

**Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

21 April 2022

Probation Service



Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of an overview presentation of probation services within County Durham.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an overview of delivery of probation services within County Durham following the transition to one probation service in June 2021.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within this report and presentation and comment accordingly.

Background

- 4 At its meeting held on 9th July 2021, the Committee agreed its work programme to include an item on probation services. Information within this presentation will build upon previous reports to the Committee from the then National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) with the last presentation delivered in January 2021.
- 5 The presentation provided the Committee with detail of activity by the NPS and CRC but focussed on outcomes of the Government's reform of probation services within England and Wales. This reform included replacing a model where probation services was delivered by a combination of the NPS (high risk offenders) and CRC (low and medium risk offenders) with one national probation service within 11 areas of England and Wales from June 2021.
- 6 This approach includes the introduction of 10 new probation areas in England with existing arrangements remaining unchanged in Wales and each area will have a Regional Director. County Durham is included within the North East area that covers the Police and Crime Commissioner areas of Durham, Cleveland and Northumberland.
- 7 Karen Blackburn, Head of County Durham & Darlington, Probation Service is scheduled to be in attendance at the Committee's meeting to deliver the presentation attached in Appendix 2 . The presentation provides a progress update following the transition to one probation service in June 2021 and delivery of services in County Durham.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 8 Information with this report aims to contribute to reducing re-offending.

Conclusion

- 9 The attached presentation provides an update and opportunity for Members to comment on implementation of the new model of one probation service and activity undertaken within County Durham.

- 10 Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- Probation Services – Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 4 January 2021

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report aims to contribute to objectives within the existing Safe Durham Partnership plan to reducing crime and disorder.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.