



Yorkshire and the Humber Probation Service

PROBATION OFFICER
BAND 4

Welcome from Kilvinder Vigurs – Yorkshire & The Humber Regional Probation Director

Hello,

My name is Kilvinder Vigurs, and I am the Regional Probation Director for Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber.

The Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber is one of twelve probation regions across England and Wales which provide probation provision, as part of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

Every role within Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber is important and contributes to our shared vision of “working together to protect the public and help people lead law-abiding lives”. I am therefore delighted that you are considering joining our team as a Case Administrator.

To assist you with your application we have created this short information pack to provide you with some background information to the Probation Service, the services we provide and, importantly, what we can offer you.

Our recruitment is based upon the Civil Service Success Profile framework, which you may be unfamiliar with. I would encourage you to read and form your application using the corresponding information found in the pages below.

Finally, I would like to wish you the best of luck with your application for Case Administrator and your future career with the Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber Region. We all look forward to working with you.



Kilvinder Vigurs

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Working within the Civil Service

The vast majority of staff in HMPPS, and MOJ are Civil Servants. You too will become a Civil Servant when you join the Probation Service.

The Civil Service Code

The 'Civil Service Code' outlines the Civil Service's core values, and the standards of behaviour expected of all Civil Servants. The Civil Service's core values are integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality.

The code also gives details of Civil Servants' rights and responsibilities in relation to the code.

The Civil Service values:

- 'Integrity' is putting the obligations of public service above your own personal interests
- 'Honesty' is being truthful and open
- 'Objectivity' is basing your advice and decisions on rigorous analysis of the evidence
- 'Impartiality' is acting solely according to the merits of the case and serving equally well governments of different political persuasions



The Ministry of Justice – who we are

The Ministry of Justice is a major government department, at the heart of the justice system. Our vision is to deliver a world-class justice system that works for everyone in society.

We are responsible for these parts of the justice system:

- Courts
- Prisons
- Probation services
- Attendance centres

The organisation works together and with other government departments and agencies to bring the principles of justice to life for everyone in society. From our civil courts, tribunals and family law hearings, to criminal justice, prison and probation services.

Our priorities is to protect the public from serious offenders and improve the safety and security of our prisons, reduce reoffending and deliver swift access to justice.

PURPOSE

Justice matters. We are proud to make a difference for the public we serve.

OPENNESS

We innovate, share, and learn. We are courageous and curious, relentlessly pursuing ideas to improve the services we deliver.

HUMANITY

We treat others as we would like to be treated. We value everyone, supporting and encouraging them to be the best they can be.

TOGETHER

We listen, collaborate and contribute, acting together for our common purpose.

MOJ
Values

Delivering as part of HMPPS and the Ministry of Justice

HMPPS Priorities

HM Prisons and Probation Service protects the public, maintains safe and secure prisons, reduces the risk that people will reoffend and helps people to live law abiding and positive lives.

Everyone in HMPPS should have a shared understanding of the approach we will take to improve our services and achieve our vision. Our strategy sets out four principles that, if built into the way we work, will enable us to achieve our vision.

Ministers' priorities	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security and stability 	 <p>Protect the public from serious offenders and Improve the safety and security of our prisons</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, <u>skills</u> and work • Drugs and alcohol addiction • Family, accommodation, and readjustment to society 	 <p>Reduce Reoffending</p>

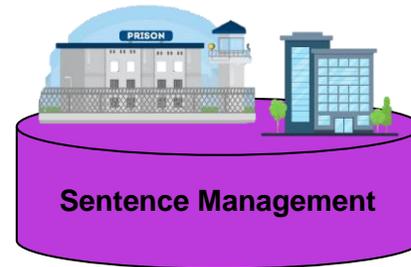
Strategic Principles: Enable people to be their best. Modernise our estates and technology. An open learning culture. Transform through partnerships.



About the Probation Service

The Probation Service forms part of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), along with the Prison Service and Youth Custody Service. In turn, HMPPS is part of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Government's ministerial department at the heart of the justice system, working together to bring the principles of justice to life for everyone in society.

The Probation Service oversees probation delivery in England and Wales to support the rehabilitation of our service users, encouraging them to turn around their lives and become law-abiding citizens, ultimately keeping the public safe



Probation officers work with people on probation in the community and in prisons, supporting them to get back on track and turn their lives around.



Probation practitioners collaborate with the court service to provide judiciary support, by producing reports. These help the court to set appropriate conditions that protect the public and victims and support successful rehabilitation.

The Probation Service works with around 230,000 people on probation. Our staff have an important role to play – helping protect communities by supporting people to get back on track and make better life choices



Our priority is to protect the public by the effective rehabilitation of offenders, by reducing the causes which contribute to offending and enabling offenders to turn their lives around.



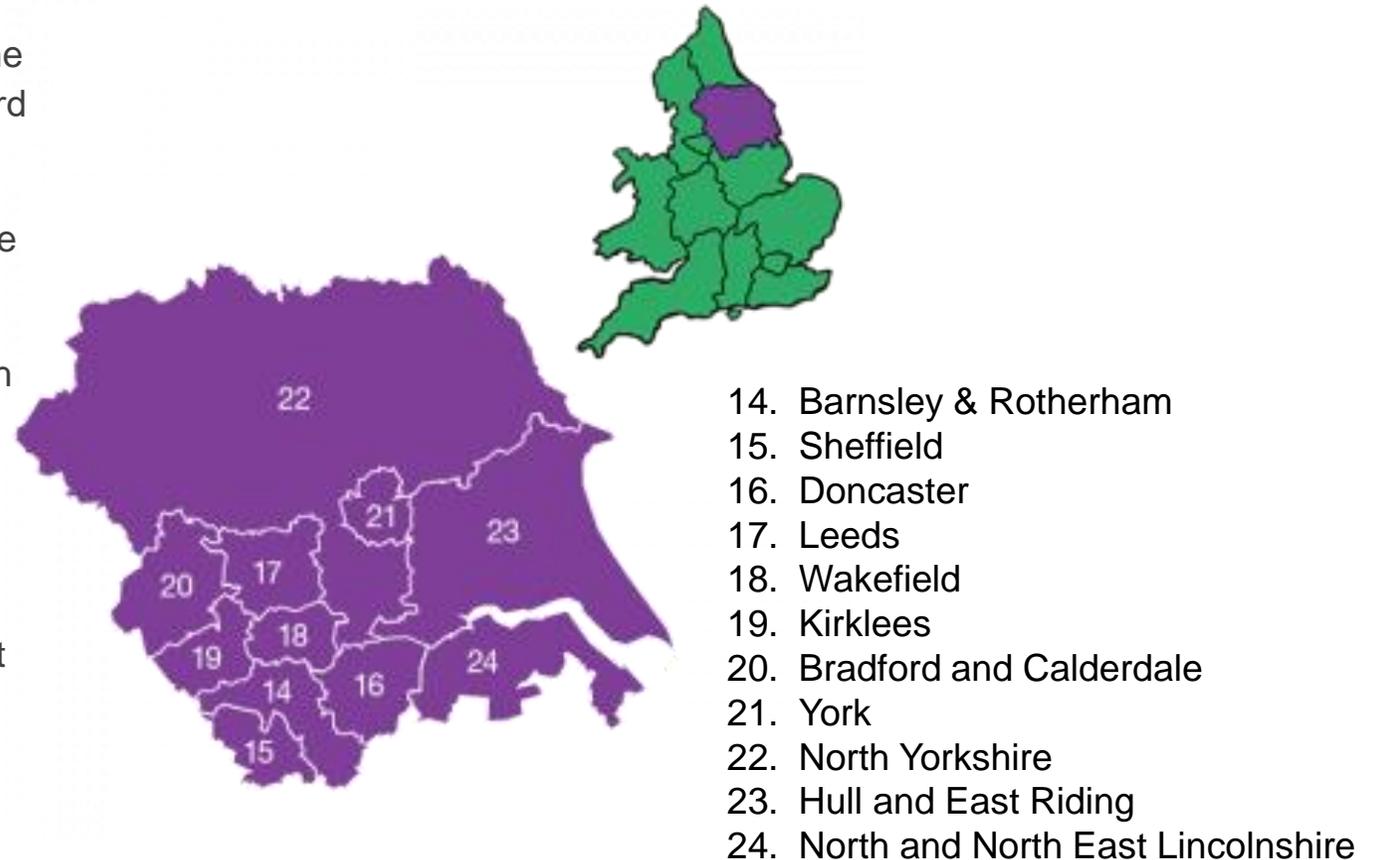
Community Payback (CP) isn't just an alternative to custody, it's a way of helping to create better outcomes for people on probation and better communities.



Victim Liaison Officers help support victims of crime within our region.

Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber (YatH) Region

- Yorkshire and the Humber (YatH) contains some of the UK's largest cities, including Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford and Hull.
- It also contains large rural areas such as the Yorkshire Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors.
- There are four Police Force areas: Humberside, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.
- We have 11 Probation Delivery Units: Barnsley and Rotherham, Sheffield, Doncaster, Leeds, Wakefield, Kirklees, Bradford and Calderdale, York, North Yorkshire, Hull and East Riding, North and North East Lincolnshire.



Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber (YatH) Region

About the Yorkshire and the Humber region

Total population of
5.4 million (2019)



Made up of prosperous towns and cities, extensive coastal areas and large rural areas



A proven reoffending rate of
28% (2019)



A diverse range of employment sectors, including large-scale steel industries, wholesale, retail, health and social care, accommodation, food services, and manufacturing



A probation caseload of
17,205, with a prison population of **8,430**



13 prisons

20 court centres, delivering a caseload of over 10,000 defendants (2019)



2,100 probation employees



3 police and crime commissioners: Humberside, North Yorkshire and South Yorkshire



21 local authorities



22 Clinical Commissioning Groups



£187 million of investment pledged to the region through round 1 of the Levelling Up Fund

The Probation Officer Role

Probation Officers role is to provide professional advice and assessments, including written reports to courts, the Parole Board, other criminal justice agencies and partner organisations.

As a Probation Officer, you will:

- Update and maintain records and other documentation within agreed timescales
- Attend professional meetings and represent the NPS at appropriate partnership forums
- Undertake prison, home or other alternate location visits as required
- Carry out safeguarding children duties in accordance with the NPS statutory responsibilities and agency policies
- Undertake the full range of offender management tasks with offenders assessed at all levels of risk of serious harm including high and very high.

We are looking for people with empathy and resilience to help people change. The role of a probation officer is rewarding but can be challenging – as you often work with people with complex needs, and no two people are the same.

You should have:

- Experience of working with a wide variety of people who have experienced a range of social/personal difficulties.
- Experience of working with diverse communities including promoting equality and valuing diversity.
- An understanding and appreciation of equality.
- Experience of working with individuals and groups in order to motivate and change offending behaviour.
- Experience of working with people who have committed offences.

You must hold a Probation Officer qualification or be a qualified Probation Officer.

In your first months with YatH you'll be supported by your team throughout, and you'll be there for them in turn.

Why I became a 'Probation Officer'



Alex explains what made him choose to become a Probation Officer. I have always had an interest in working Directly with offenders. Having previously studied criminology at university, the criminal justice system has always interested me. One of my university lecturers also previously worked within the Probation Service and provided an insight into how the service operated and its core values.

I worked odd jobs in my home city as I was unsure exactly what avenue to take with my career. I started volunteering with the Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact), a through the gate support service for prisoners who have just been released from custody. This gave me experience in formulating risk assessments as well as interacting with people involved with the criminal justice system.

My work with Pact definitely played a part in becoming a probation officer. It cemented my desire to work directly with People on Probation and be involved in the criminal justice system. I think my understanding of the Probation Service prior to starting my training gave me a good idea of how it would be. Nevertheless, the complex individuals that I work with provide a refreshing understanding of how individual's think and behave. People on Probation will always keep you on your toes in that regard, and so my work as a probation officer is constantly changing.

As someone's probation officer, you are the lead professional and take the lead in terms of managing aspects of the offender's life. This initially caught me off-guard during my training as it seemed daunting speaking during multi-agency meetings. However, the training is in place to give you the opportunity to learn and develop your skills within professional settings. In turn, making you a more proficient probation officer.

The most rewarding part of the job is seeing the positive change you can instil in someone's life when they were previously putting others and themselves at risk. Often in probation we work with people who are struggling with various facets of their life, be it drug addiction, mental health issues or homelessness. So, it is very rewarding to use the opportunity of working with these people to help change the trajectory of their lives.

Salary & Benefits

- The starting salary for this post is **£35,130** per annum, based on a full time 37 hour week
- Pay progression is reliant on proving competence with the competency-based framework
- **Part-time** positions are available, subject to a minimum of 18.5 hours per week

Benefits

- **25** days annual leave allowance (increasing to **30** days after 5 years service), in addition to **9** statutory bank and public holidays (pro rata).
- **Local Government Pension Scheme**

Working for the Probation Service, you will be eligible to join a competitive contribution pension scheme that you can enter as soon as you join. The Probation Service will make a significant contribution (approx. 27%) to the cost of your pension. Your contributions are deducted from your salary, prior to tax being taken. The pension will continue to provide valuable benefits for you and your family if you are too ill to continue to work or die before you retire. Visit [Local Government Pension Scheme](#) more information.

- Death in Service benefit
- Generous paid maternity, paternity and shared parental leave (SPL) which is in excess of the statutory minimum
- Occupational Health Services and an Employee Assistance Programme
- Free eye test and contributions towards lenses/spectacles for VDU users, if appropriate
- Free flu vaccine
- MOJ Employee Rewards- all employees have access to a comprehensive rewards programme, with discounts at your favourite retailers. This is exclusively for MOJ employees
- Reward and Recognition awards
- Cycle to Work Scheme allows employees to select a bike or cycling equipment from national retailers including Halford, Evans Cycles and Cycle Solution
- Eligible for Blue Light Card discount programme
- Civil Service Sports Council

What we are looking for?

Experience

In your application you will be asked to provide evidence of how your skills and experience meet the essential criteria.

- Have strong communication skills both verbal and written and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals, including those who may present difficult or aggressive behaviour
- Use and work on own initiative
- Good keyboard and IT skills including proficiency in MS Office Word and basic skills in Excel

Behaviours

The Yorkshire and Humber Probation Service uses the [Civil Service Success Profiles framework](#). You will be asked to refer to the Behaviours described overleaf at your interview.

Strengths

At interview you will be asked questions that will allow us to gauge your personal strengths, your natural reactions are a good indicator of what these are, or potentially can be.

Behaviours

The Probation service uses the [Civil Service Success Profiles framework](#). A combination of these Behaviours will be tested at the interview stage for Case Administrators. You will be asked questions based on these Behaviours and you should provide an example of how you have achieved these Behaviours using the [“STAR model”](#).

Making Effective Decisions

Understand own level of responsibility and empower others to make decisions where appropriate. Analyse and use a range of relevant, credible information from internal and external sources to support decisions. Invite challenge and where appropriate involve others in decision making. Display confidence when making difficult decisions, even if they prove to be unpopular. Consult with others to ensure the potential impacts on end users have been considered. Present strong recommendations in a timely manner outlining the consideration of other options, costs, benefits and risks.

Working Together

Encourage joined up team work within own team and across other groups. Establish professional relationships with a range of stakeholders. Collaborate with these to share information, resources and support. Invest time to develop a common focus and genuine positive team spirit where colleagues feel valued and respect one another. Put in place support for the wellbeing of individuals within the team, including consideration of your own needs. Make it clear to all team members that bullying, harassment and discrimination are unacceptable. Actively seek and consider input of people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Delivering at Pace

Show a positive approach to keeping the whole team's efforts focused on the top priorities. Promote a culture of following the appropriate procedures to ensure results are achieved on time whilst still enabling innovation. Ensure the most appropriate resources are available for colleagues to use to do their job effectively. Regularly monitor your own and team's work against milestones ensuring individual needs are considered when setting tasks. Act promptly to reassess workloads and priorities when there are conflicting demands to maintain performance. Allow individuals the space and authority to meet objectives, providing additional support where necessary, whilst keeping overall responsibility.

Changing and Improving

Work with others to identify areas for improvement and simplify processes to use fewer resources. Use technology where possible to increase efficiency. Encourage ideas for change from a wide range of sources. Clearly explain the reasons for change to colleagues and how to implement them, supporting individuals with different needs to adapt to change. Encourage an environment where colleagues know that they can challenge decisions and issues safely. Take managed risks by fully considering the varied impacts changes could have on the diverse range of end users.

Communicating and Influencing

Communicate in a straightforward, honest and engaging manner, choosing appropriate styles to maximise understanding and impact. Encourage the use of different communication methods, including digital resources and highlight the benefits, including ensuring cost effectiveness. Ensure communication has a clear purpose and takes into account people's individual needs. Share information as appropriate and check understanding. Show positivity and enthusiasm towards work, encouraging others to do the same. Ensure that important messages are communicated with colleagues and stakeholders respectfully, taking into consideration the diversity of interests.

Application Process

Application



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graph TD; A[Application] --> B[Shortlist]; B --> C[Interview]; C --> D[Offer];
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Shortlist

Interview

Offer

Applications should be submitted via [Justice Jobs](#). We are unable to accept late submissions.

When you complete your online application you will be asked to provide:

1. Your eligibility to be employed by the Probation Service
2. Your personal details
3. Upload your CV, which should include details of essential criteria- evidence of how your skills and experience meet the criteria.

Use this link to [here](#) for tip on how to apply

Should you have any problems with your online application, please contact us:

YatHPS.Recruitment@justice.gov.uk

Application Process



A sift of applications is conducted by a panel that will assess the evidence provided against the essential criteria listed in the person specification.

All shortlisted candidates will be advised of the outcome shortly afterwards via the Justice Jobs Portal - keep an eye out for an email, as this may be sent to your spam/junk mailbox.

You will be asked to upload two forms of identification and qualifications (if required) prior to selecting an interview slot.

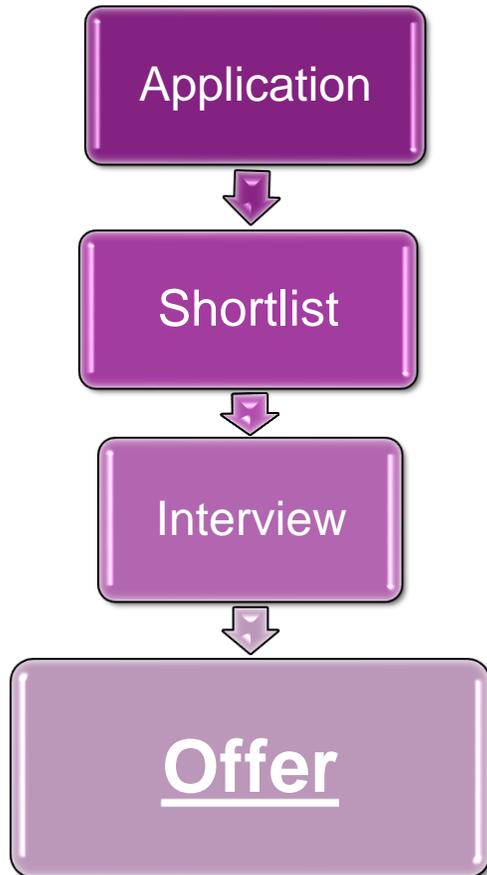
Application Process



Successful candidates will be invited to attend a interview. This will be a blended interview to test your experience, behaviours and strengths. We do not advertise the strengths being tested as we want to hear your first, unrehearsed and natural response.

All interviews are conducted in person. You will be contacted by a member of the recruitment team if you have identified that you require a reasonable adjustment to be in place at the interview.

Application Process



Our aim is to inform successful candidates within 5 working days after interview has taken place.

Regardless of the outcome, we will notify all candidates as soon as possible. You may be placed on a merit list, and can be contacted up to 12 months after the interview to be offered an alternative position.

Please note that this role requires successful completion of pre-employment checks including basic vetting checks. This usually takes 6 to 8 weeks to process. You will be asked to provide further details by SSCL. We advise that you complete this as accurately as possible to avoid any delays in employment. When completing the vetting form we advise you to use a laptop or PC and not a mobile phone or tablet.

Once all checks have been completed, a formal offer of employment will be sent via email for you to accept the terms & conditions of employment.

At this point you will be contacted by your line manager, to discuss a start date to join the Yorkshire and Humber Probation Service.

Diversity & Inclusion

The Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber Region is committed to build a more inclusive workplace where staff are encouraged to be themselves and deliver their best work.

We've attached our diversity and inclusion statement for you.



Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber Diversity & Inclusion Statement



We welcome everyone who visits and works here by building a safe and inclusive environment for all.



We deliver our services fairly and respond to individual needs. We insist on respectful and decent behaviour from staff, prisoners, people on probation, and others with whom we work.



We do not tolerate discrimination, harassment or bullying and we take prompt and appropriate action whenever we discover them.



Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find help in completing my application?

Please visit the below links for further information and support in completing your application:

[How to write your CV | Civil Service Careers \(civil-service-careers.gov.uk\)](#)

[Information for Candidates applying to work in the Civil Service – YouTube](#)

We also offer candidate training, which will provide help and guidance on Success Profiles, how to complete your application, interview skills and techniques. Follow this [link](#) to book onto our next available webinar session.

What are Pre-Employment Checks?

Pre-employment screening is a series of checks we carry out to ensure we comply with current legislation and to help us make informed employment decisions.

What is included in the Pre-Employment Checks?

You will undergo HM Prison and Probation Service [Enhanced level 2 vetting](#)

Some roles require access to intelligence systems that require deeper vetting, an example of which is the multi-agency Visor system. If you are applying for a role that requires you to access Visor, you will be expected to undertake visor vetting once you commence in post, in addition to the usual pre-employment checks.

Criminal Record Checks

All our roles are exempt from the Offender Rehabilitation Act. You must declare any [Convictions, cautions and absolute or conditional discharge](#) – regardless of how long ago they occurred.

Frequently Asked Questions

What Nationality do I need to hold in order to Apply?

This role is broadly open to the following groups:

- UK Nationals
- Nationals of Commonwealth countries who have the right to work in the UK
- Nations of the Republic of Ireland
- Nationals from the EU, EEA or Switzerland with settled or pre-settled status or who apply for either status by the deadline of the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS)
- Relevant EU, EEA, Swiss or Turkish nationals working in the Civil Service
- Relevant EU, EEA, Swiss or Turkish nationals who have built up the right to work in the Civil Service

- Certain family members of the relevant EU, EEA, Swiss or Turkish nationals.

If you require any further information on right to work in the UK, please read this [link](#)

What documents are checked?

You will be required to upload ID documentation and if required Qualification Certificate(s) which are checked at your interview. A full list of ID documents that are accepted can be found [here](#).

Where will I Work?

A list of all available office locations have been advertised on this vacancy.

Is this role suitable for part-time working?

Yes! We encourage all individuals to apply. Please discuss your working arrangements at the interview or email us in advance to discuss- YathPS.recruitment@justice.gov.uk



Contact Us

We encourage all candidates to carefully study the Candidate Information Pack and job advert, which explains the role and requirements before submitting an application. If you have any specific queries about this role that have not been covered by this document, please contact:

YatHPS.Recruitment@justice.gov.uk