

# Kent Probation Community Payback



Changing Lives  
Reducing Crime

## Work in East Kent - September 2010

Since April 2010, offenders on Community Payback undertook 41,350 hours of work in East Kent. Work by Community Payback teams included making vast improvements to community facilities, the environment, public buildings, open spaces and local neighbourhoods. Community Payback is one of the 12 requirements of a community order which can include other punishments such as a Curfew with rehabilitation such as drugs and alcohol treatment.

### Ashford:

**Operation Clean Sweep 2** : Kent Probation was involved a multi – agency clean up with Police, Councils and voluntary organisations. Offenders on Community Payback removed rubbish, graffiti and litter from alleyways around Bybrook Barn Road. The aim of the work was to tackle the problems highlighted by local residents and to improve the environment, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and provide reassurance for the people of Ashford. This took place in June.

### Canterbury:

**Justice Seen: Justice Done:** Since February, teams of offenders have been working in the district, completing 34 litter picks and removing graffiti and paint at 15 locations. Six successful months of the Community Payback running in the Canterbury district was marked with a graffiti clean-up in Tankerton. Offenders removed tags and other unsightly graffiti from areas on the seafront. The work was identified by the Neighbourhood Task Team who meet every fortnight to tackle Community Safety issues.

There are two Community Payback groups working every Saturday and Sunday with the Canterbury Community Safety Partnership.

### Deal/Dover:

**Walmer:** A team of offenders on Community Payback are working with the local council to make improvements to the area as part of Walmer in Bloom. They will be painting containers and creating a new boat feature full of plants.



Suggest Further Community Payback Work at [www.kentprobation.org](http://www.kentprobation.org)

# How Community Payback works

**Kent Probation provides free labour for projects that fulfil the following criteria:**

- The work would not normally be done by people in paid employment
- Outdoor projects must be on land in public ownership, or to which the public have regular access
- Projects must satisfy a risk assessment, including health and safety requirements
- Projects should not require specialist or heavy equipment
- There must be an identifiable beneficiary such as the local community or a charitable organisation.

Organisations benefiting from the work must provide and pay for any materials to be used, such as paint and brushes, cement, cleaning products, dust sheets etc.

## How do we select projects?

Kent Probation works with a wide range of partners including community groups, charities, local authorities, schools, churches, mosques and care homes, who suggest projects which would be suitable.

More importantly, any member of the public can suggest a project. You can nominate a project online at [www.kentprobation.org](http://www.kentprobation.org) This is something we very much encourage.

## What type of offenders work in the community?

In general Unpaid Work is given to low and medium risk offenders. It is not a suitable sentence for high risk offenders. Typical crimes are motoring offences, public order offences, theft and other dishonesty.

## How do people know offenders are safe to work in their community?

All offenders are carefully assessed before they are allocated to work projects to ensure the safety of the public. Groups of offenders are also supervised by trained probation staff.

## Does it cut crime?

As well as a punishment Community Payback is proven to reduce re-offending in many cases. Work carried out such as gardening, forestry, painting and decorating and carpentry can be accredited by education providers, giving offenders a recognised certificate. For many this is the first educational qualification they have ever achieved and is an incentive to carry on with further education or apply for jobs.

Research indicates that if offenders can gain stable employment they are 30 per cent less likely to re-offend. Offenders sentenced to Community Payback are half as likely to re-offend as those sentenced to short prison sentences.

## How to find out more about Community Payback in your area

We welcome suggestions for work projects for offenders from people living in the local community, community organisations and local charities. If you or your organisation would like to propose a work site, please visit [www.kentprobation.org](http://www.kentprobation.org) or contact your local probation office.