

Local Crime Community Sentence Scheme

West Mercia Probation has joined forces with the Courts to launch the Local Crime Community Sentence (LCCS) initiative in West Mercia. This involves Magistrates and Probation working together in the community to improve public confidence in sentencing and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community sentences.

The project consists of probation staff and magistrates working in partnership to deliver interactive, case-study based presentations to local community groups. Each case study is designed to be a 'cusp' case, serious enough to attract a prison sentence. On the basis of minimal 'facts' from a mocked up newspaper, the audience is invited to decide what should happen to the offender – prison or something else. The rest of the presentation is spent unpicking what actually happens in court, what the real background is to both the offence and the offender and what the alternative community-based options might be for dealing with them. With this greater understanding and all the facts the audience are asked to vote again on what they would now do with the offender to see if they have changed their minds.

**Interested in receiving a presentation in West Mercia? Contact Sarah Hickerton at the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board tel: 01905 825108
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