



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

Appendix 2

# Plans for the future Probation Model



## Recap

Probation services are currently delivered by a combination of the **National Probation Service** (NPS) and privately owned **Community Rehabilitation Companies** (CRC's):

- NPS – responsible for managing **high** risk offenders, advising courts, allocating cases to CRC's, supporting victims and managing approved premises. The NPS delivers some Accredited Programmes, including those which address sexual offending.
- CRC's – responsible for supervising **low** and **medium-risk** offenders, providing through-the-gate resettlement services to released prisoners. CRC's deliver Unpaid Work requirements and mandated offending related Accredited Programmes.

## May 2019 - Three Strategic Priorities for Probation



**1. *Getting the change right*** – so that we place probation on a sustainable footing after the end of the Community Rehabilitation Companies' current contracts by delivering a new model while effectively managing risk.



**2. *Professional recognition*** –recognising the skills and professionalism of the probation workforce through registration, training and a performance framework. This includes the provision of a modern working environment and supports professional delivery as well as tools that facilitate better decisions and greater productivity.



**3. *Maximising influence*** – working with the justice system and others so that probation can deliver effective end-to-end offender management and rehabilitation as well as ministers' priority of sentencing reform.

## Plans for the Future



- Responsibility for **offender management, unpaid work, accredited programmes, resettlement and court advice** – across low, medium and high-risk offenders will be held by the **National Probation Service** in England and Wales;
- There will be a continued role for the **voluntary** and **private sector** in the delivery of **wrap-around and rehabilitative** services through the dynamic framework and regional innovation fund;
- The North East has split from Yorkshire and became a separate probation region in April 2020.



## Our plans for the Future continued ...



- The North East, **Regional Probation Director** is **Bronwen Elphick** who will provide leadership, be responsible for delivery and the commissioning of services. This will ensure effective delivery from pre-sentence stage in court, on release from prison, and in the community.
- In June 2021 – The three probation organisations locally; NPS NE, DTV CRC and Northumbria CRC will come together to form the new NPS NE
- The NE region will be subdivided into Probation Delivery Units headed by an Assistant Chief Officer grade. Durham and Darlington will be a single PDU with Kay Nicolson as the head.
- The transition process is well-underway to re-unify services with the aim of taking the best from all three probation organisations to develop the future delivery model.



## The Covid-19 Challenge

The Justice System like every sector continues to face significant challenges in the face of Covid-19. Amongst the challenges nationally and locally:

- Levels of face to face contact are limited by social distancing restrictions in fixed estate.
- Unpaid work vans could previously carry eight service users.
- Accredited Programmes involved groups of up to twelve service users and two tutors.
- Victim Contact Scheme has operated utilising remote technology and there are no backlogs in engaging with victims.
- Resettlement work in prisons is restricted.
- Significant Court backlogs.

## The local response to the Covid-19 Challenge

- Despite the challenges the level of face to face contact locally is amongst the highest in the country.
- There is no enforcement backlog in the local Courts, breaches and enforcement of Orders where required is up to date.
- The funding and structure for the Homelessness Prevention Team has been extended and we have had a number of successes locally.
- The delivery of Unpaid Work is the third highest in the country and we are now offering 131% of pre-Covid-19 hours.
- Accredited Programme Delivery is the second highest rate in the country and we are now at 85% pre-Covid-19 levels.
- MAPPA SMB meetings have continued, utilising technology to ensure service delivery. This will taken forward as standard practice in the new NPS.
- HMIP have praised probation response to Covid-19 nationally and made specific reference to performance locally.



## The Challenge beyond Covid-19



- There will still be backlogs to deal with.
- Transition is well underway but there is a lot to do.
- Integrating the new NE probation structure into existing local and regional structures.
- Duplication, true collaboration and joint commissioning.
- Re-offending and Protecting the Public.