

# West Midlands Probation – Community Payback Hub

[keywords: *community payback*]

## Overview

The Community Payback Hub in Walsall was set up in 2022, in a former unpaid work workshop. The intention of the hub is to provide alternative ways for people on Community Payback to complete their orders, in particular for those who might find it difficult, perhaps by virtue of a physical or mental health condition, to take part in more traditional Community Payback activities. Since it first became operational, the hub has focused on manufacturing “no sew” pouches for young children to use to hold a toothbrush and toothpaste, as a way to encourage improved dental hygiene. The project was piloted in a local hospital. Following the pilot’s success, the hub has now been commissioned by Public Health England to produce 11,000 pouches to be distributed to schools across the area. Future plans include expanding into other light manufacturing initiatives and developing a preparation-for-work unit attached to the hub.

## Its impact

The hub has improved opportunities for its core target group to complete their Community Payback orders, something which has historically proved a challenging issue. And the fact that the hub has now been commissioned by Public Health England to expand its production into schools demonstrates its perceived benefits for local children’s health.

## What’s special about it

We believe this is a unique initiative nationally.

## Wider applicability

We believe this could be replicated elsewhere, and other probation areas, within West Midlands and beyond, have already shown interest in doing so.

## Further information

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See also: [KnowX.uk/WestMids3-KBT24.pdf](https://www.knowx.uk/WestMids3-KBT24.pdf) (Presentation)