

## **Transforming Rehabilitation Update for Local Stakeholders**

### **Overview**

On 1 June the 35 Probation Trusts were re-organised into 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) and the new National Probation Service (NPS). Over the last few months, staff in the new organisations have been working hard to embed the new structures and processes. Under the new system, all low and medium risk of harm offenders will now be managed by the CRCs, and all high risk of harm offenders by the NPS

Alongside the operational reorganisation, the Ministry of Justice has also been running a competition to find new owners for the 21 CRCs. Good progress has been made in the competition. We have a strong and diverse market of bidders, with more than 80 bids currently being evaluated. There is healthy competition, with an average of 4 bidders in each of the Contract Package Areas.

We have a mix of bidders from a range of partnerships, including charities experienced in tackling a range of issues affecting offenders, small and large British businesses and experienced multinationals. Mutuals (formed by enterprising groups of staff who worked together in Probation Trusts) are also represented in this cadre, and all of the bidders have experience in working with offenders or across the wider criminal justice system. In addition, almost 1000 organisations have now registered as potential supply chain providers including more than 700 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

We are on track to sign contracts with new owners later this year with new providers taking ownership of CRCs in early 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). The contract management function will be led by a Director supported by three Deputy Directors each responsible for geographic area (North, South West and Midlands, South East and London). In advance of contract award, the 21 CRCs are now working to their interim contracts and are being contract managed by the NOMS Deputy Directors who will lead the future RSCM function following the completion of the competition. The Deputy Directors and their teams will begin engaging with key stakeholders locally over the coming months to discuss the contract management function and how best we can ensure collaborative working during the interim contract management arrangements, with a particular view to ensuring we establish productive working relationships once new providers come on stream in 2015 to ensure an effective system for managing offenders, protecting the public and reducing re-offending.

## **Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014**

Much of the current sentencing framework for adult offenders is governed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (the 2003 Act). The ORA makes a number of changes to the release arrangements set out in the 2003 Act for offenders serving custodial sentences of less than 12 months, and for those serving sentences of between 12 months and 2 years:

- Extension of licence: the ORA extends release on licence for the second half of sentence to offenders serving custodial sentences of more than 1 day but less than 12 months.
- Post-sentence supervision: the ORA creates a new supervision period for all offenders released from custodial sentences of less than 2 years. The purpose of the supervision period is the rehabilitation of offender, and allows for a range of requirements to be imposed on the offender to support them moving away from crime. The supervision period tops up the licence period so that overall, every eligible offender will receive 12 months of supervision in the community after release.
- Young adult offenders: the ORA applies the new supervision period to offenders who are sentenced as juveniles but who are 18 or over at the ordinary point of release from their sentence.
- Breach of post-sentence supervision: creating a new process for Magistrates' Courts to deal with breaches of the supervision period. This is an important new role for Magistrates, and the Act gives them a wide range of sanctions – including up to 14 days in custody but also fines, unpaid work and curfews – that can be applied where a breach is proved.

We will bring these provisions into force at the point that the contracts for successful bidders for CRCs take effect and the new providers start delivering rehabilitation services. We plan to do this in line with our commitment to introduce these major reforms by 2015.

## **Through the Gate**

The reforms will also put in place nationwide rehabilitation services which work “through the gate”, providing continuity of services for offenders in custody and the community. Under these reforms, in most cases the same provider will support induction of an offender into custody, provide them with resettlement services before release, meet them at the prison gates and continue work in the community.

### **The principals of Through the Gate (TTG):**

- Coordination and management of offenders' resettlement needs by the same provider
- A universal screening of need for all prisoners within the first three days on arrival in prison - completed by prison staff using the Basic Custody Screening Tool (BCST)

- Individual resettlement plan for all prisoners, Part 2 of the BCST, completed by Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- Delivery of the plan by the CRC through the sentence
- Finalised plans for resettlement are made with the prisoner in their last twelve weeks in custody
- Support (including for those serving under 12 months) continues into the community
- The same provider responsible for the offender's progress both sides of the gate
- CRCs will be contractually obliged to deliver the following services; accommodation advice, employment retention and brokerage, financial advice and signposting services for sex workers and victims of domestic and sexual violence