

NEWS UPDATE

JANUARY 2010 : A MONTHLY DIGEST FOR PROBATION BOARDS AND TRUSTS

PA PROJECT PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN TRUST PROGRAMME

The Association's Trust Development project has been hailed a tremendous success by members.

The project, which provides up to five days' free advice from leading probation consultants Auriola and Excalibur, has so far been utilised by 30 boards.

With most, if not all, boards expected to achieve trust status by April 1, the benefits of the project are becoming clear.

Formal feedback to Project Manager Nigel Spencer has revealed that the work had an overwhelmingly positive impact

on trust application and board development processes.

Comments included:

- "Contributed significantly to our trust application process"
- "As a result...we are now engaged in a major re-write"
- "Supportive and encouraging but also challenged us to think and act differently"
- "Highly instrumental in enabling us to prepare our trusts application so

effectively"

Chief Executive Christine Lawrie said: "I have had very good feedback from chairs who feel the input from the consultants made a significant difference to the quality of their trust application."

The project will culminate at two further workshops - in Sheffield (January 29) and London (February 2) - bringing together a number of boards to look at the coming year's challenges, informed by the work already completed.



The winners, pictured with the Lord Judge (centre), are (from left): Alan Lambert (Lincolnshire), Julie Close-Mitchell (Lincolnshire), Rachel Martel (Lincolnshire), Honor Juniper (Thames Valley), John Cooke (Lincolnshire) and Richard Wright (Lincolnshire).

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE PRESENTS LCCS ANNUAL AWARDS

The Lord Chief Justice, The Rt Hon the Lord Judge of Draycote, presented certificates to the winners of the Local Crime: Community Sentence (LCCS) annual awards, at the Supreme Court, London.

LCCS is a community engagement programme jointly sponsored by the

Probation Association and the Magistrates Association to raise confidence in community sentences. More than 75% of probation areas now participate.

Non-participating areas can contact Neil Lampert at nlampert@probationassociation.co.uk for advice on how to start up LCCS.

COMMUNICATIONS HELP

The Association and the Probation Chiefs' Association are jointly sponsoring and organising a conference to support board and trust communications managers.

Entitled *Life After Trust Status: The New Communications Landscape*, the event will support area communications staff in the transition to trust status and assist their strategic planning within the new environment.

The day will consist of presentations, Q&A sessions and round table discussions on hot topics. The event will be held at London Probation on March 4.

FUTURE OF GOVERNANCE

The final report on the three Governance Pilot Projects, co-funded by the Association and NOMS, has been published on the PA website.

The report reveals that most management areas are well governed and identifies two key issues for development: Partnership working and commissioning.

The authors, independent consultants Gareth Hadley and Miranda Hughes, make various recommendations. They also conclude that boards should be more assertive with NOMS. The report can be downloaded from the Association website [here](#).

OFFICE DIARY

5 January	<i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> Employment Relations Working Group
7 January	Pay negotiations meeting <i>Governance Services Manager:</i> NOMS ICT meeting <i>Governance Services Manager:</i> Probation Qualifications Assurance meeting
12 January	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Academy for Justice Commissioning Executive Group meeting
13 January	<i>PR and Communications Manager:</i> Video conference facilities meeting <i>PR and Communications Manager:</i> NHS Trust Federation meeting
14 January	<i>Governance Services Manager:</i> Local board away day <i>Chief Executive:</i> Trusts Practical Governance Project Board <i>Chief Executive and Policy Development and Business Capability Manager:</i> Meeting with Magistrates Association
15 January	Third Wave Trust Contract meeting <i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> Pay negotiations meeting
19 January	National Negotiating Committee
20 January	<i>Chief Executive:</i> PCA conference, Leeds <i>PR and Communications Manager:</i> LCCS National Steering Group <i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> NOMS PQF Project Board
21 January	<i>Governance Services Manager,</i> AS Steering Group meeting <i>Chair and Chief Executive:</i> Meeting with Maria Eagle, Justice Minister
22 January	<i>HR Manager:</i> Metropolitan HR Group meeting, Merseyside <i>Governance Services Manager:</i> NOMS OMNI Service Delivery Board
26 January	Standing Committee for Chief Officer Grades pay meeting
27 January	Pay negotiation meeting <i>Governance Services Manager:</i> NPS ICT Board
28 January	PA Council <i>PR and Communications Manager:</i> LCCS Local Coordinators' Event, London

ANNIVERSARY EVENT CHANGE

The date and venue for the Association's 50th anniversary reception has been altered due to a clash with the NOMS conference.

The event will now be held on Tuesday, 9 March, in the vaults at the Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, London. Invitations will be sent soon.

In our magazine *Interface*, published before the date of the NOMS conference was known, we stated that the event would be held at the National Liberal Club on 18 March.

SATISFACTION SURVEY COMING

The Association is commissioning an independent company to survey the views of its members.

Details are being finalised with consultants TQMI this month.