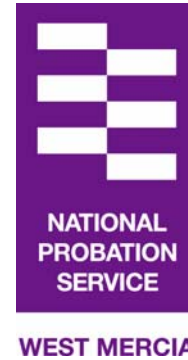


Press Release

For immediate release

1 September 2010



Offenders help smarten up the city

West Mercia Probation Trust has joined forces with Worcester City Council in a pilot scheme to help clean up the city. It involved offenders on Community Payback giving areas in Worcester a spruce up to make the area more pleasant for residents.

The pilot, which took place in July, involved offenders picking up litter and strimming overgrown vegetation from footpaths and open spaces. Several work parties, each comprising of up to eight offenders and a probation supervisor, worked for 19 days to help clear up the city.

The pilot came about initially to help the Council with its preparation for inspections in connection with the 'Clean Britain Awards' which take place later on this year.

Due to the huge success of the scheme a future partnership arrangement is being put in place to utilise offenders on a regular basis in a bid to keep the city clean and improve resident satisfaction.

Mike Harrison, Head of Cleaner and Greener for Worcester City Council, is really pleased with how the pilot has gone, he said: *"This is an excellent initiative between the Probation Service and the Council. It will help keep our city cleaner and improve the environment across all areas for residents in Worcester. A substantial amount of work has been done by the offenders that the Council would not have had the resources to do"*.

Chandry Mistry, West Mercia Probation Trust, helped set up the scheme, he said:

“The Community Payback workers did an excellent job and the work done was very visible. Members of the public will be able to see an improvement and also see offenders giving back to the community. We hope that the use of Community Payback to make these improvements will be welcomed by the public.”

ENDS

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