



WEST MERCIA

# Press Release

For immediate release

17 May 2010

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## Preferred Partner Agreement Signed

**West Mercia Probation Trust has signed an agreement with YSS (Youth Support Services) which appoints them as the Trust's preferred partner.**

Droitwich based YSS is a well established charity which works across the West Midlands region to combat social exclusion and has gained a national reputation for its innovative work with offenders.

YSS, came out on top following a tendering process and will now work with probation to commission services from other local third sector providers. They will also develop the capability and capacity of local voluntary organisations to create innovative solutions to working with offenders.

*Rob Smith, Chief Executive of YSS said, "This is a tremendous opportunity to enhance and develop the capacity of the local voluntary sector by tapping into grass roots agencies and community resources. It will allow for local organisations to be more effectively involved in the development and delivery of flexible services that are diverse and responsive to changing needs and that have a positive impact on reducing re-offending."*

*David Chantler, Chief Executive of West Mercia Probation Trust said, "This is an opportunity to develop a service that fully utilises the skills and capabilities of local third sector organisations. A community based partnership where the public, private and third sector staff work seamlessly across organisations is a logical approach to delivering services"*

ENDS

**For further details please contact:-**

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A photo of the Chair of Probation, James Kelly and the Chief Executive of YSS, Rob Smith, signing the agreement is available on request.