

What people have said about their Community Payback sentence.

"I think Community Payback is really good, it's helping the community and making the place look better. At the same time it's making us think about what we've done. It's hard work. I wouldn't want to be put on one again."

"Community Payback has been my wake up call and I am going to make sure I am walking on the right side of the chalk line from now on. I don't want to get in trouble, lose out on my free weekends and time with my family again, besides next time it could be prison."

"Community Payback is a good idea because it gives people a second chance – it gives you a chance to prove yourself and give something back to the community".

Community Payback offenders

What happens if you break the rules or fail to attend?

Speak with a member of staff if you are having problems which prevent you doing your Community Payback sentence. We will try to help you complete your hours.

If you do not turn up for Community Payback work without a good reason, or break the rules, we will give you a warning or breach your order. You can only have one warning in any 12 months.

If you breach your order, the court could give you more Community Payback hours, or end your order and impose a different sentence in its place.

This is where and when you need to be to start your Community Payback.

Diversity

The probation service is committed to valuing and respecting differences between individuals. If you have concerns or questions about race, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation, childcare or other issues, please discuss this as soon as possible with your offender manager.



Community Payback

The Unpaid Work Sentence



Paying back to the community

You have been sentenced to unpaid work as part of a community order or suspended sentence order. The probation service or other contracted provider will arrange work for you which benefits others. This is your opportunity to repay the community for your offences. For this reason the work you will do is also known as Community Payback.

You must wear an orange Community Payback jacket on work sites. This is so that the public know when and where Community Payback work is being done.

About Community Payback

We will tell you about Community Payback work which is suitable for you in your area. We won't ask you to do anything that you can't manage. We will explain what we expect of you and when and where you will work.

If you are in full time work, education or training, you will have to do Community Payback work for a minimum of seven hours each week. This will usually take place on one day at weekends if you work during the week. If you are unemployed you may have to work for a minimum of 28 hours each week, over four days.

Community Payback is about making amends. Members of the public can suggest work which will improve local areas. We may tell the public where Community Payback work is taking place. It is important that you behave well, work hard and follow instructions. You could be working on sites which are well known to people in the area.

This is demanding work which could include:

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



How can I make the most of my sentence?

Community Payback is a punishment, but it is also a chance for you to learn new skills. To complete your hours quickly and to gain the most from your sentence you must:

- Turn up on time. If you are late you may not be able to work and you risk breaching your order.
- Be sure you are fit for work and in suitable clothes.
- If told, bring food, water or a soft drink with you.
- Listen carefully and follow instructions. We will tell you how to use any tools or other equipment and give you health and safety instructions. You must follow these instructions at all times.
- Behave sensibly and be polite to other people doing Community Payback and members of the public.
- Tell staff if you do not understand an instruction.
- Tell staff in advance if you think you may be unable to do any sessions.
- If you miss a work session, telephone and explain why as soon as possible. We may ask you for evidence, such as a doctor's note.
- Tell staff before changing your address or telephone number.

Some of your Community Payback hours can be used for education or training to improve your job prospects.