Unpaid Work – Community Payback

David Mead, Unpaid Work Scheme Manager
National Offender Management Service
At its best…

Unpaid Work

• punishes
• visible to the community
• serves and enables offenders to make reparation to the community
• offers opportunities for education, rehabilitation, training & employment
• instils work discipline and opens pathways to employment
• builds the corporate, civic, faith & community alliances
... and the figures

January 2007 – December 2007

- 130,574 started community orders
- 59,772 of which included unpaid work

- 55,771 unpaid work completions in 2007/08

- around 72% of those who start unpaid work complete it successfully

- in 2007/08 offenders completed over 6 million hours of unpaid work and paid back over £34.5m worth of work to their community calculated at the National Minimum Wage
Re-offending of adults 2006 cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Actual Rate of Re-offending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid work</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All community orders</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison Sentences &lt;12m</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
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</tbody>
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As a result of the lack of a comparison group this is not robust evidence that unpaid work affects reconviction rates.
Strategic aims

- Increase the quality and efficiency of delivery of unpaid work to build confidence of community and courts and reduce re-offending
  - National Completion Target (48,192 2008-09)
  - Achievement of National Standards
  - Monitoring Stand downs
    (3.5% Target 2008-09 2.1% Achieved April–June 08)
  - Quality Standards (Self Assessment)
  - Development of Commissioning Standards.
Strategic aims

• Unpaid Work Specifications
  - Probation Specification, Benchmarking and Costing Programme
  - 3-5 year programme to develop fully costed service specifications

Strategic aims

• Increase public confidence, links with the community and the visibility of Community Payback

- Mayors’ Community Payback Projects
- Citizens’ Panels
- Further increases in visibility
- Increased community participation.
Policy Shapers 2008

• NAO Report – Community Sentences

• Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime
  Casey Review

• Tackling Knives Action Programme
NAO Report – Supervision of Community Orders

• In addition to punishment community orders offer benefits to the community and offenders
• 73% of unpaid work placements were of benefit to the community
• 30,000 occasions when offenders were stood down
• Only 63% of placements were sufficiently demanding
• Inconsistent implementation
• Better data on capacity, costs and completions.
Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime – Casey Review

• Increased visibility of community payback
• Greater community involvement
• Greater feedback to the community
• Contracting Community Payback out
• Change in the name of the sentence
• Greater intensity
• Reduced assessment time
• Power to extend the order.
Casey Review – Community Payback

Of those interviewed by the Review Team
• 50% said all punishments should involve payback
• 65% considered that payback was a very important component of a community order
• 79% considered that local people should be informed about the work undertaken
• 72% interviewed agreed that local people should have a say in the work which was done
Casey Review – Community Payback

• 71% said they would attend a meeting to identify community payback work projects

• 70% agreed that those serving community payback should be identified

• 78% considered that the work should be carried out where the crime was committed.
Working to increase *visibility*

- **Community Payback**
  - launched November 2005 to generate increased awareness by the community
  - local people have the chance to propose projects
  - offenders and staff may wear branded clothing; plaques used to show that the work has been done by offenders
  - February 2007 – Mayors’ Community Payback
  - September 2008 Citizens’ Panels
  - December 2008 distinctive clothing
Mayors’ Community Payback Projects

- Launched in February 2007
- Designed to generate local publicity
- 36 Areas participated in 2007
- 63 projects planned nationally

2008
- 70 + projects in 2008 in 38 areas.
Citizens’ Panels

- Proposed in Prison Policy Update Paper January 2008
- Link consultation on Community Payback with local authority and police public consultation processes
- Pilot areas identified in conjunction with DCLG
- Link to Empowerment White Paper
- September 2008 6 pilot areas announced
- 6 month pilot with a view to national roll-out.
Citizens’ Panels

Six Pilot Areas:
- Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Leicester City Council
- Portsmouth City Council
- Wiltshire County Council
- Denbighshire County Council
Distinctive Clothing

- First proposed in 1997
- Highlighted by the Casey Review
- Ministerial decision
- High Visibility Clothing to be worn on ‘visible’ work sites
- Unless
  - Beneficiary prefers distinctive clothing is not used
  - Risk assessment precludes use.
Tackling Knives Action Programme

• Intensive Delivery of Community Payback
• Gateway instruction to probation areas
• Intensive Alternatives to Custody
• Faster Delivery
• Links to Increasing Visibility
• Links to Citizen Engagement.
Snapshot of Unpaid Work
Types of placement by hours worked - March 2008

Placement by hours

- Supervised group (7 or more) - 48%
- Supervised group (6 or fewer) - 29%
- Individual placement - 23%
Snapshot of Unpaid Work 2008

Nature of work/badged

- Environment/conservation
- Charity shop
- Painting/decorating
- Community safety
- Graffiti/litter removal
- Other
- Restoration
- Recycling
- Luncheon club
- Animal work
- Unpaid work workshop

Nature of work
badged

Ministry of JUSTICE
Snapshot of Unpaid Work 2008

Commissioning source

Voluntary Sector
Local Authorities
Community group
Education
Faith groups
Other
CDRP
Health
Police
Website/helpline
Opportunities for skills/qualifications by number of projects
March 2008

Opportunities for skills/qualifications by project

- Vocational skills: 62%
- Skills for life (basic skills): 25%
- Accredited award: 6%
- IT skills: 3%
- Guaranteed interview: 2%
- Other: 2%
- Guaranteed interview: 2%

Ministry of JUSTICE
Members of the public were asked:
How important are the following requirements of a CO?

- Unpaid Work: 92%
- Drugs Alcohol (if needed): 91%
- Supervision Meetings: 90%
- Behaviour Programmes: 88%
- Skills Training: 88%