

## Reducing Reoffending Board Note of meeting

**4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 10:30-12:30**

Teams Call

### **1. Welcome, apologies for absence, and actions from previous meeting**

#### **Attendees:**

MOPAC  
NPS  
CRC  
MPS  
PHE  
London Councils  
LHOCS  
HMCTS

HMPPS  
Clinks  
GLA Health  
DWP  
YJB  
HMP Bronzefield  
HMP Wormwood Scrubs

#### **Apologies:**

NHS

Actions from previous meeting were covered.

#### **New LCRB/LCJB structure**

The board was presented the new LCRB/LCJB structure.

Many partners would have been involved in creating this structure.

### **2. New probation arrangements**

Unification date is 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

A reform team is in place working on making this a smooth transition for London. The new model will be implemented in June but continue to develop for around a year.

There is a commitment that everyone will have a job, but more work needs to be done on where each role will sit, and boroughs will have a different configuration.

## **Dynamic framework**

The probation programme created a dynamic framework purchasing system in 2020. This launched a number of service categories that will be fixed for the duration of the framework. These categories have been split into Day 1 Day 2 services.

Day 1 services include: Accommodation, Women's support services, Personal Wellbeing, Employment and Education.

All these services will be mobilised by June 2021.

Day 2 services will be looked at shortly, as well as the Regional Outcome/Innovation Fund. This will benefit from partnership engagement.

Assurance was given that reunification will improve the timeliness of pre-sentence reports. There is an action plan in place to address this, and the focus remains on on-the-day sentencing to prevent future backlogs.

## **3. Performance data and updates**

Following the last meeting, an action was taken to look at the work currently ongoing around domestic abuse and safeguarding.

Domestic abuse incidents increased following the first lockdown but have since stabilised. The slides showed areas with increasing domestic abuse incidents with Croydon having the largest increase.

The number of children referrals to social care have dropped by 21%. This has been impacted by school closures and not having teachers as a protective barrier.

MOPAC ringfenced £1.5 million for COVID 19 emergency accommodation response for survivors of domestic abuse.

MOPAC provided an overview of the work ongoing in this space and the other Boards/governance with oversight:

- Safeguarding referrals will be considered by MASH which are overseen by Safeguarding Boards.
- Op. Encompass is an agreement with the MPS where officers will tell schools about any DA incidents involving children. Schools can then provide 'silent support' to the children involved. Not all schools are signed up to this but that is the ambition.
- This work sits under the MPS and VAWG Board governance.
- The VRU has a focus within its public health approach on preventative work to reduce the risks associated with adverse childhood experiences, one of which is exposure in childhood to domestic violence and abuse within the home.

MPS updated that an Operation Encompass teachers helpline was created in response to the growing number of children experiencing domestic abuse, many of whom will not currently be

accessing their school and to assist teachers who are working in very different situations, without many of their usual support mechanisms and under great pressure.

PHE emphasised the link between alcohol and drug abuse and domestic abuse. Parents with issues of drug and alcohol abuse will have a massive impact on children especially during these periods. We know that alcohol abuse has increased during COVID but the take up of service support/treatment has decreased. Board members and the VRU need to consider opportunities to build in pathways to treatment for perpetrators and survivors.

It was agreed that the ongoing remit of this Board in relation to VAWG is in relation to addressing victimisation as a criminogenic need, and tackling perpetration. There should not be overlap with the work of the VAWG Board. However, this remains a forum where issues can be escalated.

## **4. Drugs in London**

### **Consultancy report and findings**

MOPAC presented the key findings of the offender substance misuse consultancy report. This is now in its final draft and will soon be circulated to partners.

Key findings:

1. Ongoing need to engage with drug using offenders
2. Understanding the changing nature or drug related offending
3. The role of key criminal justice agencies
4. Holistic needs of offenders
5. Recognising the diversity of offenders
6. A focus group on young people
7. Retaining criminal justice sanctions

Taking these findings into account, the report outlines some suggested actions.

Suggestions:

- Articulation of a revised vision for offender substance misuse pathways
- Piloting a youth diversionary scheme
- Continuation of police drug testing
- Extension of integrated offender management
- Additional support for offenders from BAME communities
- Community sentence treatment requirement business case
- Developing a prison release data hub
- Prison Friday release coordination
- Supporting continuity of care
- Local authority minimum delivery standard

It was recently announced that MOPAC has been granted £550,000 of growth funding in the next financial year, to tackle substance misuse.

PHE highlighted the significant part the CJS plays in diverting people into treatment service provision. Additional funding coming will be useful but needs to be used in a co-ordinated approach towards overarching aims. The Board needs to come together to strengthen pathways and provide a strong offer, for which minimum standards and collaboration with Local Authorities will be key.

## **Government funding for treatment**

PHE gave an overview on the new government funding streams which are coming out shortly.

There was agreement that continuity of care is a significant focus and requires all levers available to be used.

LHOCS noted that we need to strengthen the operational and strategic grip on offenders with dual diagnosis (mental health and substance misuse).

We also need to be taking good practice to Local Authorities and getting local investment into these projects, otherwise we have a lot of different services with some more effective than others.

GLA Health suggested the creation of a group that meets regularly that focuses on drugs and alcohol. Something similar was in place years ago and provided considerable value. It was suggested that this could sit away from MOPAC structures to really pull together health and the CJS, but there is also time-limited work to be undertaken with Local Authorities. This approach was also supported by partners.

## **5. Transitions and Young Adults**

Treasury shared outcome is providing £3 million funding to the MoJ to create a transitions to adulthood hub for 17-25 year olds. The pilot will be based in Newham.

Service users have been consulted and the transitions board are currently looking at building refurbishments, cohort transition, caseloads, staffing and services to commission. Market warming for mentoring and mental services are beginning W/C 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Young adults will have their own space within the probation office away from the adult service users.

## **6. AOB and Close**

Next meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021