

## **Reducing Reoffending Board 13 May 2019**

### **Record of Meeting**

#### **Organisations in Attendance**

Clinks  
 Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)  
 Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS)  
 HMP Bronzefield  
 London Councils  
 London Heads of Community Safety (LHOCS)  
 Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)  
 Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)  
 Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG)  
 National Probation Service (NPS)  
 NHS England  
 Public Health England (PHE)  
 St Mungo's

<b>Agenda</b>	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>
<b>Item 2</b>	<p><b>Performance Data and Updates</b></p> <p>MOPAC presented the key data headlines for the performance report, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adult reoffending is lower than the national average and holding steady</li> <li>▪ The figure for first time female offenders is higher than the national average but is now increasing at a slower rate</li> <li>▪ The number of short-term prison sentences is lower than the national average, though we should note the data discounts youth offending</li> <li>▪ There is a serious lack of data with regards to substance misuse and mental health, and we are seeking partner input</li> </ul> <p>It is also worth noting that a high percentage of London prisoners are not in London, so this is only capturing a small dataset. For example, Bronzefield had roughly 1300 released but only around 70 of these were released into Surrey.</p> <p>It was suggested that we deep dive into the figures which are higher than the national average. As well as this, there should be a disproportionality in custody indicator</p>

	<p>Mental health could use liaison and diversion data, but it would good to have a steer on what MOPAC are interested in. A further discussion will take place between the NHS and MOPAC's E&amp;I team.</p> <p>With regards to the DIP review, this was last discussed at LCRB and there were a couple of actions stemming from this. There is currently a working group scheduled for June and there are now additional commitments from PHE to provide data around the broader.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Partners to contact Lauren with their data input into the substance misuse and mental health performance framework</li> <li>▪ Lauren to update performance presentation for circulation</li> </ul>
<b>Item 3</b>	<p><b>Persistent Offenders</b></p> <p>The first meeting of the working group on persistent offenders took place on 1st May chaired by NPS</p> <p>At the meeting there was an open discussion about the options and priorities in this area of work. Feedback from stakeholders and the learning from the Persistent Offender Programme has highlighted some of the limitations of the current model.</p> <p>There was recognition at the meeting of the continuing need to target persistent offenders to reduce reoffending and to combine this with a renewed focus on the increasing group within the persistent offender cohort who commit more serious and violent offences. The working group is seeking to find a method for defining the persistent offender cohort across London that will achieve a measure of consistency while also ensuring that the re-defined cohort includes:</p> <p>Several alternative options to OGRS will be explored in detail in subsequent meetings of the working group to determine which options might best combine these priorities. There is also an ambition to find a criteria that can demonstrate change and progress over time, to measure the effectiveness of these new arrangements in reducing risk.</p> <p>Meetings will happen six-weekly and the aim is for a working protocol to be produced by the end of August.</p>
<b>Item 4</b>	<p><b>Female Offending</b></p> <p>The NPS provided an update of London's Blueprint for women in the criminal justice system, which has now been finalised. The NPS have worked MOPAC, PRT and others in developing the Blueprint, and we're confident it reflects the inputs of the many partners who have been part of this process.</p> <p>The latest version of the statement contains a commitment to work with partners to develop an operational plan within the first six-months, and the establishment of a Blueprint Delivery Group, made up of key members of the blueprint's signatories. This group will develop and oversee the operational plan moving forwards.</p> <p>The next stage of this programme is to formally seek corporate sign up of the Blueprint from all key partners. This will involve sharing the final draft of the Blueprint amongst partners.</p>

The Deputy Mayor, will be writing out to partners, including many of you round table, in the coming few weeks to encourage you to sign up to officially sign up to the Blueprint.

The Blueprint will also be taken to relevant governance boards, including the London Councils Leaders Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> June, where it will receive local authority sign-up. The publication of the Blueprint will then be announced in the lead up to a thematic Justice Matters on female, which will act as the inaugural meeting of the Blueprint Delivery Group.

A further update was then provided on the national CSTR programme, in which London is planning a pilot for female offenders in the six South London Alliance boroughs (Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Wandsworth, Sutton and Croydon).

The pilot will focus primarily on providing assessment and treatment resources for mental health to enable Mental Health Treatment Requirements (MHTRs), as this is where there is a significant commissioning gap.

An operating model has now been agreed by the project group and is being signed off by stakeholders and the competitive tender process is due to start this month. The communications strategy will place emphasis on dual diagnosis offenders and the pilot include plans to sequence mental health with substance misuse treatment.

It was advised that the South-East region NHS needed to be involved in the delivery group.

The tender for CSTR will be out within the month emails will be sent out to interested parties. This is a positive reflection of the work that has been done by the working group.

The NPS has worked on a pilot in Westminster Court, with Hibiscus workers working to try and get community orders instead of custody; there will be an evaluation of this short pilot. The pilot picked up that a lot of foreign national women were going into custody and being deported, and so this is to highlight these women are not getting any service

Deloitte have been undertaking a piece of research to analyse the costs and benefits of working with women in a whole systems approach. We are hoping to have the report by the end of the week, and this will help us have a greater geographical spread of services across London. The report will be brought back to this board, hopefully next quarter as long as it goes to the devolution board first.

It is the joint vision of MOPAC, MoJ and London partners (including the MPS) to put in place a whole systems approach to female offending in London. It is the intention of the MPS to support and facilitate the diversion of women within the criminal justice process away from Court and Prison.

Advance and their partners have been identified as the third party who will provide support, advice, and engagement with female offenders. In the first instance women aged 18 and over who reside on the BCU will be considered for a Conditional Caution as per DPP guidance. Tranche 1 will take place in Central North BCU (Islington and Holborn Custody suites) and Tranche 2 in Area South BCU (Lambeth and Southwark custody suites).

	<p>The subject will complete two visits with Advance to have fulfilled their obligation. Offences that do not fall within scope are those which are indictable only, Drink Drive/RTA offences, knife related offences and DV. Consideration should be given to offering the programme to the subject on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>The pilot aims to reach around 700 women over the two-year period, and if they don't get the throughput they can revisit the operational plan.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ MPS/MOPAC to review the outcomes of the Diversion Pilot and feedback to Board on progress.</li></ul>
<b>Item 5</b>	<p><b>Prison Accommodation Pilot</b></p> <p>A presentation was given on the MOJ's and MHCLG's Prison Accommodation Pilot, which will be operated by St Mungo's.</p> <p>There rough sleeping strategy contained a commitment to launch a prison accommodation pilot, which will now shortly be rolled out in Bristol, Leeds, and Pentonville Prison. The two strands to this pilot are accommodation and support. The support offer will be within the prison and transition into the community for two years support following release. This support plan will pull together housing needs for the individual.</p> <p>The target is for 185 service users and there is an opportunity for them to have the same support worker throughout.</p> <p>It was clarified that Pentonville was chosen because of the number of homeless releases, and remand prisoners will not be eligible for the pilot. The pilot does not want to duplicate a local authority's duty to provide housing.</p> <p>The source of the accommodation for this pilot was questioned, and whether this comes out of current provision. Two accommodation sites have been procured in Enfield – an eight-bed unit and another four-bed unit to provide accommodation at the point of release</p> <p>The estimated stay in this accommodation will be around 52 days, during which time the assessment continues, and people go into the right pathways and receive appropriate support.</p> <p>What makes this pilot unique is that the same staff will manage the same people over their two years of participation.</p> <p>There was also a question about why MAPPAs prisoners are not included in this pilot. The focus is around short sentence revolving door prisoners, and with limited funding it was necessary to target a specific cohort. In addition to this, MAPPAs have access to paid-rent accommodation.</p> <p>The Board questioned why Bronzefield was not designated as a pilot site, given that there are a lot of women serving short term sentences, and roughly 35% are released homeless. There was an indication that female offenders could be brought into scope for this pilot, and MOPAC will explore this further.</p>

	<p>The pilot aims to be operational at the beginning of July.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MOPAC to continue conversations with MoJ / MHCLG about the potential of including female offenders in the prison accommodation pilot.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 6</b>	<p><b>Themed Topic – Prison Work Coaches and Universal Credit</b></p> <p>An overview was given of the DWP’s core objectives and the work being done to address these, including a Work and Health Programme; Work Coaches and Specialist Advisers, and a Personal Support Package.</p> <p>The Board was given a walkthrough of Universal Credit and its main benefits. Universal Credit is a digital, flexible and personalised system; it reduces barriers to work, incentivising people to move into work; and it also helps people a low income to earn more and get on in their job.</p> <p>The concept of DWP Prison Work Coaches was also presented to the Board. PWCs operate in all prisons: working with Prison Induction Teams to highlight Jobcentre support from inside prison, conduct benefit enquires, help resolve benefit and housing cost issues, attend prison reducing reoffending meetings, QIG’s and Job and Info Fairs. They also assist in preparing ex-offenders for release with DWP Benefits &amp; Employment Services in a very challenging and changing environment &amp; where possible, providing a warm hand-off to the claimant’s local Jobcentre. More information on PWCs can be found in the presentation circulated to the group.</p> <p>There is currently a pilot taking place in Belmarsh which is trying to get those in prisons on computers to make claims in advance, which is currently being evaluated. The research shows that prisoner engagement at least doubled, the trial online claims are processed twice as quick, and universal credit advances are paid much quicker with most being made on same day as initial Jobcentre interview. One of the difficulties identified was that ‘Fit Notes’ and ‘Summary of Medical Histories’ could be issued whilst inside prison to vulnerable prison leavers</p> <p>There was a question about whether it has to be a GP issuing a fit note or an advanced nurse practitioner? Not necessarily, as it just need someone with the authority to issue one.</p> <p>There was an acknowledgement that some people will never be able to claim online and so this can still be done purely on the telephone, which is improving.</p>
<b>Item 7</b>	<p><b>AOB and Close</b></p> <p>None</p>

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Next meeting: 9 September 2019