taylor, is leaving the organisation at the end of January to pursue other interests. Reflecting on her time in the organisation, Dee said:

"During the last seventeen years enormous strides have been made in the support given to victim and witnesses in this county and I thank all colleagues and friends for their support during those years, during which I have seen so many examples of professionalism and dedication.

When I started as a volunteer in Barrow, there was no Witness Service and Victim Support was run from the rear bedroom of the then Volunteer Co-ordinator. As many people will be aware, we are now fortunate enough to have an exclusive Witness Suite in each of our Courts, a Victim Support office with 24-hour access based within a Police Station in each of the Basic Command Unit areas, the Victim Care Unit that remains open from 8am-8pm providing need assessments to all victims of referable crime, and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor services working alongside us in South and West Cumbria. I am confident that in the future with ongoing support from all, these services will continue to develop and improve."



The Board would like to add their sincere thanks for the work that Dee has contributed since its formation in 2003, and in particular for her tireless and committed drive to raise the profile of victims and witnesses within the local criminal justice system. Our best wishes for the future!

Her role will be taken on by Mark Barrow, Divisional Manager for Victim Support - Cumbria & Lancashire, who will thus become the new Board member for Cumbria. We welcome him to the area and look forward to working together in the future.

Stop press! - local sentencing information now available

The screenshot shows the Cumbria Constabulary website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, News, Contact us, Your Neighbourhood, Advice & Info, Join Us, About Us, Freedom of Information, and Keywords. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'News' section with a 'View more' link. The main content area features several articles and sections: 'Domestic Violence' with a 'View Story' link, 'The Policing Pledge' by Chief Constable Craig Mackey QPM, 'Your Neighbourhood' and 'Youth Zone' sections, 'Details on your local policing team and area', and 'Visit youth zone!'. There is also a 'Policing in Cumbria' video player, a 'Twitter' section with a tweet about anti-social behaviour, and a 'Contact Us' section with a phone number (0845 33 00 247) and an email link. At the bottom, there are logos for CEOP REPORT and Cumbria CRIMESTOPPERS (0800 555 111).

Further to the government announcement regarding the provision of sentencing information to local communities (see Page 3 of this edition of Justice Jottings), the first batch of case outcomes relating to identified community priorities in Cumbria has just gone live via the Cumbria Constabulary website.

Results can be accessed through the 'Your Neighbourhood' pages of the site. From the Neighbourhood Policing Team list, select the locality that you are interested in and then scroll down to section covering Court Results.

Not all cases or offenders will be listed - each case needs to be considered on individual circumstances and relevance to the community before posting on the web or through printed copy distribution, such as neighbourhood newsletters. This ensures compliance with government guidelines together with data protection and human rights legislation.

www.cumbria.police.uk

Victims' Champion report published

Sara Payne MBE, whose daughter Sarah was kidnapped and murdered by a paedophile in 2000, was appointed Victims' Champion on 26 January 2009 jointly by the Justice Secretary, Home Secretary and Attorney General.

Ms Payne began working to protect children from paedophiles and speaking out for victims after her daughter was murdered. It emerged during the case that Whiting was a serial sex offender who had also abducted and sexually assaulted a nine-year-old girl five years before he killed Sarah Payne.

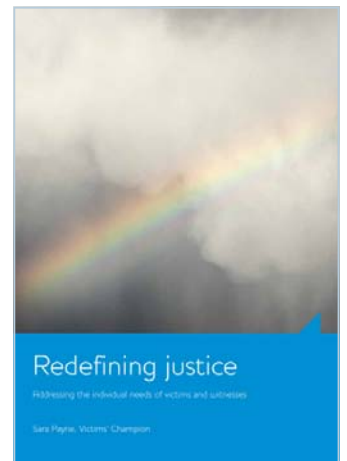
After Whiting was convicted and jailed for life she called on the government to change the law surrounding information about paedophiles. The so-called "Sarah's Law" was partly inspired by Megan's Law in the United States, which was introduced after the rape and murder of seven-year-old Megan Kanka in 1994.

The Victims' Champion is an appointment for one year. Sara describes her role:

*"Since my appointment as Victims' Champion, I have met with hundreds of representatives from the voluntary sector, victims and witnesses and criminal justice system practitioners and officials to help me understand where the system is working well and where I consider reform to be necessary. **On 5th November 2009, my findings were published in the form of a report 'Redefining Justice – addressing the individual needs of victims and witnesses'.***

The main principle of the report is that support should be tailored to the impact of the offence on the victim, as opposed to the offence type. While victims of the same offence type may have a common set of support needs, they will still have different expectations, support networks to rely on and difficulties navigating a complex system."

The government is presently considering its response to the contents of the report, a copy of which is available on the Ministry of Justice website: www.justice.gov.uk



Constabulary takes the lead with 'Action Fraud'

With effect from 1st December 2009, Cumbria Constabulary is leading the way for other police forces around the country with the local launch of a pilot for **'Action Fraud' - a national call centre taking reports of fraud directly from members of the public.** The call centre will provide a single point of contact not only for members of the public to report fraud but also to gain vital crime prevention advice related to this issue.



The call centre will eventually take reports nationally which will be fed in with other fraud data collected from other organisations to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). The NFIB's role will be in analysing and collating crime reports and intelligence at a national level for dissemination to forces for action.

Financial Institutions will encourage their customers (both personal and business) to report cheque, plastic card (credit card, debit card, prepayment card and store card) or online bank account fraud directly to them and not the Police in the first instance. Online bank accounts include telephone bank accounts.

If the Financial Institution wishes an account holder to report the crime to the police direct, the Financial Institution will give the account holder a reference number to give to the police – either in the form of a letter or verbally. In this case, the account holder will be asked to report it to their local police station. The police station must then record a crime related incident.

Action Fraud is open from Monday to Friday between 8am to 8pm, Saturday between 9am to 6pm and Sunday between 10am to 4pm, and can be contacted on 0300 123 2040 or Textphone 0300 123 2050.

A comprehensive website offering appropriate support and signposting as well as an ability to report fraud on line is currently being developed by the National Fraud Authority and will similarly be rolled out early in the new year.

CPS report shows rise in successful hate crime prosecutions

The Crown Prosecution Service's second annual Hate Crime Report was published recently and shows that convictions for hate crimes have risen by eight per cent to 82 per cent in four years.

The report shows that significant steps forward have been made in the prosecution of all types of hate crimes - racist and religious aggravation; homophobic and trans-phobic; and disability hate crimes.

Keir Starmer QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, said:

"This report shows how seriously we take all types of hate crimes.

"Being targeted because of your race, religion, sexuality or disability is a profoundly isolating experience and one we will prosecute wherever possible. People from all communities have a legitimate right to expect protection from the prejudice and discrimination that are at the root of hate crime.

"We are doing a lot of really good work - particularly at a local level with the Hate Crime Scrutiny Panels, but there is still more to do, such as improving our service to victims and witnesses to increase their confidence in the system and to ensure our communities feel properly protected."

The report shows that the CPS has met the overall hate crime target, kept up a good performance on prosecuting racist hate crime and increased the numbers of homophobic, trans-phobic and disability hate crime cases being prosecuted.

The Attorney General, Baroness Scotland QC, who superintends the CPS, said:

"In its second year, the CPS report of all such crimes sends a clear message: that there is no hierarchy of hate crime - they are all equally corrosive to society and to victims.

"The way in which Scrutiny Panels are opening up our performance to community scrutiny has also been an inspiration for the Community Prosecutor approach, which the CPS introduced this year to make decisions more transparent to local people and help us to better protect them."

A copy of the full report in PDF format can be downloaded from the Crown Prosecution Service website:

www.cps.gov.uk



Annual Review & Prospectus 2009

Copies of the Board's Annual Review & Prospectus 2009 are still available on request.

The report highlights some of the key activities and performance achievements for the 2008/2009 year and looks ahead to projects and targets for 2009/2010.

If you would like to be sent a copy, the document is available free of charge by contacting the Board support team - see details on Page 2.



Next edition

The next edition of Justice Jottings will appear in April 2010. Please contact us if you would like to be added to our e-mailing list.



Give respect Get respect

Cumbria school wins Inside Justice Week poster competition

Pupils at Great Corby Primary School near Carlisle were the recent winners of an annual poster competition organised by HM Courts Service - Cumbria & Lancashire Area.

The competition, now in its third year, is run to coincide with Inside Justice Week, which aims to better engage local communities with the criminal justice system through public events and other activities.

A considerable amount of community engagement work takes place by a range of local criminal justice agencies throughout the year, but Inside Justice Week provides an opportunity for more focused and co-ordinated activity.

Working with schools forms a significant part of the strategic community engagement plan. Getting crime and justice messages across to young people at an early stage is important in helping them to understand how criminal activity affects society generally, and helps to deter anti-social behaviour and disorder within local neighbourhoods.

The competition was promoted by direct mailing to schools and through the local authority schools' web portal. For 2009, the poster theme was simply 'Crime and Justice'.

Work to design the posters was supported by schools having the opportunity to take part in visits to police stations, courts and the fire service. Entries were judged by a senior manager from HM Courts Service, a magistrate and a Witness Service manager.

Representatives from the winning school took part in a prize presentation event at Carlisle Crown Court, and as part of their prize pupils will be undertaking a visit to the North Cumbria Police HQ at Durranhill in January.



Presentation to Great Corby School at Carlisle Crown Court
L to R: His Honour Judge Batty; a pupil from Great Corby School; Insp. Adrian Sowerby from Carlisle policing team.

Courses available at the University of Cumbria

The University of Cumbria offers a range of full-time and part-time courses linked to crime and criminal justice. Some examples of the subject areas that can be studied include:

- Law;
- Criminology;
- Criminal Justice Studies;
- Policing;
- Forensics.

A number of these can be combined into joint study programmes.

For further information see the University website:

www.cumbria.ac.uk

Feedback

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Ideas and comments are always welcomed.

CUMBRIA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



Local performance information 2009/2010

The Criminal Justice Board and its member agencies are responsible for achieving a number of performance targets covering a wide range of issues. Current priorities for 2009/2010 are: increasing effectiveness and efficiency in bringing offences to justice, particularly serious offences; taking action to recover the proceeds of crime from those convicted; dealing quickly with offenders who fail to comply with orders of the court, breach their community penalties or who are recalled to prison for breaches of their license agreement.

Data used to monitor performance is compiled from a variety of sources. There is usually a time lag whilst data is collated and checked - the selected data shown below is the latest currently available.

A more comprehensive dataset of performance measures is available from the Board on request.

	TARGET	ACTUAL
PSA Indicator 1: Effectiveness & efficiency in bringing offences to justice		
Tier 1 Serious sexual offences - rolling annual data	36.4%	29.6% (to Sept 2009)
Tier 1 Serious violent offences - rolling annual data	35.6%	43.5% (to Sept 2009)
Tier 2 Serious acquisitive offences - rolling annual data	22.5%	17.9% (to Sept 2009)
Tier 3 All other offences - rolling annual data	42.4%	41.8% (to Sept 2009)
PSA Indicator 5: Recovery of assets		
Value of assets actually recovered from Confiscation Orders enforcement - year to date	£633,744	£488,340 (to Nov 2009)
Number of Confiscation Orders obtained - year to date	65	52 (to Nov 2009)
Value of Confiscation Orders obtained - year to date	£1,250,000	£611,375 (to Nov 2009)
Compliance and enforcement measures		
Fail To Appear Warrants outstanding	≤120	80 (at Oct 2009)
Warrant execution - Category 'A' (within 14 days) - rolling data	75%	100% (to Oct 2009)
Warrant execution - Category 'B' (within 21 days) - rolling data	75%	89% (to Oct 2009)
Warrant execution - Category 'C' (within 28 days) - rolling data	70%	82% (to Oct 2009)
Community penalty breaches - proportion resolved within 25 working days - year to date	66%	73% (to Nov 2009)
Community penalty breaches - (not exceeding) number of unresolved cases over 35 working days - year to date	40	16 (to Nov 2009)
Community penalty breaches - proportion of warrants to be executed within 20 working days for adults and 10 days for youths	78%	85% (to Nov 2009)
Licence recall - proportion of emergency case recalls dealt with in 74 hours or less	75%	90% (Period Apr09-Sept09)
Licence recall - proportion of standard case recalls dealt with in 144 hours or less	75%	82% (Period Apr09-Sept09)