Workshop: Contact with the responsible officer & post-sentence supervision

Market Engagement – 11th September 2018

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Protecting and advancing the principles of justice
Management of Service Users and Post Sentence Supervision

Management of Service Users is at the core of probation service delivery. At its simplest it requires the effective delivery of the sentence of the court.

It ensures service users subject to community orders, suspended sentence orders, licence and post-sentence supervision are properly managed, requirements are delivered, risks managed and enforcement action taken after non-compliance.

It is an evidenced-based, end-to-end system of working with individuals, who are at the heart of delivery to ensure effective rehabilitation and resettlement.

ORA 2014, Section 2 created a period of post-sentence supervision (PSS) after licence for people serving custodial sentences of more than 1 day but less than 2 years.

All people released from custody will be subject to at least 12 months supervision.

The total supervision period (licence plus PSS) begins at the end of the custodial part of the sentence and ends after 12 months from the date of release. 12 months comprises the period on licence plus whatever post sentence supervision is required to make up 12 months.
Consultation Questions

**Question 1:**
What steps could we take to improve the continuity of supervision throughout an offender’s sentence?

**Question 2:**
What frequency of contact between offenders and offender managers is most effective to promote purposeful engagement? How should this vary during a period of supervision, and in which circumstances are alternatives to face-to-face meetings appropriate? Do you have evidence to support your views?

**Question 4:**
What changes should we make to post-sentence supervision arrangements to make them more proportionate and improve rehabilitative outcomes?

**Question 8:**
How can we ensure the particular needs and vulnerabilities of different cohorts of offenders are better met by probation? Do you have evidence to support your proposals?
Design Principles

• Greater specification of good quality contact with the Responsible Officer, including the form, frequency and continuity of contact, and the use of appropriate locations.

• Tailored provision which reflects individual needs, including the potential for using peer mentors, volunteers and women’s centres.

• Increase focus on rehabilitative purpose of Post Sentence Supervision.

• More proportionate post-sentence supervision linked to sentence length, risk management and rehabilitative needs.

• Consideration of the application of incentives and punishments.

Points from Day 1

• Face to face contact is valuable to manage service users and build the relationship. Telephone contact is helpful to supplement face to face.

• Consideration of resourcing and caseloads to enable quality contact.
Round Table Discussion Questions

- Is monthly face to face contact with the RO the right frequency?
- Should the minimum contact be limited to the first 12 months?
- Should we allow skype as an alternative?
- What role should telephone contact fulfil?
- What specification should we include in relation to environment?
- How can we tailor RO contact to meet the needs of female service users?
- Should appointments with supply chain partners or other staff such as programmes tutors - the designated officer role? be included as monthly face to face contact?
- How do we ensure continuity of RO?
- Should the measure be appointments offered or attended?
- How much flexibility should be allowed for professional judgement decisions?

- Should a minimum face to face contact apply to Post Sentence Supervision?
- How can we make PSS more proportionate to the sentence?
- How do we increase the focus on rehabilitation?
- Should we specify contact levels on PSS according to:-
  i) risk? ii) need? iii) sentence length?
- What role should voluntary appointments play in PSS?
- How can incentives and punishments be used in PSS?
Important points to note

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