

What difference does it make?

Community Payback is positive and cost effective. It gives offenders a chance to repay local communities for their crimes by doing work that benefits the area. It does not replace paid employment. It complements work done by local authorities and voluntary organisations.

How to suggest a Community Payback project in your area

Telephone us at 01234 350 401 (Bedford) or 01582 413 172 (Luton).



The Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Community Rehabilitation Company Limited. Registered as a Company in England and Wales no. 8802546. Registered office: One Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HA.

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Community Payback

Offenders working to make your neighbourhood cleaner and safer.



Quotes from beneficiaries

“The standard of work the offenders have completed is tremendous. We couldn’t have afforded it ourselves. The social club is a community facility, so it’s not just us that benefit from this and the job the Community Payback team has done is a real credit to them.”

Vice-chairman of local football club

“The work group were well managed, well mannered – and they got the job done. We need our canal boat looking bright and shiny, and after they spent a day cleaning and polishing it looked great. We would certainly encourage other local groups to invite the Community Payback team to help them out too – we’re very grateful to them and glad we asked.”

Beneficiary from a canal boat trust



What is Community Payback?

Community Payback is a punishment which requires adults sentenced to Unpaid Work to repay the community for their crimes.

They have to carry out demanding work as a sentence from the courts for up to 300 hours.

If they are in full-time work or education they must give up one day at weekends to do Community Payback. Those unemployed may have to work for four days a week.

Community Payback is delivered by the Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Community Rehabilitation Company Limited (BeNCH CRC). We work to reform adults assessed as posing a low and medium risk of harm to the public.

About Community Payback

The type of work includes:

- graffiti removal
- street clean-ups
- ground clearance and landscaping
- repainting
- work for local charities
- improvements to parks and other community facilities.

Offenders have to wear orange Community Payback jackets to make the work more visible.

You can have a say in what type of work is carried out in your area by nominating a Community Payback project.

We also work in partnership with local councils, voluntary organisations and other providers to identify suitable projects which benefit local communities.

Community Payback aims to:

- improve local communities
- reduce crime and the fear of crime
- be visible to local communities
- allow offenders to make a positive contribution

How does it work?

Members of the public suggest ideas for work projects. We then carry out an assessment to make sure:

- the work can be done safely
- it will benefit the community
- it does not take paid work from others

Offenders work in supervised groups or individually with voluntary organisations and other agencies.

We make sure they are fully risk assessed, suitable to work in the community and carefully supervised.

We are keen to promote the Community Payback scheme. We want people to see that the work is being carried out.

In Bedfordshire, almost 250,000 hours of Community Payback were completed between 2011-13. Based on the minimum wage, this is worth around £1.6 million of unpaid work that has benefitted local communities.