

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2022**

### **LSCSB UPDATE: PROBATION SERVICE**

#### **Background**

1. In June 2021, the Probation Service was re-unified, bringing the Community Rehabilitation Companies and National Probation Service together as one organisation, the Probation Service, organised in local Probation Delivery Units (PDU), within Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), within the Ministry of Justice. The LLR PDU is part of the East Midlands Region.

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

##### **Past Year**

2. Although the Probation Service was formally unified in June 2021, the task of combining the two organisations at every level, and operationally, has been very challenging, complex and lengthy, and thus taken up a significant amount of organisational time and energy. This has been overlaid by ongoing and significant staffing and resource issues, together with moving out of our COVID Extraordinary Delivery Model. In addition, our main Leicester Office (which also covers much of the County) was closed for 6 months for a major refit and refurbishment, requiring the decanting of all staff and service delivery into a smaller office in the City Centre. However, despite this, we have managed to maintain full service delivery.
3. We finally moved into the refurbished office at the beginning of May. It is a modern, bespoke-designed and well equipped, so will allow us to develop our service delivery, as well as greatly enhancing the working experience and environment for all our staff and visitors.
4. At the same time of the move, we have implemented a new team structure which both achieves a fully integrated delivery model from the two legacy organisations, and allowed us to innovate with the formation of a Young Adults team and a Womens Team. The former will work closely with YOS Teams to develop joint maturity assessments, and develop more robust and personalised plans for young people transitioning from YOS to Probation Service supervision. The latter is already working collaboratively, not only with our commissioned Womens' services, but with a broad range of other relevant organisations too.

## **Coming Year**

5. We will particularly look to develop the two specialist Teams so they work in a bespoke manner, relevant to their service user group. Linked to this, is an approach to service delivery which will become fully Trauma Informed across all areas of the organisation, and in collaboration with partnership organisations who are also fully signed up to operating with such an approach.
6. With significant recruitment and qualification training ongoing, we are hopeful that our recent, and long-standing resourcing and staffing issues will begin to ease. This will have the effect of reducing excessive caseloads for practitioners, allow more development work, concentrating on quality and an enhanced level of community and partner organisation engagement.

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

7. As part of the Probation re-organisation 2021, we have Regionally allocated funds to commission or co-commission with partners. We have already done this with City and Council Counties in the recent recommissioning of Substance Misuse Services and will be looking for other opportunities over the coming months and years.

## **Issues in local areas**

8. None of note.

## **Recommendations for the Board**

9. That the Board notes the content of the report.

## **Officer to contact**

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