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| **Policy Position Summary: Reducing Reoffending 09.07.2018** |
| What does the PCVC wish to achieve?  To reduce crime and make a difference to victims, we need to consider the underlying causes of offending and reoffending, and take an evidence-based approach to rehabilitating offenders.  The PCVC wants to ensure that at every stage of the Criminal Justice System, young people and adults who have offended have access to services which are going to help reduce their offending in the future. He also wants to prevent people from offending in the first place by being able to access services which will improve their life chances. |
| Evidence Base  Offending and reoffending rates both nationally and locally have remained stubbornly high despite significant government spending on offender management in the last decade.  70.7% of adult women and 62.9% of adult men released from custody between April to June 2016 following a short custodial sentence of less than 12 months reoffended within a year. Female offenders cost the Government approximately £1.7bn in 2015/16, including estimated police costs of c.£1bn.  There is persuasive evidence that short custodial sentences are less effective in reducing reoffending than community orders. Short sentences generate churn which is a major driver of instability in our prisons and they do not provide sufficient time for rehabilitative activity.  The impact on women, many of whom are sentenced for non-violent, low level but persistent offences, often for short periods of time, is particularly significant. The prevalence of anxiety and self-harm incidents is greater than for male prisoners. As more female offenders are primary carers than their male counterparts, these sentences lead to a disproportionate impact on children and families and a failure to halt the intergenerational cycle of offending.  There is a higher prevalence of need amongst female offenders, such as mental health problems, and self-harm. Many experience chaotic lifestyles which are often the product of a life of abuse and trauma; almost 60% of female offenders have experienced domestic abuse.  In Durham and Darlington around a third of people who offend reoffend within 12 months. |
| How will the PCVC’s aspirations be achieved?   * + Work with partners to identify and work with individuals at risk of offending and reoffending   + Implement measures to ensure adults and young people are supported to desist from crime   + Continue to invest in Youth Offending Services that focus on avoiding unnecessary criminalisation of young people   + Continue to utilise and expand the Checkpoint diversion scheme to reduce reoffending   + Implement and deliver the refreshed Reducing Reoffending Delivery Plan and develop a performance framework   + Commission effective early intervention projects in particular for young people   + Use integrated offender management principles to better manage offenders by getting partner agencies to work together in the Offender Management Unit |