



## **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Between**

**Durham Probation Service and Durham County Council**

### **1. INTRODUCTION.**

Durham Probation Service has a history of carrying out unpaid work on behalf of their local communities via the various former County Council and District Councils. Each has been very successful and, both the community and the offenders completing the work have benefited. Now with the Local Government reorganisation and the formulation of the Durham County Council, these arrangements are being reviewed.

### **2. PROJECT AIMS**

It is important for Durham Probation Service and Durham County Council to work closely to ensure that offenders are seen to be carrying out work on behalf of the community. The work should be visible, identified by the community and provide opportunities for offenders to develop skills which would increase their capacity to become more employable.

Research has shown that offenders who gain employment are less likely to commit further offences. Therefore, this arrangement would not only benefit the community with the work carried out, but also protect the public from further offending and increasing public confidence. This will be achieved by:-

- Extending the existing work across the whole county, managed through this local agreement to provide daily work in each of the three Streetscene Operational Areas.
- Involving the public in selecting projects, through the Area Action Partnerships coordinated by Direct Services, Streetscene Team.
- Increasing the visibility of the work conducted under the banners of Community Payback and 'Altogether greener' and "Altogether Safer" through publicity.
- Imaginative projects which provide opportunities for skill development.
- Potential for training as an integral part of the Community Payback Programme.

- Potential for offenders who demonstrate a good work record and willingness to develop skills during the Community Payback Order, to be considered for interview or recruitment if vacancies arise.

### **3. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

- 3.1 Durham County Council will facilitate the identification of appropriate projects. These projects will be identified through the Area Action Partnerships and involve the members of the community in selecting/prioritising the work for offenders to complete.
- 3.2 The work programme for the County Council will be coordinated through Direct Services, Streetscene.
- 3.3 The Probation Service will conduct a project assessment to ascertain its suitability for the offenders currently available. Projects may also be identified through action days or action weeks, and also through promotional events facilitated by the Council.

### **4. OFFENDERS WORKING ON GROUP PROJECTS**

- 4.1 The Probation Service will provide an agreed number of offenders for each project, who will have been assessed as to their suitability to perform the tasks required.
- 4.2 If a project requires specialist equipment and skills which are not available through community payback, the Council will provide both the equipment and the staff to work alongside the Community Payback Team to complete the task.
- 4.3 The Probation Service will provide on-site supervision of offenders at a minimum ratio of 1:7. The supervisors will deal with all incidents if they occur at the projects.

### **5. OFFENDERS WORKING ON SINGLE OR SMALL GROUP PLACEMENTS**

- 5.1 Where offenders are working on singleton placements or in small groups of 2 or 3, the beneficiary will provide supervision and feedback to the Probation Service regarding the offender's performance and attendance.
- 5.2 The Probation Service will provide a point of contact for the beneficiary and in the event of any incident; the point of contact will attend the project and deal with the incident.

### **6. PROMOTION OF THE PARTNERSHIP WORK**

- 6.1 The County Council will also be responsible for the promotion of the work completed by the unpaid work teams, through the County Council newsletters, AAP's and any other publications to which they have access.

- 6.2 The success of the work conducted through this arrangement will also be reported into the Pride in County Durham Group (Environment Partnership) and the Policy and Planning Group (Community Safety Board).
- 6.3 The Probation Service will provide, information regarding hours worked, range of projects etc.
- 6.4 The Probation Service will participate in any promotional events organised through Durham County Council.

**7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 7.1 To ensure the smooth running of the partnership the Probation Service will attend, when required to do so, the Area Action Partnerships, and each AAP will have a designated single point of contact for their area.
- 7.2 The Probation Service already monitors the performance of those offenders working on projects and can, therefore, provide information regarding hours completed etc for any reports etc.
- 7.3 A joint quarterly meeting will review progress and the development of the partnership.

Assistant Director for Unpaid Work  
County Durham Probation

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cabinet Portfolio Member for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships  
Councillor Brian Stephens  
Durham County Council

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cabinet Portfolio Member for Safer Communities  
Councillor Lucy Hovvel  
Durham County Council

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_