

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 October 2014



Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of an overview presentation from Hazel Willoughby, Head of Services County Durham & Darlington on the Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company.

Background

2. At its meeting in October 2013, the Committee received a presentation by then County Durham & Tees Valley Probation Trust informing Members of the direction of travel and reform of probation services within the context of the Government's strategy, Transforming Rehabilitation.
3. The presentation highlighted that nationally Probation Trusts would be abolished and replaced by a National Probation Service with 7 regional divisions and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies(CRC), across England Wales. In addition, Members received a presentation at its meeting in September 2014 on the role and responsibilities of the National Probation Service to high risk offenders.
4. The Durham Tees Valley CRC is one of the 21 new companies set up from the 1st June 2014 in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, to provide offender rehabilitation services in England and Wales. These companies are to remain in force and owned by the Secretary of State for Justice until later this year, when a competition process will see the transfer of our services to a new provider.
5. The CRC is responsible for supervising around 5,000 low and medium risk offenders subject to either a Community Order or a prison Licence from 14 sites throughout its area which is coterminous with the Durham Constabulary and Cleveland Police force areas. This responsibility is undertaken through supervision of offenders in the community, helping to protect the public from harm, reduce reoffending and to rehabilitate offenders.
6. The presentation to the Committee will aim to provide an overview of the CRC, its roles and responsibilities, current approach to managing medium and low risk offenders within the county and information on the future direction with regard to the transforming rehabilitation programme.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

None

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – Information within this report is linked to reducing reoffending within the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None