

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**23 FEBRUARY 2017**

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

#### **Background**

1. This quarter has seen continuing change and development for the National Probation Service (NPS) 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.
2. The NPS is continuing to implement the changes required by the Transforming Summary Justice Programme led by Her Majesty's Courts service. The changes to the Service's court work are now embedded, and the target to deliver 75% of reports on the day is now regularly met.
3. 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. The CRC have now exited premises at Cobden Street, Coalville and Hinckley, leaving small NPS teams covering part of each week. Further rationalisation is planned for Coalville and Hinckley teams who will be working from community based reporting centres going forward at Hinckley Hub and within Local Authority premises. Shared premises at Loughborough remain.
4. We have been involved in Inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) during the year, in addition to participating in partners' inspections.
5. Finally, the NPS continues to implement a process of national staffing and resource rationalisation, called E3 (Effectiveness, Efficiency and Excellence). This is 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 still hoped to conclude any moves by April 2017.

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

##### **Past Year**

6. 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 phase of E3 programme implementation;
- iv) Successful estates closures and consolidation of new working arrangements with the CRC.

### **Coming Year**

7. i) Full implementation of the staffing changes in E3, and changes anticipated to staffing following E3 Phase 2 which addresses probation staff working in prisons;
- ii) Further estates rationalisation- in particular Coalville and Hinckley changes;
- 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 being undertaken.

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

8. 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;
- v) Potential changes from the movement of increased probation staff into prison locations.

### **Issues in local areas**

9. i) Offenders from Wigston now reporting in Leicester;
- ii) Further disruption to offenders reporting arrangements in Coalville and Hinckley once offices close;
- iii) Changes to Unpaid Work delivery- location not certain.

### **Recommendations for the Board**

10. To note the contents of the report.

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