



Ministry
of Justice

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Dear LA Chief Executives

TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION: CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FUNCTION

I wanted to write to bring you up to date on the Transformation Rehabilitation Programme (TR). The reforms reached a significant milestone on 1 June in the phased role out of the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms with the stand-up of the National Probation Service (NPS) and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs). These organisations are live and are now supervising offenders within the new structures. MoJ continues to provide dedicated support to embed the new systems and monitor and deal with any new issues that may arise as we work towards reaching steady state.

Once the reforms are fully implemented, each CRC will provide rehabilitative services under contract in its Contract Package Area (CPA) and be owned and run by successful bidders in the present competition. Bids to run CRCs were received at the end of June and we have a healthy competition in all CPAs with over 80 bids received and an average of four bidders in each area. Bids are currently being rigorously assessed and the contract winners for each CRC will be announced by the end of 2014. We will bring into force those provisions of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014, which extend post-release supervision to short sentenced prisoners, at the point contracts for successful bidders for CRCs take effect and new providers start delivering rehabilitation services. We plan to do this in line with our commitment to introduce these major reforms by 2015.

The contract management of the services commissioned by the Transforming Rehabilitation Programme will be delivered by a new Rehabilitation Services Contract Management (RSCM) function in the National Offender Management System (NOMS). I will lead the contract management function at NOMS Board level and supported by the MoJ Director for Procurement as well as by three Deputy Directors, each responsible for a geographic area (North, South West and Midlands, South East and London). Contact details for each of the Deputy Directors are attached to this letter.

In advance of contract award, the 21 CRCs are now working to their interim contracts and being managed by interim contract management teams within NOMS. To provide continuity, these teams are being led by the three NOMS Deputy Directors who will lead the future RSCM function following the completion of the competition, and locally by the NOMS senior community managers who previously managed the contracts with the former Probation Trusts.

The function has been developed in line with the MoJ/NOMS response to the cross Government and MoJ Reviews of Contract Management and National Audit Office best practice guidance. It will be responsible for:

- Commissioning and contract management of the CPA contracts in England;
- Setting of NPS Service Level Agreements;
- Engagement with stakeholders at national and local levels

The Target Operating Model (v3) outlines the importance of CRCs working closely with other local partners. Effective engagement and co-commissioning with partners at a national, PCC and local authority level is important to ensure commissioning is responsive to local needs. Through the Programme's local competition teams you may already have met with bidders in your CPA and started to work through how to put these local relationships in place. Many of you also were involved in the stakeholder engagement events in February and March this year ensuring that bidders were able to inform their understanding of key local priorities.

Within the Rehabilitation Services Contract Management function, Senior Contract Managers will be the main interface with other local commissioners. The Director and Deputy Directors will do the same at a national level. Local Authorities will of course continue to have relationships with both local contract managers and our senior contract management team as well as engagement with the programme through the Local Authority Reference Group. This structure will help to ensure that CRCs are planning future commissioning with other commissioners in mind.

The Deputy Director for your area will be happy to meet with you to discuss the contract management function and how they best work collaboratively with you to ensure an effective system for managing offenders, protecting the public and reducing re-offending.

This might be of particular interest to Directors of Housing, Community Safety and local commissioning.

An additional update on key aspects of the reforms is attached for information

IAN POREE
DIRECTOR, REHABILITATION PROGRAMME