

Working with our Partners

The Community Prosecutor approach strengthens the role of the CPS ensuring we can play a full role in community engagement alongside the police, Courts and others from the local partner agencies.

We are achieving stronger, community-focussed partnerships which draw together agencies to provide an effective two-way joined up communication between the criminal justice system (CJS) and the local people that they serve.

Working with Witnesses

Every victim and witness is allocated a Witness Care Officer to guide them through their experience of giving evidence. Your officer will update you on court dates, take any questions you have about the criminal justice system and reassure you about all aspects of your court appearance. If you would like a pre-court visit to see the witness facilities and walk around the court, this can be arranged.

Working with Vulnerable People

The views of all sections of the community are important to us, especially those who currently feel least confident in the CJS. If you require special safety, or treatment in the courtroom, the CPS can apply for special measures on your behalf, likewise if you have children and attending court is difficult we can arrange a registered childminder.

Contact us



Colin Molloy
Senior District Crown Prosecutor
Black Country CPS
St Georges House
Lever Street
Wolverhampton WV2 1EZ



James Jenkins,
District Crown Prosecutor
Birmingham CPS
Colmore Gate
2 Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 2QA



John Baker
District Crown Prosecutor
Walsall CPS
Walsall Police Station
Green Lane
Walsall WS2 8HL



Marcia Edwards
District Crown Prosecutor
Wolverhampton CPS
St Georges House
Lever Street
Wolverhampton WV2 1EZ



Julie Sealeaf
District Crown Prosecutor
1st floor
Hawthorns House
Halfords Lane
Smethwick B66 1BB

www.cps.gov.uk/westmidlands



The COMMUNITY PROSECUTOR



This leaflet explains the role of
the Crown Prosecution Service
and the Community Prosecutor

Safer Birmingham
Partnership
Working together for a safer city

**JUSTICE SEEN
JUSTICE DONE**



Who are the Crown Prosecution Service?

We are public prosecutors who work independently, but in partnership with local criminal justice agencies to serve the community and deliver justice by building evidentially strong cases before presenting them at Court for plea or trial.

Our roles can be summarised as follows:

- The police are responsible for responding to allegations that a person has committed a crime. They will decide whether an investigation is required and how it should be conducted.
- The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is responsible for receiving files investigated by the police to decide whether the evidence is strong enough and whether it is in the public interest to prosecute. The CPS is responsible for prosecuting most criminal cases in England and Wales.
- The CPS is not an investigative body and has no powers to investigate allegations of crime, although where necessary, we ask for further evidence to support the case, which if received is then used during the court proceedings.

What is a Community Prosecutor?

The Community Prosecutor could be any member of the team who will attend selected community consultation events organised by persons involved in discussion about local concerns.

It is important for us to understand the issues of concern to our communities.

By developing the Community Prosecutor approach, we will put the community at the heart of our work.

There are several strands to the delivery of the Community Prosecutor approach:

- We will be able to make more “community aware” decisions by local prosecution teams taking account of local community concerns when deciding whether someone should be charged with an offence e.g. an offence which some might consider not to be serious, could be prevalent in your area and important to you.
- There will be greater CPS involvement in “problem” solving of local crime and disorder priorities.
- We will increase our visibility to communities and other agencies of the CPS responding to local crime and disorder concerns.
- By speaking with community members we expect to be better understood and to understand community problems.
- The approach will allow the development of new ideas about how modern prosecutors should engage with and respond to community concerns.

How can we make a difference and reflect community views?

Community Impact Statements

This can make a difference to how others understand your neighbourhood’s particular concerns and how a crime has made an impact. A community impact statement can be made by a person who is not directly involved or affected by the anti-social behaviour or crime and disorder problems. Statements are then provided to the Courts which will assist them to understand fully what it is like to live and work in the community and the impact of particular types of behaviour on people in the locality.

The Courts will then use this information to sentence appropriately.

Community Aware Problem Solving

Prosecutors will work closely with the police and other criminal justice partners to identify methods of addressing problems of a criminal nature that are affecting local communities. For example, advising on the evidence required to prosecute a specific offence which is prolific in an area, or the type of evidence needed to obtain a post conviction anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) and to ensure that it meets the needs of the community and addresses the offending behaviour.