

Hearing from you

Are you organising a local meeting or an event in your community? If you are then we'd like to hear from you.

Whether it's speaking on a subject such as anti-social behaviour or domestic violence, joining an audience for discussion, exhibiting at an event or speaking to young people about the role of the CPS, then CPS South Yorkshire would like to attend.

To request our attendance, please write to us at:

CPS South Yorkshire, Greenfield House,
32 Scotland Street, Sheffield, S3 7DQ

Or contact us on:

Tel: 0114 229 8600, fax: 0114 229 8607,
e-mail: info.southyorkshire@cps.gsi.gov.uk

www.cps.gov.uk/south_yorkshire



Concerned about anti-social behaviour?

Domestic safety for you

When we are deciding whether or not to prosecute in cases involving domestic violence, the safety of the victim, children and any other person involved is the prime consideration.



Each case is unique and is considered on its own merits, but as a general rule at CPS South Yorkshire we will prosecute all cases involving domestic violence where there is sufficient evidence and there are no factors preventing us from doing so.

In 2005-06, CPS South Yorkshire has:

- Handled 884 domestic violence cases with a 66% conviction rate
- Worked closely with local domestic violence forums
- Provided ongoing domestic violence training for all CPS South Yorkshire prosecutors and caseworkers
- Ensured there are specialist domestic violence prosecutors who advise and assist in the majority of domestic violence cases
- Introduced a fast track procedure for all domestic violence cases

Freephone 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
Perpetrators' phonenumber RESPECT: 0845 122 8609

Prosecuting hate crime for you

If you think a crime is racially motivated — it probably is.

This type of crime is particularly hurtful to victims as they are being targeted solely because of their personal identity, their actual or perceived racial or ethnic origins or their faith.

With any offence where there is evidence of racial or religious aggravation, the defendant faces a harsher sentence than if he or she were found guilty of a non-racial or religious crime.

We at CPS South Yorkshire are committed to increasing the number of successful prosecutions for hate crime. In 2005-06, CPS South Yorkshire has:

- Handled 127 cases of racist and religious crime with a 79% conviction rate
- Specialist race prosecutors who advise and assist on the majority of the race cases
- Ongoing training for all prosecutors and caseworkers
- Worked closely with community groups to improve public confidence in both the CPS and criminal justice system
- Robustly prosecuted cases in court



Helping you to feel safe

We recognise that crimes committed against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people often don't get reported to the Police.

We regard homophobic crimes as particularly serious because they undermine people's right to feel safe about, and be safe in, their sexual orientation. Such crimes are based on prejudice, discrimination and hate, and they have no place in an open and diverse society.

We are determined to play our part to secure the confidence of those affected by homophobic/transphobic crime. In 2005-06, CPS South Yorkshire has:

- Handled 17 cases with a homophobic element with a 71% conviction rate
- Specialist lawyers who handle all the cases with a homophobic/transphobic element
- Developed close links with community groups and colleagues within the criminal justice system to increase public confidence within the LGBT community
- Participated in a variety of events across the county to celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender history month

PRIDE

Working together

Through the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board, the CPS works in close partnership with our colleagues across all criminal justice agencies to improve the way the criminal justice system (CJS) works together and to bring more offenders to justice in South Yorkshire.

South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board is made up of chief officers from the Police, CPS, Her Majesty's Court Service, Youth Offending Service, National Probation Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service.

In 2005-06, the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board, has:

- Introduced the prolific and priority offender scheme to South Yorkshire
- Participated in the dragon boat race (see photo)
- Introduced case progression systems to speed up the progression of cases through the court
- Produced and launched "Trial and Error" — a schools video that follows the consequences of stealing a mobile phone
- Held a victim and witness consultation day for all CJS agencies in preparation for the victim's code of practice
- Trialled the conditional cautioning scheme in Doncaster



The Crown Prosecution Service in South Yorkshire and

YOU

...working with our community



Our commitment to YOU

Our aim is to be a world class prosecuting authority at the heart of the criminal justice system in South Yorkshire.

We work closely with our criminal justice partners in order to ensure that we bring more offenders to justice, help reduce both crime and the fear of crime and thereby promote public confidence in both the work of the CPS and the criminal justice system as a whole.

In this leaflet you will find out more about the work of the CPS and some of the highlights of our work in South Yorkshire during 2005-2006.

Should you have any questions about our role or suggestions on how we can serve you and your communities better, then I would be pleased to hear from you. Our contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

Judith Walker

Judith Walker
Chief Crown Prosecutor



What the CPS does for you

The main role of the CPS in South Yorkshire is to prosecute people charged with a criminal offence. Our lawyers work with the police on cases from start to finish by reviewing evidence and deciding whether the case should go to court. This means we:

- Provide guidance and advice to investigators throughout the investigative and prosecuting process
- Decide whether a person should be charged with a criminal offence, and if so what that offence should be in all but minor cases
- Review cases submitted by the police for prosecution
- Prepare cases for court
- Present cases at court

Each year in South Yorkshire we handle around 50,000 magistrates' court cases and over 3,000 Crown Court cases. In 2005-06, our average conviction rate was 98.5% in the magistrates' court and 93.1% in the Crown Court.



Taking the oath in a magistrates' court.

Justice for you

The Code for Crown Prosecutors is a public document, issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions that sets out the general principles Crown Prosecutors should follow when they make decisions on cases.

Is there enough evidence against the defendant?

When deciding whether there is enough evidence to prosecute, Crown Prosecutors must consider whether evidence can be used in court and is reliable. Crown Prosecutors must be satisfied there is enough evidence to provide a "realistic prospect of conviction" against each defendant.

Is it in the public interest for the CPS to bring the case to court?

A prosecution will usually take place unless the public interest factors against prosecution clearly outweigh those in favour of prosecution.



About CPS South Yorkshire

CPS South Yorkshire aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime and to make South Yorkshire a safer place in which to live.

In order to do this we employ approximately 200 staff who work in a variety of roles including lawyers, caseworkers and administrators.

The head office for CPS South Yorkshire is Greenfield House in Sheffield but prosecutors and administrators also work out of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham police stations.

The Area is led by a management team which consists of Judith Walker, Chief Crown Prosecutor, Christopher Day, Area Business Manager, Paul Brown, Head of Trials Unit and Fred Jukes, Head of Criminal Justice Unit.

In 2005, CPS South Yorkshire was one of only three Areas nationwide to be rated as "excellent" in an inspection report by HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. The report highlighted that it was to the credit of managers and staff that the Area achieved good assessments across all aspects of performance and an excellent rating overall.



In our community

At CPS South Yorkshire we place huge importance on community engagement.

We believe that it is important that all sections of the community understand how the CPS and the wider criminal justice system works on their behalf. We also recognise that it is equally vital for us to understand the community we serve.

During 2005-06 we undertook a number of events within the community including:

- Meeting members of the public at Barnsley magistrates' court open day
- Speaking to potential future staff at recruitment fairs
- Joining in discussions on subjects such as anti-social behaviour and victim care at community meetings
- Attending events being hosted to mark religious festivals
- Joining other members of the criminal justice system at community consultation events
- Attending schools to talk about a career in the CPS

To find out the events that CPS South Yorkshire is attending in the future please visit:
www.cps.gov.uk/south_yorkshire



Keeping you informed

We feel it is important that victims of crime are kept informed of the progress of their case.

Witness care units

In June 2005 witness care units were established throughout South Yorkshire. They provide a further level of service to all witnesses where a charge has been brought. Support includes completing needs assessments, for example to identify:

- Childcare needs
- Transport requirements
- Accessibility issues
- Pre-court familiarisation visits

Victim's code

The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime came into full effect on 4 April 2006. The code sets out the services victims can expect to receive from the Criminal Justice System. You can view a copy of the code by following the links from www.cps.gov.uk/south_yorkshire

Special measures

Vulnerable victims and witnesses can get extra support with giving evidence in court. Special measures including screens and video links can be used in certain cases.

