

Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

20 June 2013

Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Chief Executives' Group of the Government's proposals for the reform of the delivery of community sentences and the potential implications locally

2 Background

- 2.1 On 9 May 2013, the Government published its response to the consultation document Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform. The key proposals are:-

- A new public sector National Probation Service will be created working with the highest risk offenders and building on the expertise and professionalism of the existing Trust's staff.
- Every offender released from custody will receive statutory supervision and rehabilitation in the community. Legislation will be introduced to extend statutory supervision to this group of around 50,000 offenders nationally.
- A Through the Prison Gate resettlement service is to be established meaning that most offenders will be given continuous support by one provider from custody into the community.
- The market will be opened up to a diverse range of rehabilitation providers in order to get the best out of the public, voluntary and private sectors.
- A new payment incentive scheme for market providers will be introduced which will give them flexibility to do what works and freedom from bureaucracy but only paying them in full for real reductions in reoffending.

3 Report

- 3.1 The implications of these changes are going to be worked out in detail over the coming months, but there are some initial changes to note:-

- Public Sector will now be organised on a national basis and will supervise around 30% of our current caseload. The management structure for this new service remains under consideration.
- The remainder of our work with the medium and lower risk offenders, the delivery of community payback and of accredited programmes,

which amounts to roughly to 70% of our current workload will be put out to competition in 21 lots. For North Yorkshire this means that our lot will include the delivery of these services in Humberside and Lincolnshire as well. The current Trust cannot bid for this work, but staff can engage with others with the aim of being either a primary contractor or a supply chain provider. MoJ is supportive of staff developing mutuals to engage in this process.

- Corporate and Support Services are likely to be provided on a shared service basis for the National Probation Service and through arrangements to be agreed in the competed sector. Details in relation to how this will be done are yet to be decided.
- All commissioning will be undertaken nationally, though there remains a commitment to include in both Local Authority and Police & Crime Commissioner priorities within the planning process. Both public and private sector organisations will have a nominated senior manager with whom Local Authority Chief Executives and Police & Crime Commissioners can liaise.

3.2 The timescales for the delivery of this change are challenging. It is intended to let the contracts for the new service providers in October 2014 with them taking over delivery of services in January 2015. At this point the current Trust would cease to exist.

- No detail is as yet available as to how this change may impact on the Trust's current partnership with Youth Justice Teams or in relation to Integrated Offender Management. It is likely that in future links will be with two community sentence providers for adults across both those projects.
- All providers will be subject to inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.
- There are clearly implications for pension providers in these proposals and I understand there will be contact shortly from the Ministry of Justice to outline their proposals in this area.

4 Recommendations

4.1 That this report is noted.

4.2 That a single point of contact is identified to exchange information in what will be a fast moving process.

Pete Brown
Chief Executive, York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust

28 May 2013