

Community Payback - Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a selection of frequently asked questions on Community Payback

Q1. Are you putting offenders in uniform?

A1. No. Offenders and staff are wearing high visibility and/or protective clothing for health and safety reasons. Once the work itself is finished it will be badged to show that it is unpaid work performed by offenders as part of their court order.

Q2. Is this type of project new?

A2. No. Community service was launched over 30 years ago and has been one of the Probation Service's most successful projects. Communities have benefited from millions of pounds worth of unpaid work over the years. What is different is that we are now asking local people to have a say in the sort of work offenders carry out. We want them to nominate projects, see them completed and know that offenders have done something to pay back for their crimes.

Q3. Are offenders taking potential work from unemployed people?

A3. No. The work is specifically work that would not otherwise be carried out because local authorities, schools or charities do not have the funds.

Q4. What other organisations are involved?

A4. Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods teams have joined forces with local councils and London Probation as part of this innovative new approach to rehabilitate offenders. Community Payback will see convicted offenders serving Community Orders, doing unpaid work to make their local areas safer

Q5. What types of criminals are carrying out Unpaid Work in the community?

A5. Theoretically, any offender who is sentenced to a community rather than a custodial order could be asked to perform a period of unpaid work. Generally this type of sentence is given to someone who has committed an offence against the community. It could be a public order offence, shoplifting, criminal damage or high-level drink driving.

Q6 Does this mean you have potentially dangerous offenders working out in the community?

A6. No. All offenders are carefully risk-assessed before they are put on a community order. We would not have an offender who poses a high risk to the public working on this type of project. Public protection is our main objective.

Q7 How long do offenders carry out unpaid work?

A7. The judge or magistrate determines the number of hours, which can be between 40 and 300 and should normally be completed within 12 months.

Q8 What sort of work will offenders undertake?

A8 The unique partnership will see offenders tackling quality-of-life crimes and issues that affect the day-to-day lives of the community and local businesses. Tasks include removing graffiti, fly tipping, litter and pruning bushes and trees to improve visibility and making footpaths safer for pedestrians. Some projects may involve working in local parks.

Q9 What are the objectives of the scheme?

A9

- Reduction of fear of crime
- Increased community confidence in local service provision
- Increased public confidence in the Criminal Justice System
- Reduction of re-offending
- Address priorities identified by local communities
- Reduce the visibility of Signal Crimes (issues that cause people to act disproportionately about how they feel in their local surroundings)

Q10 How can I nominate areas for community payback work

A10. Use the [‘Have your Say’](#) form on this site



You can email London Probation at: payback@london.probation.gsi.gov.uk

Or call the Community Payback Helpline on 07894 176943.



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