

## COMMUNITY JUSTICE SALFORD

### STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

#### **PRIORITIES OF THE COURT**

- The Community Justice Court will specifically deal with the crimes and behaviour that local people have said is their priority.
- This is behaviour that causes them most concern in the areas that they live. Behaviour that makes them feel uneasy and fearful, wary and distressed.

#### **WHAT WE EXPECT OF DEFENDANTS / OFFENDERS**

- The Court will take account of the crimes that most concern the local community.
- When giving the plea, defendants should know that punishment will be reduced by up to a third if they are guilty and plead guilty.
- The Court will ask you directly (in guilty pleas):
  - Why you committed the offence,
  - How you feel about your behaviour now,
  - Your feelings on how your victims and the community in general have been affected by your behaviour,
  - What you think that you can do to make amends to your victim and the community in general.
- If issues are identified that contributed to your offending, then the Court will try to put support in place to help rehabilitate you.
- The Court will consider how you may offer to make amends to the local community. Wherever possible and if the court deem it appropriate, if you are found guilty of offending in the Eccles area, you will do unpaid work back in the Eccles area for the benefit of it's community.

The Court will give feedback to local people on the guilty outcomes of the Court to raise awareness about how the Court has dealt with the issues that concern them the most.

#### **WHAT WE EXPECT OF DEFENCE SOLICITORS & OTHER AGENCIES**

- To support the effective operation of the Court by ensuring that cases can proceed on time, by ensuring that necessary paperwork, such as "means forms" and reports, are in place prior to coming in to Court
- To assist as many cases as possible to be dealt with at the first hearing. Today the court will expect the defendant to enter a plea of *guilty* or *not guilty* if they have not already done so. When giving the plea, defendants should have been made aware that punishment will be reduced by up to a third if they are guilty and plead guilty. Solicitors should make sure this is discussed with defendants.
- In order to actively manage the case when a not guilty plea is entered the court will identify the issues between the parties today and seek to give any further directions immediately.
- Be aware of community concerns.
- Ensure that defendants (and responsible adults) are prepared to be addressed directly by the Bench and to respond to questions about their behaviour or behaviour of the defendant.
- Encourage defendants to consider, acknowledge and positively address any underlying issues of their offending.
- Actively offer information to the Bench that will assist in considering the case.