



CROPT

CUMBRIA REDUCING OFFENDING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TRAINING GUIDANCE



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



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A MESSAGE FROM CROPT CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

The Revd Canon Dr David Peacock

2012-13 has been an exciting year for CROPT and has seen significant development of its various enterprises – Circles of Support and Accountability, Buddy Project and the Carlisle Allotment Project. 2012-13 also saw additional members of staff joining the CROPT team: Joanne Craven was appointed full-time Project and Administrative Officer, Janet McCormick was appointed part-time Assistant Co-ordinator of the Circles Project and David Mudge took on responsibility for administering the Carlisle allotments.

Despite CROPT's success, however, given Government's determination to implement its 'Transforming Rehabilitation' agenda, the future is far from certain. Whilst it may be hoped that arrangements to out-source between 50% and 70% of offender- services currently delivered by Probation will bring a wide range of new opportunities for CROPT, it will also bring challenges and require the development of innovative ways of working and an increasingly commercial approach.

CROPT Trustees and staff nevertheless remain in good heart, confident that the organisation offers quality services to offenders and ex-offenders across the whole of Cumbria and determined to ensure that those services will continue to be offered to a needy and often disregarded section of our society.

Quality services to offenders & ex-offenders across the whole of CUMBRIA

“ I FEEL LIKE I'M MAKING A DIFFERENCE, REDUCING THE RISK OF RE-OFFENDING AND I AM GAINING KNOWLEDGE. ”



THE PROJECTS

BUDDY PROJECT	Mentoring project meeting with offenders on a one-to-one basis, working towards progression onto volunteering, training or employment.	Location: County Wide Positive Outcomes: 90% progressed positively Plans: To extend by recruiting more volunteers
CIRCLES OF SUPPORT & ACCOUNTABILITY	A highly effective community contribution to reducing re-offending by those who have committed sexual offences and are returning to the community	Location: County Wide Positive Outcomes: 87% progressed positively Plans: To extend model to support other types of offenders
THE SEAGULL NEWSPAPER	Written and compiled by a team of prisoners at HMP Haverigg and published three times per year, distributed across the local community.	Since Inception: 20 Prisoners have worked directly on the project 8 men working on The Seagull have gained formal journalism qualifications Now available on cropt.org.uk
THE ALLOTMENT PROJECT	Based around a community project is run by volunteers and provides opportunities for offenders and ex-offenders all year round. The allotment produces seasonal vegetables, fruit and flowers.	Location: Carlisle Positive Outcomes: 80% progressed positively Plans: To develop horticultural training for offenders and ex-offenders

KISE (KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS EXCHANGE)

CROPT does not work alone in Cumbria and has developed partnerships with a range of both statutory and voluntary agencies in the county who are themselves involved in the work of offender rehabilitation and support. Over the past year, CROPT has taken the lead in setting up a Knowledge, Information and Skills Exchange (KISE) which regularly brings together representatives from a variety of organisations from across the county.

There is a strong will within these organisations to work together for the benefit of offenders, offering a far more robust and rounded service for individuals. All these organisations are in agreement for CROPT to continue to take the lead in maintaining and developing this partnership.

It is anticipated that as this grouping develops, it will be in a strong position to bid jointly for work contracted out by the new Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner as well as by what is likely to be a reformed Probation Service expected to outsource a number of the services and interventions which Probation currently provides.

These are the STATISTICS for the 12 month period starting in July 2012 and ending in July 2013.

2,479 hours
(total hours given by volunteers over the last 12 months)

MONTHLY TOTALS	No. of Active Volunteers	Total Number of Volunteer Hours	No. of Service Users
JULY 2012	21	156	44
AUGUST 2012	23	134	36
SEPTEMBER 2012	21	125	37
OCTOBER 2012	25	153	37
NOVEMBER 2012	26	245	40
DECEMBER 2012	28	135	46
JANUARY 2013	27	122	37
FEBRUARY 2013	31	168	41
MARCH 2013	39	194	48
APRIL 2013	32	136	55
MAY 2013	27	132	45
JUNE 2013	31	232	42
JULY 2013	31	244	45

Which is an equivalent total of ...

£15,295.43
based on minimum wage and not including on-costs, recruitment, training, support, supervision and expenses.

VOLUNTARY HOURS

Circles of Support & Accountability 87% Progressed Positively	Buddy Project 90% Progressed Positively	The Allotment Project 80% Progressed Positively
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Richard Rhodes - Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

I was fortunate to be involved with the foundation of CROPT from the beginning in my role as member of the Cumbria Probation Board. Since then there has been a remarkable transformation under David Peacock's leadership and, in particular, with the appointment of Helen Storey as Project Director.

The major achievement of CROPT has been its work in harnessing the resources of the voluntary sector in the County who are involved in a range of activities. As such, CROPT plays to one of Cumbria's great strengths and encourages the growth of local social responsibility across our diverse county.

There is still much to do but I am sure that CROPT is ready for the challenge!

Annette Nixon - Achieve North West Project Manager, Cumbria Probation Trust

Achieve North West are pleased to sub contract CROPT to work with us as part of this NOMS ESF CFO project aimed at improving the education, training and employment prospects of offenders. We welcome the opportunity to work with a smaller organisation who offer 1-1 mentoring with individuals increasing their confidence, improving self esteem and helping access voluntary employment opportunities. Working with Achieve participants CROPT have improved the employability of disadvantaged individuals showing the added value local knowledge and contacts bring to the project.

Service User - Circles

I want to be able to have someone to talk to, I don't have any friends as such.

It's someone to talk to who will not judge you, have a cup of tea and a chat. It helps you cope with the outside world.

Service User - Allotment

The allotment gives me a reason to get up. It's an important part of my week. There is huge satisfaction at seeing something achieved.

Service User - Buddy Project

Look forward to seeing my mentor - I'd just be stuck in the flat doing nothing otherwise and I'd crack up. Can talk to my mentor when I have things on my mind.

Penny Fowles - Programme Manager, Northern Rock Foundation

CROPT's work not only ensures community safety but also supports offenders in their efforts to live more responsible and positive lives. By working in partnership with so many other organisations in Cumbria, CROPT also contributes to the public's understanding of offenders' rehabilitation and stronger public confidence in justice services. The organisation's support has been invaluable to both the community and the ex-offender

Jackie Fisher - Arcade Partnership Development, Project Management and Evaluation Consultancy

As an evaluator I have seen how CROPT helps to change offending behaviour by supporting individuals to make 'internal life changes' such as building confidence or tackling addiction, that in turn lead to 'external life changes' such as going to college or finding employment.

Chris Armstrong - Chair, Cumbria Probation Trust

Cumbria Probation Trust is proud to have been associated with both the creation and the continuing development of CROPT. CROPT demonstrates the value to the community of willing and able volunteers, backed by professional expertise, in helping and advising ex-offenders in their efforts towards rehabilitation. It is an important and trustworthy partner as we move towards a re-shaping of rehabilitation services.

Volunteer - Circles

I am enjoying the experience of working with someone face to face, it is dispelling the stereotype for me.

I feel like I'm making a difference, reducing the risk of re-offending and I am gaining knowledge.

I walk away feeling that I have done some good.

Volunteer - Allotment

I have been very encouraged by seeing the change in *** who is showing much more 'ownership' and is using own initiative.

For more information visit:
www.CROPT.org.uk