

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**8TH DECEMBER 2016**

### **LSCSB UPDATE: NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.**

#### **Background**

1. This is the first report to the Board of the deputy head of the Local Delivery Unit (LDU) in Leicestershire appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016. This year has been one of continuing change and development for the National Probation Service following the Transforming Rehabilitation changes in 2014-2015. The Offender Rehabilitation Act took effect in February 2015, bringing with it changes to sentencing and a mandated period of licence supervision for all prisoners. The National Probation Service is continuing to implement the changes required by the Transforming Summary Justice Programme led by Her Majesty's Courts service. This is bringing changes to the Service's Court work, and particularly the need to deliver 75% of Court reports on the day. Within Leicester City and Leicestershire changes have been seen to the Probation Service's estates, in part brought about by the move from the premises of colleagues from the Community Rehabilitation Company. This has seen the closure of Wigston office and our HQ at St John's Street. Further rationalisation is planned for Coalville and Hinkley teams who will be working from community based reporting centres going forward. We have been involved in Inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) during the year, in addition to participating in partners' inspections. Finally, the National Probation Service is in the process of a national staffing and resource rationalisation, called E3 (Effectiveness, Efficiency and Excellence). This is implementing a national staffing strategy, based on a resourcing model that decreases the overall establishment of Probation Officers and Senior Administrators within Leicestershire, but increases some staff on other grades. This is having a major impact on staff at the moment as redeployment is required, which is an unsettling process. However, no redundancies will result, and it is hoped to conclude any moves by April 2017.

#### **Notable developments and challenges:**

#### **Past Year**

2.
  - i) Implementation of the Offender Rehabilitation Act in February 2015- including new Post Sentence Supervision arrangements
  - ii) HMIP Inspection into RAR activities- successful feedback
  - iii) First phases of E3 programme implementation
  - iv) Successful estates closures and consolidation of new working arrangements with the CRC.

**Coming Year**

3.
  - i) Full implementation of the staffing changes in E3
  - ii) Further estates rationalisation
  - iii) Continued work with sentencers to maintain confidence in the whole probation system
  - iv) Implementing new working arrangements with Turning Point in relation to Alcohol and Drugs Services
  - v) Review of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements currently planned

**Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners**

4.
  - i) Potential loss of clear geographical community links once estates changes take place
  - ii) Continued need for close working arrangements with CRC colleagues in shared buildings and where we are no longer located together.
  - iii) Risk of less effective joint work with commissioned treatment providers, particularly in respect of reports produced on the day at Court.
  - iv) Need for clear, agreed partnership meeting attendance between ourselves and CRC colleagues to ensure good communication

**Issues in local areas**

5.
  - i) Offenders from Wigston now reporting in Leicester
  - ii) Further disruption to offenders reporting arrangements in Coalville and Hinkley once offices close

**Recommendations for the Board**

6. To note the contents of the report.

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