

**29 April 2014****Agenda Item: 7**

## **REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, ACCESS & PUBLIC PROTECTION**

### **TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION: UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on the potential impact of the changes to services for offenders under the Government's "Transforming Rehabilitation" policy.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **2. Key Aspects of the Reform.**

2.1 The key aspects of the reform are as follows:

- a new public sector National Probation Service will be created, working to expand the expertise and professionalism which are already in place
- every offender released from custody will receive rehabilitation within the community. It is intended that in addition to more serious offenders, this will be now be offered to the most prolific group of offenders, those that are sentenced to less than 12 months
- a nationwide "through the prison gate" resettlement service will be put in place to ensure continuous support by one provider from custody into the community
- the market will be opened up to a diverse range of new rehabilitation providers from the public, voluntary and private sectors, at the local as well as national level
- new payment incentives for market providers

##### **3. Outline of Main Impacts**

3.1 The main impacts resulting from the Transforming Rehabilitation policy are as follows:

- 21 contract package areas established nationally, run by Community Rehabilitation Centre organisations (CRCs).
- A National Probation Service introduced

#### **4. Offender Management**

- 4.1 The split between a National Probation Service and the locally focussed (regional) providers (CRCs) will mean that 80% of current Probation Service cases would be placed with the CRCs. CRCs will operate on a payment by results basis.
- 4.2 The effect of splitting Offender Management in this way could lead to:
- fragmentation of supervision of offenders
  - increase in complexity of information exchange and
  - fracture in continuity of offender supervision, adding to risk of public protection failures
- 4.3 The split does not recognise that offenders do not remain rigidly in “high risk” or “low/medium risk” brackets, they can move between these two groups, so it is artificial to maintain such a rigid separation. Risk of harm is dynamic in character and can change over time.

#### **5. Progress in Nottinghamshire**

- 5.1 The Nottinghamshire Probation Service has been extended until 31 May 2014, to continue to superintend the transition. Staff employed by the Service have been separated into the new National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Centre organisations and work is starting on the reorganisation of respective case loads. Nottinghamshire Probation Service is well advanced in implementing this transitional process compared to other areas of the country.
- 5.2 On the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the Ministry of Justice organised a Nottinghamshire Stakeholder Engagement Event. This was an opportunity for local partners to meet potential CRCs, to stress the concerns and requirements they have about the programme. The potential CRCs heard the views from a wide range of partners, including, The Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 5.3 A Senior Manager from the Ministry of Justice has attended the last two meetings of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. This has afforded the County Council and partners the opportunity to raise their concerns. These include:
- Escalation of risk – as a case moves from low level to high level
  - Transparency on payment by results – clear indication of real success
  - Dealing with the impact of substance misuse – a key factor in rehabilitation
  - Sharing of intelligence – ensuring this is undertaken in a safe secure manner
  - Performance management and accountability – recognising local requirements
  - Utilising existing local services and expertise – seen as key to success.

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board have been assured that these concerns will be addressed as the programme develops.

- 5.4 The 21 CRCs have now been identified. An offer has been made for those wanting to work in Nottinghamshire to meet with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Nottinghamshire County Council, so giving another opportunity for them to hear directly the provision that is required in the County. Successful CRCs will be notified later in the year.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Members note the latest progress in the implementation of the Transforming Rehabilitation Programme.

**PAUL MCKAY**

**Service Director, Access & Public Protection**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Tony Shardlow, Community Safety Officer, x 73846**

### **Constitutional Comments**

There are no Constitutional Comments required as the report is for noting only.

### **Financial Comments (SEM 14/04/14)**

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Report to Community Safety Committee on 5 November 2013 – Transforming Rehabilitation (published)

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee 5 November 2013 (published)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.