

All in a day's work

Probation and other criminal justice staff celebrated at a local Justice Awards evening held by the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board.

The West Mercia Justice Awards mirror the national scheme and recognise teams and individuals across the criminal justice system that have gone the extra mile to deliver justice. For the past two years West Mercia has celebrated local success by holding its own Justice Awards ceremony. This year 41 nominations from West Mercia were made to the national scheme and from these the Board selected eight local award winners.

The event was held at the Stourport Manor Hotel in February and over 80 people attended. The Chief Constable and Chair of the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board, Paul West, opened the event and presented the awards to the winners.

Probation staff won three awards. Paul Baker, Area Manager from Herefordshire won the award for Efficiency & Effectiveness together with the long service award. Paul retired in February after nearly 40 years in the Probation Service so he was really pleased to win these awards before he left. Rocky Hudson won the award for Reducing Re-offending for the inspirational work he has done at the 'Good Soil Project' with drug using offenders.

David Chantler, Chief Executive attended the event, he said, *"This is an excellent opportunity to formally recognise the outstanding achievements of criminal justice staff across the area. It is particularly encouraging this year for our area to have had 41 nominations to the national scheme and for probation to pick up three of the local awards this evening"*.