



Probation and Independent Sentencing Review Update

LRSCSB 25th June 2026

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Recap – what is happening and why?



Independent Sentencing Review made recommendations for the Criminal Justice System which were been incorporated into new legislation – The Sentencing Act given Royal Assent on 22nd January 2026.



This means the way the Probation Service works will be changing



Our Future Probation Service is a programme of work to look at how the Probation Service can implement the changes, ensuring sentences are delivered and workloads are manageable.



Changes will be implemented in stages

Roadmap – February to May 2026

Early improvements	Sentencing Changes	Simpler processes and new tools	
February	March	April to	May
<p>Justice Transcribe roll out</p> <p>Decommissioning of PSR Gatekeeping</p> <p>Move away from the SDR template/Layer 3 OASys completion</p> <p>OGRS4 generation</p> <p>APoP Reallocations (pilot with Kent, Surrey and Sussex)</p>	<p>Sentencing changes - Presumption to suspend short Sentences, Extension to Suspended Sentence Orders and Extend Deferred Sentences 22.3.26</p> <p>Recall FTR56: Tranche releases commence 31.3.26, and new recall model goes live.</p> <p>New Induction pack launched 2.3.26</p> <p>APoP Reallocations national roll out (date TBC)</p>	<p>Unpaid work: remove 12-month requirement (11.5.26)</p> <p>Sparks – replacement for current toolkits (11.5.26)</p> <p>Early Termination (11.5.26)</p> <p>PSS repeal (11.5.26)</p> <p>MPOP 🖥️</p> <p>Online check in 🖥️</p> <p>ARNS Sentence Plan 🖥️ (L&D from 23.3.26 – go live)</p>	<p>Recall FTR56: Tranche roll-out completes</p> <p>Courts: Verification report 29.5.26</p> <p>Courts: Prepare a Case for Sentence goes live 13.4.26 🖥️</p>

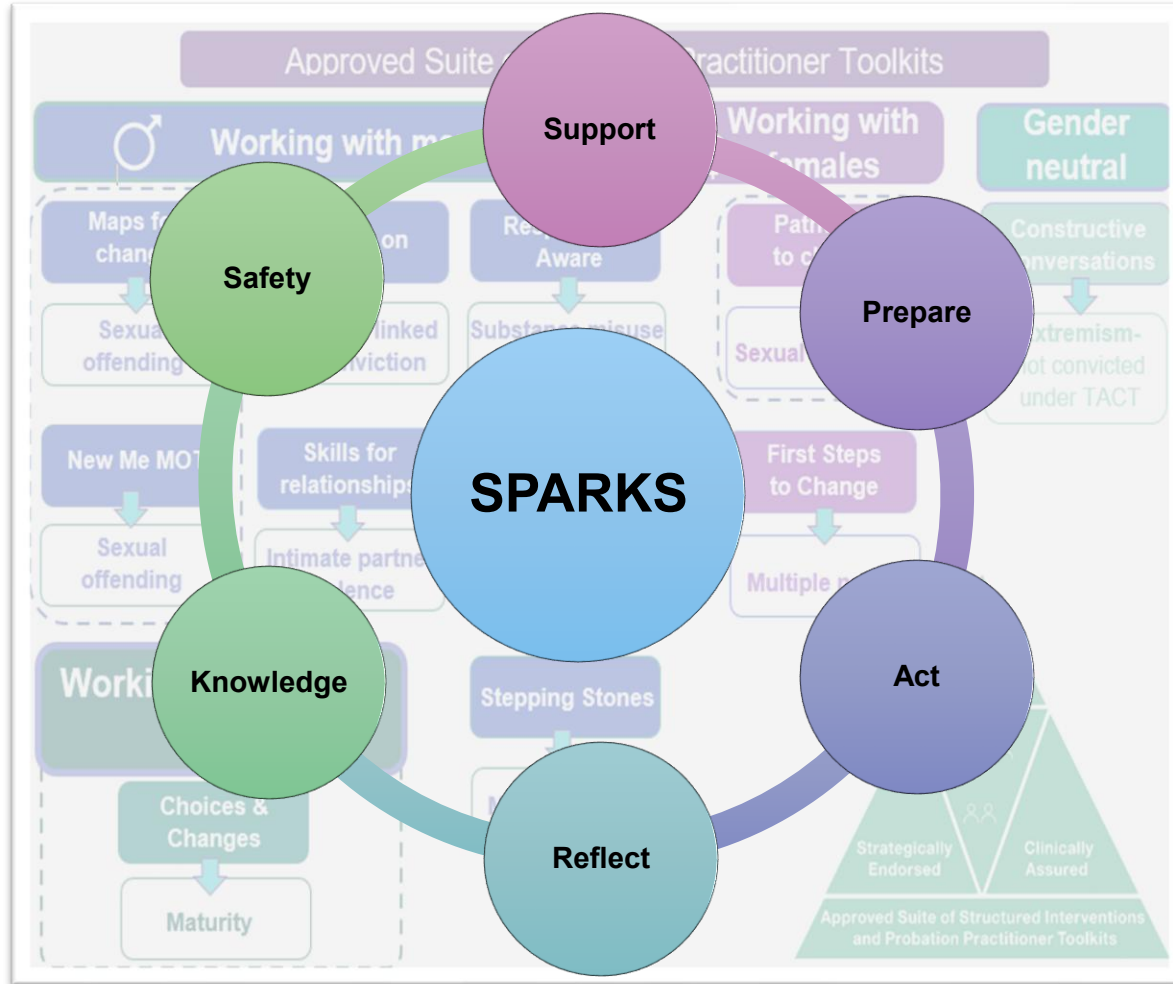


Early Termination of SSO and Community Orders

- The new Sentencing Bill will enable Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders to be terminated early where appropriate, without being returned to court.
- This measure will commence from 11th May 2026 for Low/Med Risk of Serious Harm and ALL IMPACT/Reset suspended Cases (CO/SSOs only)
- Early termination can be implemented retrospectively so there will be a backlog of cases to focus on initially. Concurrent orders are not in scope during this interim period.
- Cases eligible for termination will be those where:
 - a. All court-ordered requirements are complete.
 - b. All objectives in the Sentence Plan are complete, and no further objectives to manage risk are needed.

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SPARKS Framework- Launching 11th May 2026



A single, unified framework consolidating toolkit content

Person-centred, relational approach to supervision

Hosted on the rehabilitation portal

- Progression Model for Standard Determinate Sentences
- Probation Requirements & Restrictive Measures
- Sentence packages based on new Tiering Model

• Progression Model for Standard Determinate Sentences

- Most SDS custodial sentences will be in 3 parts:
 - First 33% in custody (50% for more serious offences)
 - Middle 33% on Intensive Supervision on Licence
 - Final 33% on 'reactive management but still subject to licence condition

Is retrospective, so Prison Service needing to recalculate approx. 40,000 release dates. This group released in 'tranches' between Sept 26 – June 27

- Much greater use of Electronic Monitoring for most offenders
- A greater range of Restrictive Requirements/Conditions in Community Orders/ Suspended Sentence Orders and Licences e.g drug testing, restricted movement, prohibitions etc.



- Supervision Packages set out how the level of probation supervision is determined for Community Orders, Suspended Sentence Orders with a Probation Requirement, and Licences.
- The current 4-tier model is being replaced with a 7-tier model (Tiers A being the highest to G, the lowest level) from September 2026.
- This change is designed to make supervision more proportionate, consistent, and sustainable - ensuring that the people who pose the greatest risk receive the most intensive support and contact. There will be a maximum number of supervision sessions for each tier;
- The changes will include **two** essential safeguards:
 - a. Domestic abuse offenders cannot be placed in the lowest tiers
 - b. Risk of Serious Harm and MAPPA status will set minimum supervision levels

What will supervision packages mean for Probation supervision delivery?

1. Does this mean some people on probation will receive less contact?

The changes will mean resource follows risk: They will rebalance the workload to ensure greater resource is spent on higher risk offenders to ensure better public protection and improved reoffending rates.

The evidence consistently shows that effective supervision depends on the quality, timing, and purpose of each contact. Focusing effort where it matters most will improve outcomes for individuals and keep the public safer. SPARKS will be used to support one to one supervision sessions.

2. What role does professional judgement play in the new model?

Practitioner judgement remains central to the new model. Actuarial tools - including the All-Reoffending Predictor (ARP), Combined Serious Reoffending Predictor (CSR), and Sexual Reoffending Predictor (SRP) - provide an objective, evidence-based starting point for tiering. However, RoSH assessments and MAPPA status are also important factors for tiering, and practitioners retain some discretion to account for dynamic and situational risks.

3. Are there safeguards for the most vulnerable cases?

There are safeguards in place for the following cases to ensure a sufficient level of contact: domestic abuse cases (index offence or historic), stalking and child protection cases, High and Very High RoSH, newly released lifers and IOM cases.