



## THE HIGH SHERIFFS' & HUMBERSIDE POLICE TRIBUNE TRUST

*In Business for Safer Communities*

### NEWS RELEASE

#### **'Tackling Re-offending and Reducing Crime Victims'**

The Tribune Trust together with Humberside Probation Service, HM Prison Service, Rehabilitation of Addicted Prisoners Trust (RAPt) and the business community in the Humber Sub-Region will hold a hard-hitting seminar on Tuesday 6 May tackling the levels of re-offending in the region.

The seminar follows visits to prisons in the region by the former High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire 2007/8 Nicholas Hildyard in his official capacity during his year of office. Prison governors expressed their concern at the restricted opportunities available to released prisoners for employment and accommodation.

The consequence of this is that offenders commit 57% of recorded crime shortly after release from prison. Research and operational experience indicates that re-offending drops by 50% if accommodation and employment can be found for former offenders. Despite considerable efforts within the prison and probation service successfully finding both employment and/or accommodation remains a challenge. Prison governors outlined that challenge to Tribune Trust members at a Trust meeting in January.

The Rehabilitation of Addicted Prisoners Trust, (RAPt), runs a very successful residential unit in Hull, The Bridges for ex offenders with a history of addiction. The unit is not currently used to capacity due to funding complexities. These combined issues need dealing with urgently.

Additionally, the Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce have recently published a study, which concludes that two-thirds of businesses in the Yorkshire and Humber region experienced crime in the last year with only a third of businesses reporting offences to the police. For some businesses crime is a major problem and threatens the viability of their operation thus restricting growth and investment in the area.

The following objectives hope to be achieved after the seminar:

- The RAPt facility in Hull operating at full capacity
- Employers to sign up with the Probation and Prison Service to employ, support and mentor former offenders
- Housing Associations and councils to be proactive in accommodating released former offenders.

Criminal justice, drug and alcohol agencies, local authority officers, businesses and employers will attend the seminar from both the private and statutory sector.

Speakers will include the Chief Probation Officer, Steve Hemming, Chief Constable Tim Hollis, Governor of HM Prison, Hull, Paul Fowweather, Chief Executive of RAPt, Mike Trace, former offenders, an employer and Nick Hildyard of the Tribune Trust, former High Sheriff with Geoff Ogden, Director of the Trust and former Head of CID/retired Drug Action Team Senior Coordinator.

Tribune Trust Director Geoff Ogden said, "recorded crime in the area is reducing, detections are rising with the prison population increasing. More lateral thought has to be applied to reducing re-offending and supporting those tasked with offender re-settlement. The seminar aims to achieve that and is linked to wider regeneration programmes in the region."

For information about the seminar or to attend it, please contact any of the contacts below.

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