

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Reoffending

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Purpose of briefing

To provide a briefing on reoffending policy and an update on priority workstreams.

Background

The PCC's main outcome for this policy area is to ensure that crime is reduced, reoffending is reduced so that we have fewer victims and communities are safer.

National Policy drivers

- **Transforming Rehabilitation:** a summary of evidence on reducing reoffending (2013)
- The Offender Rehabilitation Act (2014) contains a number of measures about the release (and supervision after release) of offenders, the period for extended sentence prisoners, and community orders.
- The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (2010-12) contains a number of measures to protect the public and reduce reoffending.
- The Crime and Courts Act which received Royal Assent on 25 April 2013, includes new measures to make community sentences more effective.
- [A Smarter Approach to Sentencing White Paper 2020](#)

There is a National Criminal Justice Board which feeds information to PCCs. The ODPCVC's role is to disseminate this information to local criminal justice boards and create a performance dashboard to monitor performance for the LCJB.

Local Strategies

The County Durham and Darlington Reducing Reoffending Group is a sub-group of the Local Criminal Justice Board and the 2 Community Safety Partnerships, with oversight and monitoring of its local [Durham and Darlington Reoffending Delivery Plan 2020-21](#).

The main objectives within this are to prevent offending and intergenerational offending, and reduce reoffending. The strategic objectives are set by the Local Criminal Justice Board in a [Strategic Plan on a Page](#). Each criminal justice agency will also have its own reducing reoffending strategy.

A number of current projects locally are aimed at reducing reoffending, many of the task and finish groups for these coordinated by the ODPCVC:

- Integrated Offender Management: multiagency integrated approach to supervise the most persistent and prolific offenders and partnership support for activities that involve the rehabilitation of offenders to reduce reoffending. New guidance is due out in April 2021 which will reflect changes to IOM cohorts and a focus on neighbourhood crime
- Checkpoint: deferred prosecution scheme to divert low and medium risk offenders away from the CJS and address the underlying causes of offending (see additional briefing)

- Whole System Approach to Female Offenders: process to ensure provision of gender-informed services and approaches across the whole Criminal Justice System. A Women's Recovery Centre is being developed in our area.
- Accommodation Priority Workstream: offers a co-ordinated multiagency approach to projects and commissioning in relation to offenders and housing. A joint post is currently funded through the PCC's Office, and DCC.
- Restorative Justice: ensuring the RJ offer is available at all stages of the CJS- Pre Charge/Out of Court Disposals (early intervention), pre-Sentence (as part of the judicial process) or post-Sentence (once guilt has been confirmed and sentence passed) (see additional briefing)
- *new: Community Sentence Treatment Orders (mental health and drug/alcohol treatment orders): Scoping work currently being undertaken to increase opportunities for use of more meaningful community sentences to address mental health, drugs and alcohol issues in order to rehabilitate as well as punish offenders, and use these as alternatives to short prison sentences. This follows national pilots. Funding will be available from NHS England
- *new: Unplanned Prison Releases: Current service specification and funding opportunities being looked at to enable a safe space to be provided for offenders being released unplanned, and on late on Friday afternoons who have no immediate aftercare plans. A bid has been submitted to the Local Leadership and Integration Fund. A protocol has also been set up for symptomatic or Covid positive people released from HMP Durham

Current issues

Despite current efforts and vast Government funding in probation services over the years, reoffending rates still remain high in County Durham and Darlington compared to England and Wales (County Durham, 31.7%, Darlington 39.5% compared to England average 29.2% up to March 2018).

It is evident from data that mental health, alcohol and drugs are the most pressing factors for offenders and as such the volatility of funding of services commissioned by partner agencies to address mental health, drugs and alcohol, in times of budget cuts for many sectors, is one of the biggest risks.

Re-nationalisation of probation service: Risk and uncertainty currently exists regarding changes in probation contracts. In 2019, the Government decided to re-nationalise the probation service in 2021, and a regional national probation service will be formed, covering Durham, Cleveland and Northumbria. The Community Rehabilitation (CRC) contracts will expire at the end of Spring 2021, according to the HM Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS) published documentation, and a new model for probation will be implemented restoring responsibility for all offenders on a community sentence or licence (the latter following release from prison) to the NPS. A new regional lead for HMPPS will have responsibility for reoffending in the North East and will be shaping the priorities for the probation service in the North East, which may impact on the joint management of specific offender cohorts. Work is ongoing with the PCVC's office to sit on the Transition Boards to ensure that each force area has the operational ability to reduce reoffending from early intervention, right the way through to high risk offenders. The impact of this new operating model in the Durham police area is currently unknown and therefore may directly impact on future demand.

Decisions needed

Future funding proposals for reducing reoffending activities such as community sentence treatment orders, heroin assisted treatment, and unplanned prison releases may be required. There is an

expectation that there will be opportunities for co-commissioning with the HMPPS Regional Probation Director, through the Regional Outcomes Innovation Fund.

Partnership involvement

The office is involved with the:

- County Durham and Darlington Reducing Reoffending Group
- Youth Justice Boards (one in Durham and one in Darlington)
- APAC2E CJS Network (national network of PCC offices)
- APCC CJS working group

The PCC has previously engaged with the:

- PCC Reference Group- a national group to allow for ongoing engagement between MoJ, PCCs and the APCC as proposals for future probation arrangements are developed and refined.

Police involvement

The Police remit is to prevent crime and as such have an active role in reducing reoffending. They manage the early intervention work Checkpoint, the IOM scheme and the Public Protection Unit (PPU) which supervises violent and sex offenders. The police engage with relevant partnership groups such as the YOS boards, IOM strategic/operational groups, MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangements) meetings, and the reducing reoffending group.

People to meet

- HMPPS Regional Director -Bronwen Elphick
- Detective Superintendent Kevin Weir (reoffending lead for the force)
- PCC lead for CJS-currently David Lloyd (PCC for Hertfordshire)
- APCC CJ SPOC-Mark Darby
- Residing Judge: Judge Adkin