

## Media Release

### **New Community Payback mentoring pilot for young offenders**

**Thursday 4 April 2013**

Serco and its long-term voluntary and community sector partner Catch22, have launched an innovative pilot scheme in the capital aimed at supporting young offenders aged 16 and 17 years completing community sentences.

Six young offenders across five London Boroughs have already been assigned a Catch22 mentor who will provide a range of support and guidance, including valuable educational and employment skills support, to help them complete their sentences. Every 16 and 17 year old given a youth rehabilitation order by the courts with a requirement to complete Community Payback will be given the opportunity to benefit from this support in the pilot areas. The mentors will assist young offenders to make positive changes to their lives, and ultimately reduce re-offending.

The initiative, which has been developed in conjunction with Youth Offending and Probation Teams in several London Boroughs, will initially be rolled out across Croydon, Islington, Camden, Greenwich & Lewisham and Wandsworth. Wandsworth Council's children services spokesperson, Cllr Kathy Tracey said: "We believe mentors can play an important role in helping young people to break cycles of offending behaviour. Many of these teenagers are at a crucial juncture in their lives and could benefit enormously from one-on-one support."

As part of the pilot, Serco is also looking to improve the type of placements available to young people while continuing to be mindful of gang-related issues across the capital. This could include more group work placements, which allow for young offenders to gain valuable work experience. If successful, the intention is to extend the scheme to other London Boroughs later in the year.

Nick Cameron, Serco's Contract Director for Community Payback said: "We have been working closely with Catch22 and Youth Offending Teams to develop this exciting new

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pilot. Currently, many young offenders undertaking Community Payback fail to comply with their order or finish their sentence. Our aim is to ensure that young offenders complete their orders and have the support they need to help turn their lives, while also improving the offer for courts with more placements suitable for this age group.”

Chris Wright, Chief Executive of Catch22 added: “This innovative mentoring service has been designed specifically for this younger age group. Mentors will bring their different skills and experience to help these 16 and 17 year olds complete their community sentences and support to prevent re-offending.”

The public can nominate a project in their local community for Community Payback by contacting [nominations@london.cp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nominations@london.cp.gsi.gov.uk) with a description and location of the project. Please also provide your name and full contact details, including an email address and where applicable the name of your organisation.

### **Ends**

For further information, please contact the Serco UK & Europe Media Relations team:

Manjeet Turner 07718 195 320, [manjeet.turner@serco.com](mailto:manjeet.turner@serco.com)

Tracey Cobbett 07590 779 327, [tracey.cobbett@serco.com](mailto:tracey.cobbett@serco.com)

### **About Serco Community Payback**

Serco delivers the Community Payback scheme in London on behalf of the Ministry of Justice and in partnership with London Probation Trust. Community Payback requires offenders to undertake unpaid work for the community and gives courts a sentencing option which is robust, cost-effective and constructive.

Serco is responsible for providing the overarching service, including: managing offender journeys; coordinating the service from our Control Centre; and providing Supervisors who oversee offenders on placements. London Probation Trust provides Case Management services and

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undertakes the initial assessment of offenders. Our combination of experience and expertise makes for a high quality and efficient service.

### **About Catch22**

Catch22 is an innovative social business, delivering lasting change to communities and transforming the lives of adult offenders, young people and their families.

Catch22 has been at forefront of innovation in offender rehabilitation for over 200 years. Frederick Rainer, the founding father of Catch22's legacy organisation, funded the establishment of the London Police Court Mission in 1876 which later became the first probation service. Carrying on his pioneering work and insight, Catch22 has delivered a wide variety of services to those caught up in the criminal justice system, from prevention through to rehabilitation.

Catch22 is well placed to contribute to the design and delivery of offender management and rehabilitation building on its experience of delivering services in the community working with Probation. We support offenders to find work, settle in accommodation and including projects that support women offenders. For the Payment by Results pilot at Doncaster Catch22 is working in prison and 'through the gate' in collaboration with probation, police and partners. Our innovative 'through the gate' approach to offender management in both HMP Doncaster and HMP Thameside prison involves undertaking assessments of risks and needs of offenders and then working to address these throughout their time in prison and after they leave by providing community based support.

More information can be found at [www.catch-22.org.uk](http://www.catch-22.org.uk)

### **About Serco**

Serco is a FTSE 100 international service company, which combines commercial know-how with a deep public service ethos.

Around the world, we improve essential services by managing people, processes, technology and assets more effectively. We advise policy makers, design innovative solutions, integrate systems and - most of all - deliver to the public.

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