



Criminal Justice Joint Inspection

PRESS RELEASE

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LANCASHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AREA: REPORT OF THE JOINT INSPECTION

HMICA is publishing a report today on how well the local criminal justice agencies in the Lancashire Area work together to meet the needs of local people. The inspection, undertaken in November 2007, was a joint inspection led by HMICA and supported by HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPPI), HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The inspection looked in particular at the following three aspects:

- Leadership and partnership working in the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board
- Delivery of successful justice in domestic violence cases
- Community engagement

Two recommendations were made to the Lancashire LCJB:

- That the Board improve its effectiveness by: ensuring that delivery plans are comprehensive, SMART¹ and appropriately monitored; and assuring itself that strategic decisions are made in the appropriate forum.
- That the Board improve public confidence in the local criminal justice system and strengthen its planning to reflect community priorities, by developing a co-ordinated approach to community engagement with local people and groups from all sections of the community.

Key findings include:

1. There was a 'can-do' attitude in Lancashire, exemplified by Chief Officers that culminated in consistently good performance across most LCJB targets and provided a catalyst for taking on new initiatives and supporting innovation.
2. Action plans to support the Area's strategic priorities were not consistent in quality and did not all have the necessary detail to allow for effective monitoring.
3. There was a commitment to implement Specialist Domestic Violence

¹ SMART = refers to actions that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed.

Courts across Lancashire and there was good work being done by criminal justice agencies to support this, through their membership of the Local Domestic Violence Partnership. The LCJB were supporting this work by providing resources and funding for a temporary project manager.

4. There was some excellent work being done through public events such as 'You be the Judge' and 'Question Time' and use of the media to promote the work of criminal justice agencies in Lancashire.
5. Internal communication needed to be strengthened to better engage staff with the work of the LCJB.

Notes for editors

1. Local Criminal Justice Boards came into existence on 1st April 2003 and operate on a non-statutory basis. They are responsible for delivering targets at local level to support the achievement of national objectives to improve the criminal justice system.
2. Public Service Agreements (PSA) between HM Treasury and the relevant organisations set out the expectations that the Government has for the criminal justice agencies at a local and national level. A new set of PSAs has been agreed for the spending period 2008-11.
3. The Lancashire Criminal Justice Board comprises:
 - The Chief Crown Prosecutor for Lancashire (Chair to March 2008)
 - The Chief Constable and the Acting Assistant Chief Constable from the Lancashire Constabulary
 - The Area Director for HM Courts Service (Cumbria and Lancashire)
 - The Governor of HMP Preston
 - The Chief Officer of the National Probation Service (Lancashire Area) (Chair from 1 April 2008)
 - The Head of Service for the Lancashire Youth Offending Team representing the three Youth Offending Teams in operation in Lancashire
 - The Chief Executive of Victim Support in Lancashire
 - The Chair of the Strategic Crime Reduction Board (Lancashire)
 - The Director of Public Health for North Lancs Primary Care Trust
 - The Business Manager for the Legal Service Commission in the North West Region

Contacts

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