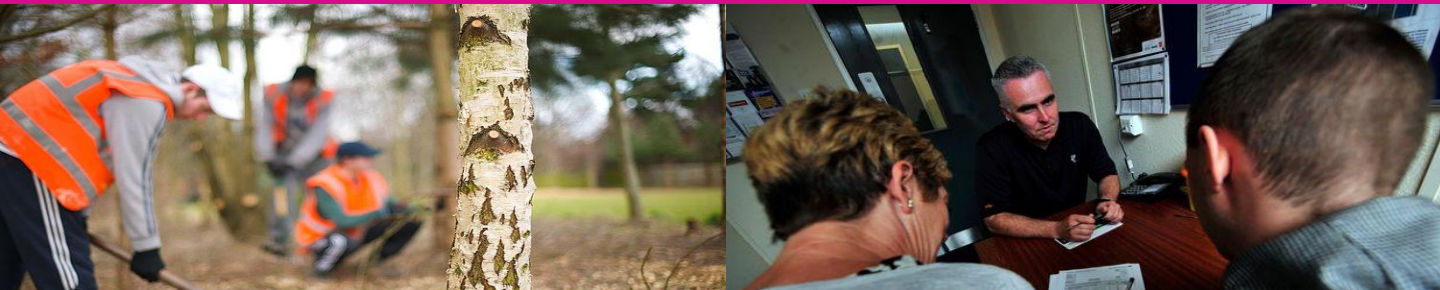


Community Sentences




Reoffending is extremely **costly** for the taxpayer and society

46%
of prison
sentences are
for **six months
or less**

65%
of people on
these
sentences
reoffend within
a **year**

Every year
reoffending costs
the taxpayer

£18
billion

 Source: Ministry of Justice

Community sentences **are more effective** at reducing crime than short prison sentences


75% is reoffending
of all crime

- People who receive a community sentence are **4%** less likely to reoffend
- People who **do** reoffend after a community sentence **commit fewer crimes** than if they had received a prison sentence



32,000 crimes
would be
prevented every
year

**If short prison sentences were
abolished**

 Source: Ministry of Justice

Community sentences are not just **more effective**, they are also **much cheaper**



To hold a prisoner for a year costs:
£37,543 a year



A community sentences costs:
£4,204 a year

Abolishing sentences of six months or less for theft and non-violent offences would save at least **£83 million every year**

Money saved for...



Police



Courts



Prisons



Source: Ministry of Justice/Crest Advisory/Revolving Doors



Community sentences can be punitive and flexible:



Unpaid work

40-300 hours of work in the community



Curfew

Restricted movement and participation in certain activities



Treatment requirements

Addressing drug, alcohol, or mental health issues



Behaviour programmes

Building skills and addressing offending behaviours, e.g. anger



Restorative justice

Meeting people affected by your offence

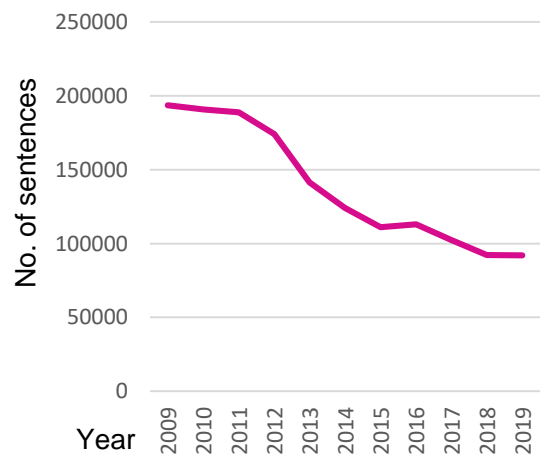


People punished in their communities can maintain ties with **housing**, **employment**, and their **families**, which are key to **reducing reoffending**



Despite the evidence, community sentences are **underused**

Community sentence use has **more than halved**:



A **consultation** to abolish short sentences was developed, but it has **not been published** by Boris Johnson's Government



Source: GOV.UK



Source: Ministry of Justice