



CPS

CPS West Mercia

**for the people of
Herefordshire, Worcestershire,
Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin**

**Our service to you in
2008 – 2009**

CPS Vision

The CPS is a prosecution service that is confident and independent, efficient and effective – becoming truly world class. Everything that we do aims to deliver justice for all and to make our communities safer

The Crown Prosecution Service was set up in 1986 and is the Government Department responsible for prosecuting criminal cases investigated by the police in England and Wales.

As the principal prosecuting authority in England and Wales, we are responsible for:

- Advising the police on cases for possible prosecution
- Reviewing cases submitted by the police
- Where the decision is to prosecute, determining the charge in all but minor cases
- Preparing cases for court
- Presentation of cases at court.

The CPS is divided into 42 Areas, co terminus with 42 police force boundaries.

CPS West Mercia

CPS West Mercia is the local CPS for the communities of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. In this leaflet you will find information about what we are doing to make your community a safer place and we hope you will take a little time to look through our latest achievements and aims for this year.

During 2007 – 2008 we made significant progress in our aim of becoming a local 'world-class prosecuting authority', a fact acknowledged by HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) who reported that our performance had improved in nine of the categories assessed and our overall performance was assessed as good. Some of our achievements included:

- Reducing the number of pre-charge decision (PCD) Crown Court cases which are discontinued to 9.6% (Target was 11%)
- Reducing the number of PCD magistrates' court cases which are discontinued by 4% to 13% (Target was 11%)
- Increasing the PCD guilty plea rate in the Crown Court by 10% to 78% (Target was 68%)
- Increasing the PCD guilty plea rate in the magistrates' court by 7% to 73% (Target was 52%)
- Reducing the time taken from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders (PYO) to 48 days (Target was 71 days)
- Increasing the proportion of cases dealt with by CPS lawyers in the magistrates' court to 88% (Target was 80%)
- Increasing the proportion of cases dealt with by CPS lawyers in the Crown Court to 764 sessions an increase of 48% on the previous year
- Meeting the time limits for keeping victims informed as contained in the Victims' Code in 92% of cases
- Establishment of Speedy Summary Justice at all magistrates' court sites in West Mercia
- Securing an increase in confiscation of assets orders against convicted offenders. £1.12million in value of secured orders, in comparison to £542,000 the previous year.

For 2008/09 we have a number of key aims, some of which are set out in the remainder of this leaflet. If you would like further information about these or about the CPS please do not hesitate to contact us. Details are given on the back page.

Our service to you

What we expect to achieve as an Area during 2008 – 2009

Working effectively and efficiently to bring offences to justice – Improve our performance in the magistrates' court, and use our own 'in-house' advocates in court

- Improve performance in court and extend the use of our own advocates in Crown Court
- Increase efficiency in our internal processes to improve timeliness so that cases are brought to trial more speedily in the magistrates' and youth courts
- Further develop the Criminal Justice: simple, speedy, summary (CJSSS) approach in the magistrates' and youth courts – reducing the time from charge to trial to six weeks for the majority of not guilty plea cases
- Work with the police to reduce the bureaucracy and paperwork in building case files for simple guilty plea cases
- Adopt 'conditional cautioning' for suitable low-level non violent crime
- Extend the use of our associate prosecutors (APs) for appropriate cases in the magistrates' court.

Championing justice and rights of victims and witnesses – Supporting victims and witnesses, putting them at the heart of what we do

- Build on the success of the 'No Witness No Justice' initiative, improving the support we give to victims and witnesses, keeping them informed of progress and assisting them through the prosecution process
- Meet our aims and obligations under the Victims' Code
- Work with the police to improve the prosecution response to offences of violence against women, including domestic abuse, sexual offences, prostitution, trafficking and honour crimes
- Work with local organisations to increase our understanding of difficulties experienced by people with mental health problems and improve the service we provide to them
- Improve the support and protection systems for the victims and witnesses of gun and gang crime.

Inspiring confidence in the communities we serve – Working with our communities to improve our service to better meet their needs

- Be open and transparent with our communities and provide them with information about our work via the media and other suitable methods
- Form working partnerships with local authority groups and other community organisations, to gain a greater knowledge of local community issues
- Listen to our communities and involve them in looking at ways to improve our service
- Involve all our people in engaging with the public
- Further develop our systems for identifying ways to improve our performance in prosecuting hate crime.

Working in partnerships to serve the public – Engaging with partners to improve our service

- Work with the police to further develop a 'prosecution team' approach and give the best chance of a successful prosecution
- Work with our criminal justice system partners and local partnerships to learn more about our communities and the crime issues they face to see how we can best contribute to making their communities a safer place
- Work with our partners to reduce the time from arrest to sentence for prolific and priority offenders and work to reduce re-offending by improved ways of dealing with offenders
- Ensure crime does not pay, depriving criminals of the proceeds of crime by confiscation of assets
- Work with partners to tackle crime disorder, anti-social behaviour and those issues of greatest importance in each locality.

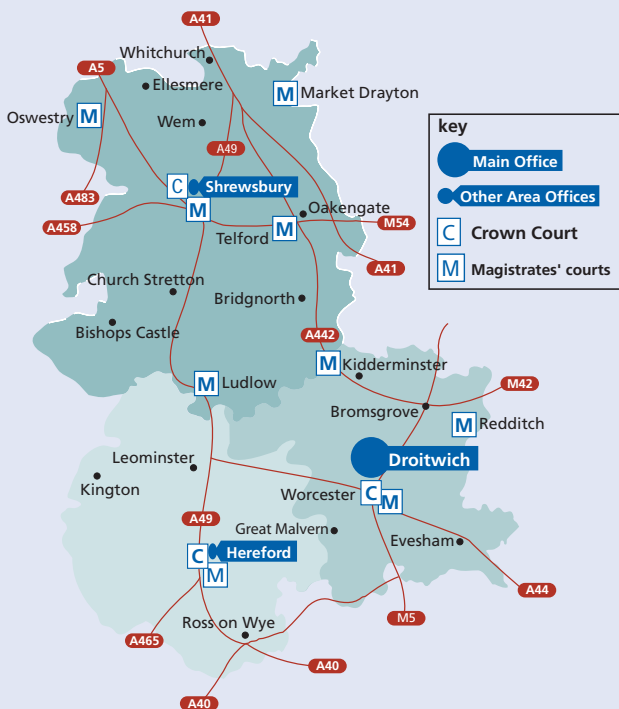
Improving ourselves to improve the service we give – Leading and engaging with our people to ensure they are equipped to provide the best possible service to our communities

- Ensure that our people are aware of what we need to achieve and the part they play
- Engage with our people to identify better ways of working and improve our service to the community
- Identify and enable developmental opportunities to equip our people with the skills needed to perform their duties and provide the best possible service to our communities.

AIMS FOR 2008-09 – FACTS AND FIGURES

CASEWORK TARGETS		TARGETS FOR INITIATIVES	
<p>All cases</p> <p>Reduce the number of unsuccessful cases for all cases to :</p>	12%	<p>Proceeds of Crime Act</p> <p>Number of Confiscation Orders to be granted by the court</p> <p>Number of Restraint Orders</p> <p>Total value of confiscation orders enforced</p>	<p>91</p> <p>16</p> <p>£2,217,000</p>
<p>Charging</p> <p>Number of Pre charge cases (PCD) which end in discontinuance</p> <p>Number of PCD cases which result in a guilty plea</p> <p>Reduce PCD attrition rate to</p>	<p>13%</p> <p>68%</p> <p>13%</p>	<p>Hate Crime</p> <p>To reduce the number of unsuccessful outcomes (e.g. discontinuances and acquittals) in all hate crime cases e.g. crimes against older people, crimes against the disabled, Racist, Religious and Homophobic Crime to</p> <p>Violence Against Women</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Attrition</p> <p>Rape Attrition</p> <p>Sexual Offences Attrition</p>	<p>18%</p> <p>28%</p> <p>41%</p> <p>28%</p>
<p>Prolific and Priority Offenders</p> <p>Reduce attrition rate (cases which are unsuccessful) to</p>	23%	<p>Use of own 'in house' advocates in magistrates court</p> <p>All sessions, increase to:</p> <p>Number of court sessions to be covered by Associate Prosecutors increase to</p>	<p>90%</p> <p>25%</p>
<p>Persistent Young Offenders (PYO)</p> <p>Reduce attrition rate to</p> <p>Average time from arrest to sentence</p>	<p>23%</p> <p>65 days</p>	<p>Use of Court Advocates in Crown Courts</p> <p>Fees to be generated by Crown Advocates</p>	<p>30% – of Graduated Fee Payments</p>
<p>CJSSS</p> <p>Cases taking no more than six weeks from charge to disposal in the magistrates' and the youth court</p>	80%	<p>Absence</p> <p>Maximum number of sick days absence per employee per year in CPS West Midlands</p>	7 days

CPS West Mercia



About us

We employ just over 140 people working in a variety of roles including prosecutors, managers and administrative support. All have the same commitment of seeking justice for the people of the Area and making their communities a safer place.

The Area is led by the Chief Crown Prosecutor, Colin Chapman, who is supported by the Area Business Manager and four District Crown Prosecutors. Our prosecutors and crown advocates prosecute cases in the magistrates' and Crown Courts throughout the Area.

Most of our people are based in our main office in Droitwich, and we also have people based in Shrewsbury and Hereford. Our Witness Care Officers are located in six police stations throughout the Area.

How to contact us

At our main office in Droitwich:
Crown Prosecution Service
Artillery House
Heritage Way, Droitwich
Worcestershire WR9 8YB
Phone: 01905 825000

West Mercia CPS is part of the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board and works with partner agencies including:

- Police
- Probation Service
- Prison Service
- Victim Support and Witness Service
- Magistrates and Crown Courts
- Youth Offending Services
- Legal Services Commission