

## **Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner**

**Topic:** Probation Changes

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### **Purpose of briefing**

To brief the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on the proposed changes to the Probation Service, the impact this has on partnership arrangements and our commissioning of services for those who offend.

### **Background**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> this year the newly structured National Probation Service will be officially launched as a Civil service function which will be overseen by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) responsible to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The new NPS will have case management oversight of all those who offend but provision has been made for the procurement of probation delivery partners who will provide interventions such as unpaid work and some group work. At the time of writing many of these contracts have been out to tender but none have yet been announced. There is further funding available to the NPS to commission desistance pathway provision via the voluntary and private sector both nationally and locally. At the present time much is being done to ensure the availability of day one services both on a national and local level, but it is anticipated that there will be greater use of local provision going forward.

### **Current issues**

The move to a more joined up service is generally perceived as a welcome one and from within our office we provide representation for our region on both the APACE PCC and operational CJ group which have been established for PCCs to have early notice and discussion in relation to MoJ thinking. PCCs have been involved in the interviews for the new HMPPS leads as well as having discussions in relation to data availability, operating models, and commissioning of services. In turn the MoJ have requested PCC support in engaging with local service providers and information regarding area demographics and provision. As an area we are well placed to influence spending as a result of the work which has been carried out by the Local Criminal Justice Partnership with regard to having an evidence based understanding of the specific priority needs in our area and an awareness of available local provision.

### **Decisions needed**

As the planned changes progress it will be necessary to use the structures of our commissioning board to identify any funding which could be made available to the joint commissioning of services based on evidence of need from the Reducing Reoffending Group and priority areas identified in the Police and Crime Plan.

### **Partnership involvement**

Key to the delivery of local provision will be our partnership delivery and the proper commissioning of services. Bronwen Elphick has agreed to the NPS chairing the local reducing reoffending groups going forward and has also indicated some initial support for a regional reducing reoffending board which will support local commissioning as well as other strategic decisions.

**Police involvement**

Durham Constabulary are very proactive in their approach to prevention of reoffending evidenced through their problem-solving approach, delivery of schemes such as checkpoint and their commitment to joint working through integrated offender management.

**People to meet**

Bronwen Elphick as HMPPS lead will be critical in terms of developing relationships going forward and I anticipate she will want to introduce her key management staff who will be specifically allocated to the Durham area, this will include John Graham who has recently been appointed as partnership manager.

Jim Barton is the current lead in the MoJ for the probation transition.