

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

1 DECEMBER 2017

THE NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE LEICESTERSHIRE

Background

1. The National Probation Service (NPS) are part of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. The NPS are responsible for the statutory supervision of offenders managed under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), other offenders assessed as posing high risk of serious harm, foreign national prisoners subject to deportation orders along with any cases of notoriety. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on developments within the service over the last 12 months.

Notable developments and challenges

2. 2017 has been a year of continuing change and development for the National Probation Service following the Transforming Rehabilitation changes which began in 2014. A new operating model is in place which sets out and embeds the national changes achieved via the E3 (Efficiency, Effectiveness, Excellence) programme. Key changes are highlighted below in table 1.

Table 1

Business Area	Key components of the model
Approved Premises (AP)	Standard staffing model with clear roles and responsibilities
	Standard operating model, prioritising key work and purposeful activities
	Enabling Environments for all Approved premises to enhance staff skills and improve residents' experience
	Electronic referrals through divisional hubs to reduce duplication and maximise occupancy
Youth offending service (YOS)	National framework for secondments, providing clarity for YOS and NPS
	National resourcing model for secondments based on YOS caseload, to ensure consistency
	Standard secondment arrangements for staff, supporting development of skills and support for seconded staff
	Standard workload model for seconded staff, using their skills in risk assessment and risk management

MAPPA	Single national job descriptions for MAPPA coordinator, deputy MAPPA coordinator and MAPPA administrators employed by the NPS.
VISOR (police case recording system for MAPPA offenders)	Increased VISOR access for relevant staff, underpinned by training and roll out of new IT equipment.
	Nationally agreed processes and thresholds for staff undergoing VISOR vetting.
	Development is VISOR Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) to promote maintenance and enhance quality of information included within VISOR records.
	VISOR administrator role undertaken by case administrators
Interventions with people who have committed sexual offences	Divisional Units delivering accredited programmes, led by a Divisional Unit Manager with Divisional referral hubs
	Facilitators will be qualified probation officers, managed by senior probation officers (SPOs) who will undertake the combined treatment and programme management role
	Gradual move over to the newly accredited programmes; Horizon, Kaizen and Becoming New Me.
Complaints management	A dedicated complaints team in each division to investigate formal complaints
	Collation and review of learning from informal and formal complaints investigations to support quality practice
	A national complaints lead
Administration	Administrative support resourcing model based on ratios
	Learning and development for administrative staff
	Reception standards
Management structures	Complex and standard LDU cluster model
	LDU cluster support roles for all clusters with additional resource for complex clusters providing appropriate support to heads
	Quality Development officer (QDO) role promoting effective practice and supporting staff
	National framework for involvement in statutory partnerships to provide consistent service to local partners
	Senior Administrative Officers (SAOs) to line manage case

	administrators ensuring appropriate support and skills development
	Oasys countersigning framework in development

3. In addition to the nationally driven work, the National Probation Service has continued to work closely with local partners; notably Leicestershire Police; the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company (DLNR CRC) and Turning Point to revise the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) model. This has led to efficiencies and, for the NPS and police, an increased focus on working in partnership with some of the most complex high risk of serious harm cases.

Coming Year

4. Offender Management In Custody is a key focus for HMPPS between now and full roll out in 2019. The aim is to make prisons safer and to develop more rehabilitative prisons to deliver a supportive environment for both prisoners and staff. Nationally, an additional 2,500 prison officers are being recruited and there are plans to move some NPS qualified Probation Officers and Senior Probation Officers into prisons to ensure more effective rehabilitation of the highest risk most complex prisoners.
5. NPS is continuing to focus on improving outcomes for Indeterminate Public Protection (IPP) Prisoners. IPP cases were sentenced under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and at the time of sentence they were considered to present a risk to the public. In 2012 the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) abolished the IPP sentence. Nationally, there are still approximately 3,800 prisoners serving IPP sentences (excluding recalls). Over 70% (around 2,700) of these prisoners are past their tariff date. Given the abolition of the sentence, there is concern about the legal position of those who are past their tariff date or who have been recalled. The key challenges post-release are:
- access to suitable accommodation, often as a move-on from probation Approved Premises;
 - access to meaningful highly supported employment or training outcomes;
 - access to mental health services; and
 - access to drug and alcohol services.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

6. The Transforming Rehabilitation (TR) agenda streamlined NPS and CRC management structures. The reality is that there is now reduced capacity to attend partnership meetings and so focus is on those attended as a key partner, part of statutory arrangements or where significant value can be added. However, if other partners perceive a need for NPS input or attendance, this will be accommodated where possible.
7. Finding suitable settled and sustainable accommodation for offenders, including IPP cases, is increasingly a challenge. The NPS Head chairs the Offender Management and Reducing Reoffending Board which plans to hold a spotlight session to determine how agencies can best respond to the growing pressures in finding suitable and settled accommodation for adult offenders and to help scope the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The NPS Head seeks support from the LSCSB in attending this session and in identifying appropriate invitees from Leicestershire and Rutland partners.

Issues in local areas

8. The NPS Hinckley office will close on 31 January 2018 with offenders, in future, reporting either to Leicester or the Warwickshire Justice Centre in Nuneaton. The NPS are working closely with partners to ensure that cases reporting to Nuneaton can continue to access services that are currently provided by NPS in Hinckley and are not disadvantaged by the changes.
9. The Board were previously advised of a planned closure of the NPS Coalville office; this will not be going ahead. The office will continue to operate on reduced opening days.

Recommendations for the Board

10. It is recommended that the Board
 - note the contents of the report; and
 - endorse the proposal for relevant partners to attend an LLR spotlight session on adult offender accommodation and identify appropriate invitees from Leicestershire and Rutland partners.

Officer to Contact

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