



## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

**Brunstrom: Lack of local prison in North Wales means we are failing 'vulnerable' prisoners** Oct 14 2008 by Carl Butler, Daily Post

THE lack of a prison in North Wales is a breach of basic human rights, chief constable Richard Brunstrom claimed yesterday. Offenders from North Wales are scattered among 25 different prisons across the UK – as far afield as Newcastle and Dover.

The Chief Constable is backing a campaign by the North Wales Criminal Justice Board to secure a multi-purpose prison for North Wales. Mr Brunstrom said:

*“A prison is needed for the reintegration of offenders back into society. Evidence shows very clearly that, if you disconnect offenders from their home environment, their culture and family, it's much more difficult to reintegrate them back into society. We're actually shooting ourselves in the foot. We're taking offenders and alienating them even further than they already are. That's just not sensible. Secondly, we are not complying with the European Convention of Human Rights.*

*Although they are offenders, very often they are fragile young people and this is inhumane. If you're trying to visit your son and daughter in Newcastle, and you live in somewhere like Blaenau Ffestiniog, you're talking about a two or three day trip if you haven't got a car. There is no possibility of us being able to reintegrate people back into society and we are not safeguarding their human rights. Most adult males going into custody in North Wales go to **Altcourse Prison** which is a very good prison. Having said that, Altcourse is in Liverpool and it means that if you are a social worker from Barmouth you have a full day's trip to visit somebody there. In addition to the impact on families, the whole criminal justice process to support the prison is taken two or three hours' drive away. It is not good for justice.”*

The Chief Constable added: *“There has to be a small-to-medium, multi-functional prison in North Wales. It is essential”*. **Two sites – in Wrexham and Caernarfon – are on a Welsh shortlist of four unveiled by Minister for Prisons, David Hanson, MP for Delyn.**

The proposal is for a community prison with different wings for male, female and young offenders. Business leaders are behind the idea of a prison for North Wales, which they believe would provide a huge boost to the regional economy, **creating 1,000 jobs and an annual income of £17m**. Experts also say that, contrary to popular myth, the surrounding area would be a safer place to live because crime rates actually plummet.

**The PPP comments ....The need for a prison in North Wales has been there throughout Brunstrom's 8 year tenure, so what has he done about it?. If he would concentrate his energies on issues of REAL policing, of which this is one, we would all have benefited. The (NIMBY) public's objection to a prison in their backyard is the biggest problem and he could have been addressing that with these valid arguments and via his community policing teams!**