



CRIME & DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE

22 April 2015

Subject Heading:

Community Payback Scheme

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

To review the current arrangements

SUMMARY

This report sets out to review the progress of the Community Payback scheme for Housing and seeks to achieve improved value for money in future work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the contents of the report and to comment on the proposals.

REPORT DETAIL

Background

Community Payback is in essence a punishment where offenders 'pay back' to the community for their crimes. Through the scheme, offenders do demanding and physical work to the benefit of the community.

Magistrates and Judges can order offenders to do between 40 hours and 300 hours of Community Payback. Offenders are expected to undertake a minimum of six hours per week.

Offenders wear orange jackets marked 'Community Payback', so local people can see they are paying back for their crimes. The work is monitored by an on-site supervisor.

Community Payback is reinforced legally in that if an offender fails to carry out the work, they are returned to court so their sentence can be reviewed.

Community Payback projects must:

- Improve the quality of life for the community
- Reduce crime and fear of crime
- Be identified by local communities as a priority
- Be visible to local communities

London Probation Trust

In January 2012 the London Probation Trust, then part of Serco, agreed to complete community based work in Havering by having a team working two days a week on specified projects.

As part of that arrangement Housing were required to fund the cost of a dedicated supervisor trained by the London Probation Trust. In addition, equipment and welfare facilities were to be provided. The number of people in a team depended on offenders turning up on the day and this varied between three and eight persons.

The initial cost of delivering the service during 2012/13 was approximately £20,000. The project continued in 2013/14 and 2014/15 with a similar budget, although latterly the budget has underspent.

The budget is required to fund the cost of a team supervisor along with materials and equipment. (The cost of a supervisor is £152 per day, plus mileage costs).

Projects have to be identified within reasonable walking distance of a satellite office, community hall or void property. This is part of the agreement as access to rest and break facilities is required for the Community Payback team.

In 2014/15 the Trust has gone through an organisational change. In January 2015 London Probation, who run Community Payback, were transferred to the 'London Community Rehabilitation Company. The company is owned by MTC Novo. At an operational level Housing continues to work with the same management personnel.

Monitoring Payback Scheme- Value for money

There are regular monitoring meetings with the Community Payback manager where existing projects and completion targets are agreed. In addition materials, resident feedback and future projects are discussed.

Weekly site inspections also occur with the Community Payback supervisor. During these site visits the attendance of offenders is noted. In addition the progress of work and materials is reviewed.

This financial year we are reviewing the supervisory arrangements and scope of the scheme. As indicated to date the Housing Service has paid for a supervisor; however we are in liaison with Culture & Leisure Services and Streetcare to ascertain their working arrangements to see if increased value for money can be achieved.

Resident Consultation- work based on residents' priorities

Where possible proposed work is agreed with residents. For example, work on Waterloo Estate and Briar Road Estate was agreed in consultation with Waterloo Action Group and BRAG.

The Briar Road gardening work was part of a 'neighbourhood agreement' with the BRAG group. This agreement outlines the joint actions that Havering Council is required to address to ensure that the Briar Estate is a cleaner and greener place to live.

The Sheltered residents group (SHOUT) requested work from the scheme to their properties. This work is being undertaken at present and includes the painting of garden furniture and the decoration of guest rooms.

Publicity

We have had positive feedback from local and internal press. **(See Appendix A)**

This includes:

- A Romford Recorder article about work at Cherry Tree Estate.
- An 'At the Heart' article about Community Payback generally and work at Waterloo Estate.

2013-14 Project list: - See Appendix B

1) BRIAR ROAD ESTATE – project completed

- Painting kick rails, gallows gates and bollards.
- Edging all around the perimeter of grass verges and removing weed growth.
- Sweeping garage areas and any communal vehicle hard standing areas.
- Clearing weeds from paths and walkways.

2) HIGHFIELD ESTATE – project completed

- Decoration of communal doors.
- Painting of fencing and kick rails.

3) WATERLOO ESTATE – project completed

- Painting of kick rails.
- Painting of pram shed doors.

2014-15 Projects: - See Appendix B

4) CHERRY TREE ESTATE – project completed

- Painting kick rails, gallows gates and bollards.
- Painting fencing.

5) NAPIER / NEW PLYMOUTH – project completed

- Painting railings and bollards

6) BRUNSWICK COURT (Sheltered Scheme): - On-going

- Renovation and painting of garden furniture
- Redecoration of guest room

2015-16 Proposed projects:

All future work has been identified by the Estate Inspection team and the local block representatives:

- Sheltered schemes - decoration of guest rooms and communal parts.
- Oldchurch Gardens - painting of fencing and pram sheds.
- Petersfield Estate - varnishing communal doors.
- Canfield, Danbury and Fyfield Estate - painting fencing and kick rails.
- Various garage locations for example, Hillrise Road - repainting garage doors.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

The Housing budget is set at £20k for 2015/16 and the risks associated with the work are assessed on a scheme by scheme basis.

Legal implications and risks:

At all times the provider has to comply with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and of any other Acts, Regulations or Orders pertaining to the Health & Safety of its and, where appropriate, the Authority's employees.

The provider shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the provisions of any Act of Parliament relating to discrimination in employment.

Human Resources implications and risks:

N/A

Equalities implications and risks:

The work of the scheme is sought to benefit all sections of the community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None excepting those in the Appendices to the report.

Appendix A: Community Payback publicity

1) Romford Recorder' article:

Criminals do community service at Cherry Tree Estate

17:32 19 September 2014

[Hayley Anderson](#)



Offenders are paying back their debt to society by putting their skills to good use

Criminals sentenced to repay the debt of their crimes to the community have been painting and cleaning Havering's estates, schools and community centres. They were joined on Monday by Recorder reporter Hayley Anderson.

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by putting their skills to good use

Offenders are paying back their debt to society

Dilapidated areas, in need of a coat of paint, repairs or cleaning, have been transformed – but those holding the brushes are not your average painters and decorators.

Havering Council hosts a Community Payback programme providing resources for convicted criminals to give a new lease of life to estates, schools, and community centres, as part of their unpaid work requirement.

Community Payback manager, Kellie Finch, said: "These people have done wrong and are doing their time by doing something productive for a lot of people who live here.

"They are trying to make a fresh start and put whatever they did behind them."

More than 1,800 hours worth of unpaid work has been completed on all projects in the borough from last September to August.

The work has consisted of painting and picking up litter and removing weeds from paths and walkways.

Offenders can be sentenced to up to 300 hours of community service, for offences including theft, drink driving and fraud.

Kellie said: "When they do this work they learn a lot of valuable skills, which they can use in their own lives.

"I do think it is helpful and hopefully it will help them move on to do things that are more productive."

A 26-year-old man, who wishes to remain anonymous, was ordered to complete 108 hours of community service for his involvement in a street fight after a friend's birthday party, last year.

He said: "It was a very stupid thing to take part in and this has taught me that maybe I need to control my anger and learn not to get so worked up about things."

The offender has spent hours after work and at the weekend, painting railings and bollards at the Cherry Tree Estate, in Cherry Tree Lane, Rainham.

Work at the Cherry Tree Estate has been in progress since March.

Other estates have been part of the project, including the Briar Road Estate, in Harold Hill.

Estate inspector, Tony Anslow, said: "This is a great way for these places to be spruced up. The people who live here are more than happy for them to do the work and so far they have done - really well in making the estates look a lot better." The 26-year-old has also served his sentence at Gaynes School, in Brackendale Gardens, Upminster, and the Millennium Centre, in Rush Green.

Kellie said: "All of the offenders are already in the community.

"They're everywhere and you wouldn't even notice them.

"They're not dangerous people, they're just like everyone else but the difference is that they've made some really bad choices."

The project is looking to continue work on the Cherry Tree Estate before deciding on the next location to receive attention.

The 26-year-old offender added: "I will never do anything like what I did ever again.

"This has made me realise that there is so much to lose if I keep losing my temper.

"My advice to everyone would be to think before you act as you can never know how it will end.

"I don't want other young people to make the same mistakes that I did as this is the consequence they have got to live with."

2) At the Heart' article:

6

At The Heart Summer 2014

Community benefits from criminals' behaviour

Two days every week criminals are at work on Havering Council's housing estates as they pay back to the community for the crimes they have committed.

The work is part of the Community Payback project with offenders taking part in a range of projects that improve the environment including:

- Painting kick rails, gates and bollards
- Edging grass verges and removing weeds
- Sweeping garage areas and any communal vehicle hard standing areas
- Clearing weeds from paths and walkways

During the past year the orange jacketed offenders have completed projects on the Briar Road estate in Harold Hill, Cherry Tree estate in Rainham, Highfield estate in Collier Row and the Waterloo Estate in Romford.

In the next few months you are likely to see them working on other projects across the borough – clear evidence our community is benefitting from Community Payback.



Before (left) and after (right) at Waterloo Estate in Romford

Appendix B: Community Payback - Completed projects

1) Briar Rd Estate:

- Gardening work- clearing weeds
- Painting kick rails and gates
- Sweeping / clearing garage areas.

Before:



After:



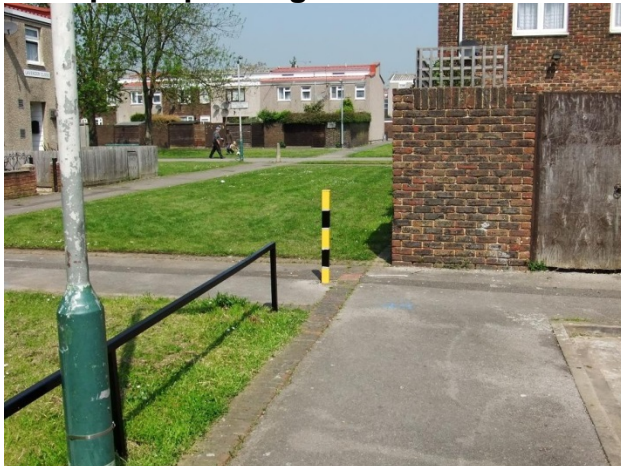
Before:



After:



Example of painting work:



Example of painting work:



2) Highfield Estate:

- Painting kick rails and fencing

Before:



After:



3) Waterloo Estate:

- Gardening work and clearing weeds
- Painting kick rails, bollards and shed doors

Example of painting work:



Example of painting work:



Example of painting work:



Example of painting work:



4) Cherry tree:

- Gardening work and clearing weeds
- Painting kick rails, bollards, bin doors and fencing.

Before:



After:



5) Napier New Plymouth:

- Painting fencing.

Before:



After:



Before:



After:

