



Press Release

For immediate release

10 June 2009

Tackling Drugs in Worcester

Staff at Worcester Probation Office have organised an event on Friday (12 June) as part of National Tackling Drugs Week.

National Tackling Drugs Week runs between 8-12 June 2009 and is a Home Office initiative. It aims to increase public confidence in and awareness of the work being done locally to respond to people's concerns about drugs. It is also a way of recognising the good work that is done by a whole range of people working together to tackle drugs and reduce drug-related crime in Worcester.

All those involved in working with Drug Rehabilitation Requirements, which offenders can be given as part of a Community Order, are invited to the event. These include local Judges, Magistrates, Youth Offending Service, Youth Support Services, Turning Point, Community Drugs Team, Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Drug Intervention Programme and Probation Staff. It will provide an opportunity to network and share knowledge and ideas.

The theme of the event this year is about the mixed messages people receive, for example, how celebrities make drug use seem acceptable; how bands write songs about drugs and the perceived glamour of heroin chic. Liz Smith, Area Manager at Worcester Probation Office said, "Our role with offenders is to reduce the harm they

cause to themselves and others through their use of drugs and that can be made more difficult by these mixed messages”.

The main thrust of the event is to show that drug treatment works. Users, their families and their communities all benefit from users being in treatment. The support provided by drug treatment services stabilises drug users' lives, resulting in fewer crimes and a reduced health risk to themselves and others.

ENDS

Contact:-

Jackie Bell
West Mercia Probation Area
Stourbank House
90 Mill Street
Kidderminster
Worcs DY11 6XA

Tel: 01562 748375 ext 1907

Mob: 07976 590132

jackie.bell@west-mercia.probation.gsi.gov.uk