

CPS Warwickshire is the principal prosecution agency in Warwickshire.



This year we dealt with over 11,500 cases referred to us by the police. The Warwickshire Police sent us the majority of these cases but we also received cases from the British Transport Police and the West Midlands Police.

To carry out this work we have 15 Crown Prosecutors (solicitors and barristers), two Designated Caseworkers (who are able to prosecute some cases in the magistrates' court) and 19 caseworkers and administrative staff.

The hard work and dedication of the staff in CPS Warwickshire has again produced some excellent results for example:

- **We have again achieved** the lowest discontinuance rate (the percentage of cases sent to us by the police which, for one reason or another, we have not prosecuted) in the country;
- **We have again achieved** the highest conviction rates and lowest acquittal rates in the country.

**Mark Lynn**  
Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS Warwickshire

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[www.cps.gov.uk](http://www.cps.gov.uk)

## Domestic safety for you

**1 in 4** women will experience domestic violence at some time in their lives.

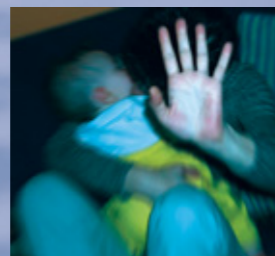
**2** women are killed every week by a current or former partner.

**Violence against women and children is a crime —**

**Domestic violence**  
**Rape and sexual assaults**  
**Forced marriage**  
**Honour crimes**  
**Child abuse**  
**Elder abuse**  
**Human trafficking**  
**Prostitution**  
**Female genital mutilation**



**Freephone 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247**  
**Perpetrators' phonenumber RESPECT: 0845 122 8609**



## Prosecuting hate crime for you

**We regard a racist or religiously-motivated incident as:**

***Any incident which is perceived to be racist or religiously motivated by the victim or any other person.***

An offence is racially or religiously aggravated if:

- at the time of committing the offence, or immediately before or after doing so, the offender demonstrates towards the victim of the offence hostility based on the victim's membership (or presumed membership) of a racial or religious group; or
- the offence is motivated (wholly or partly) by hostility towards members of a racial or religious group based on their membership of that group.

Certain offences, including assault, harassment, criminal damage and public order offences, can be prosecuted specifically as racially or religiously-aggravated offences.

With any other offence where there is evidence of racial or religious aggravation, the defendant faces a harsher sentence than if he or she were found guilty of a non-racial or religious crime.

## Helping you to feel safe



**We regard a homophobic incident as:**

***Any incident which is perceived to be homophobic or transphobic by the victim or by any other person [including the perpetrator].***

We regard homophobic crimes as particularly serious because they undermine people's right to feel safe about, and be safe in, their sexual orientation.

Such crimes are based on prejudice, discrimination and hate, and they have no place in an open and democratic society.

We regard the homophobic element of any crime as a serious aggravating feature. We are determined to play our part in reducing crime by bringing offenders to justice.

In 2005-6 CPS Warwickshire had the highest conviction rate for hate crime in the country.

## Area information

In 2005-6 CPS Warwickshire achieved all the targets set for it for the year and in many instances this was the highest performance in the country.

In 2005-6 CPS Warwickshire took over the responsibility for making the decision to charge suspects in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Crown Prosecutors are now stationed in the three major police stations/Justice Centres — Leamington Spa, Rugby and Nuneaton — working with police officers in making these decisions.

In 2005-6 CPS Warwickshire was inspected by Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSP). The report concluded by saying: "The standard of case management in CPS Warwickshire is good and is positively reflected in the Area's excellent casework outcomes where Warwickshire is the CPS's highest performing Area."

Stephen Wooler Chief Inspector of Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate said: "CPS Warwickshire has consistently been a high performing Area and I am pleased to see this continuing. Casework is well managed and is positively reflected in the Area's case outcomes. The more corporate approach which senior managers have developed is producing results not only within the CPS but in joint initiatives with criminal justice partners and in the wider community."

The Crown Prosecution Service in Warwickshire and

# YOU

...working with our community



# What the CPS does for you

The Crown Prosecution Service was set up in 1986 to prosecute criminal cases investigated by the police in England and Wales. In undertaking this role, the CPS:

- advises the police on cases for possible prosecution
- reviews cases submitted by the police for prosecution
- where the decision is to prosecute, determines the charge in all but minor cases
- prepares cases for court; and
- presents those cases at court

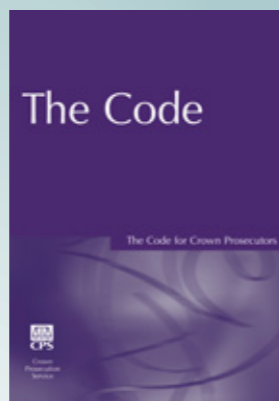
Each year CPS Warwickshire handles around 11,500 magistrates' court cases including cases referred for advice and 550 Crown Court cases. In 2005-6 our average conviction rate was 91.5% in the magistrates' court (the highest in the country) and 88.4% in the Crown Court (again the highest in the country).



**Taking the oath in a magistrates' court.**

## Justice for you

The *Code for Crown Prosecutors* is a public document, issued by the **Director of Public Prosecutions that sets out the general principles Crown Prosecutors should follow when they make decisions on cases.**



### Is there enough evidence against the defendant?

When deciding whether there is enough evidence to prosecute, Crown Prosecutors must consider whether evidence can be used in court and is reliable. Crown Prosecutors must be satisfied there is enough evidence to provide a "realistic prospect of conviction" against each defendant.

### Is it in the public interest for the CPS to bring the case to court?

A prosecution will usually take place unless the public interest factors against prosecution clearly outweigh those in favour of prosecution.

## Keeping you informed

### No Witness No Justice

At the heart of No Witness No Justice are the Witness Care Units, which now provide an enhanced level of service to all victims and witnesses in England and Wales in cases where a charge has been brought. This includes completing needs assessments, to identify childcare or accessibility issues for example, and organising pre-court familiarisation visits.

### Victims' Code

The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime came into full effect on 3 April 2006.

The Code of Practice will give victims rights to minimum standards of service from the criminal justice system for the first time. This includes notifying vulnerable or intimidated victims within one working day if there is insufficient evidence to charge a defendant, and within five working days for all other victims, as well as identifying any special measures that may be appropriate.

The CPS is committed to its obligations under the code, which formalises many of the good things it is already doing.

## Supporting the local community

CPS Warwickshire was one of the founding members of the Warwickshire Victim and Witness Information Partnership (VIP).

This is a unique project bringing together staff from all the agencies — Police, CPS, Probation, Youth Offending Team and Victim Support — in one building to keep victims and witnesses constantly updated on the progress of their cases in the courts and afterwards and to provide information help and support.

The building is equipped with video link facilities so that, where it is possible, witnesses can give evidence into the court via that video link. The staff at VIP can arrange for trained victim support staff to visit victims if that is what the victim would like.

The partnership can arrange a trained witness support volunteer to show witnesses around the court before giving evidence and to support them in court.

Victim and Witness Information Partnership  
93-95 Bedford Street  
Leamington Spa  
CV32 5BB

Tel: 0845 120 2325



## Working for you

In the criminal courts in England and Wales, no one may be convicted unless the jury or magistrates are satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the person committed the offence. This is a very high test.

The *Code for Crown Prosecutors* (a document approved by Parliament) does not permit the CPS to prosecute unless a Crown Prosecutor is satisfied that there is a realistic prospect of a conviction and it is in the public interest to prosecute.

Within these constraints, CPS Warwickshire aims to prosecute fairly but robustly on behalf of the people of Warwickshire. Every year since the turn of the century Warwickshire has had the highest overall conviction rate in the country and the number of convictions has risen every year over the last three years.

However unless you, the people of Warwickshire, come forward to assist us as witnesses we have no prospect of ensuring that justice is done. There is a saying "No Witness No Justice". We appreciate that this is difficult and that is why, in conjunction with our colleagues in the other criminal justice agencies, we have set up the Warwickshire Victim and Witness Partnership (referred to earlier) to assist and support victims and witnesses to give evidence.

## Working together for you

The CPS is only one of a number of agencies in the "criminal justice system". In order for there to be an effective criminal justice system, all the agencies (Police, CPS, Probation, Courts, YOT, and Prisons) must work together. In order to ensure that this happens all the chief officers of the local criminal justice agencies meet together on the Warwickshire Criminal Justice Board.

The Warwickshire Criminal Justice Board has been particularly effective in driving up performance. Again this year it has met all its targets, for example, 10,843 offences were brought to justice which represented a 34.2% increase on our 2001-02 baseline of 8,080.

In order to ensure that the agencies work together effectively, we set up the Justice Centre project to improve our joint processes and design and build a Justice Centre in Nuneaton and Leamington Spa (and eventually a smaller centre in Rugby).

The Justice Centre at Nuneaton (picture on front cover) was formally opened by HRH The Princess Royal in March 2005 and the centre at Leamington Spa is scheduled for completion in early 2009. In November 2005 the Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme team, won the Office of Government Commerce 2005 Team Award for successfully delivering the Justice Centre in Nuneaton.