

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

24th SEPTEMBER 2021

LSCSB UPDATE: PROBATION SERVICE

Purpose of report

1. To provide an update on the Transition of the Probation Service to one organisation.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

2. It has been a challenging year as we proceed with our Recovery from the Covid Exceptional Delivery Model, manage high caseloads, and staff shortages, and prepared for re-unification of the Probation system as from 26th June 2021.

Coming Year

3. Operationalising the Probation unification is the key challenge for the remainder of 2021 and 2022. Bringing teams, working methods, structures, staff skill sets and caseloads together is a significant and complex undertaking after 8 years as separate organisations as NPS and CRCs. As with any major reorganisation, this has to be undertaken whilst maintaining a business as usual service.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

4. The above will have an impact on organisation capacity and organisational energy in our partnership working. Whilst all statutory and ongoing partnership commitments will continue to be prioritised, any new joint initiatives will need to be judged on a case by case basis for the next 6 – 9 months.

Issues in local areas

5. The main Leicester City Office located on Cobden Street (which also covers large parts of the County) will be closed for a major refit and refurbishment starting in November and ending in March. This will involve the moving of all Cobden St Office Operations to the ex-CRC Office in Friar Lane. This will present considerable operational challenges.
6. Work is also ongoing to secure a permanent base in Hinckley.

Recommendations for the Board

7. That the Board notes the update.

Bob Bearne
Head of Probation Delivery Unit
Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland.

Tel: 0116 2620400

Email: bob.bearne1@justice.gov.uk