



# Press Release

19 November 2009

## **Proving South Yorkshire Probation Keeps Communities Safer**

South Yorkshire Probation is keeping communities safer by further reducing the number of offenders committing crimes while under its supervision.

Figures released today by the Ministry of Justice show a 9.99 per cent reduction in the levels of reoffending across South Yorkshire, with Sheffield achieving a 12.50 per cent reduction and Rotherham a fall of 11.28 per cent.

The news comes as South Yorkshire Probation also celebrates the announcement that it has achieved Trust status, which will become effective from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. Probation Trusts are being established as the public sector provider of Probation Services across England and Wales, contracting areas of work and delivering probation services in their area.

South Yorkshire Probation Chief Officer Roz Brown said: "Achieving Trust status and reducing reoffending rates is a testament to the excellent work of all our staff. We are committed to keeping the people of South Yorkshire safer by ensuring offenders are punished and rehabilitated.

"Our core business is to stop reoffending and to ensure offenders pay for their crimes. We are delighted that our work is successful. Between now and the end of March we will be seeing through the various requirements that are necessary to bring an end our existence as a Board and to begin, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, our new existence as a Trust."

South Yorkshire Probation works with people who have committed crimes before and after they are sentenced in court. It manages around 7,500 offenders in the community every year, monitoring their behaviour and the risks they pose to themselves and others, while overseeing their punishment and rehabilitation.

As part of their community sentence some offenders are required to attend specific programmes to address the cause of their offending behaviour. These programmes may force an offender to confront, understand and control their violent behaviour or, for example, they may deal with drink-driving. Some of the offenders supervised by South Yorkshire Probation may be dependant on drugs and the organisation works with the health service or other drug treatment specialists to deal with this.

### **Notes to Editors:**

- The Offender Management Act passed by Parliament at the end of July 2007, made provision for Probation Trusts and for the eventual dissolution of all Probation Boards.
- Probation Trusts will be commissioned to deliver offender management services under contract. As lead providers, trusts will work with a range of providers from the private, public and third sectors to deliver effective services that provide real value for money.

- The reduction in reoffending figures of those under the supervision of South Yorkshire Probation was revealed in the Ministry of Justice's Local Adult Reoffending Statistic Bulletin for 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. The report is developed to provide performance data on trends in reoffending at regional and local levels.

**For further information please contact Melanie Hill in the South Yorkshire Probation PR and Communications Department on 0114 289 4105.**