



HM Government

National Partnership Agreement for employment and welfare support in custody and the community

2019 - 2022

Purpose of this document

This document sets out the partnership agreement between the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), its executive agency Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). It sets out the basis of a shared understanding of, and commitment to, the way in which the partners will work together in England and Wales.

This National Partnership Agreement sets out:

- The defined roles of each partner and their responsibilities
- An overview of the journey for an offender through prison and into the community, and identification of the touchpoints and interactions between each of the services in this agreement
- Our commitment to working together and shared objectives
- Our shared priorities for 2019-2022

The National Partnership Agreement is supported by an ongoing joint programme of work at official level with regular engagement between MoJ/HMPPS and DWP.

Objective

This National Partnership Agreement sets out our aspirations for the way the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), its executive agency Her Majesty's Prison and Probation service (HMPPS) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) work together in adult prisons and in the community in England and Wales. It sets out the intent of each partner, our shared objectives over the next few years and, at a high level, the roles of each partner in an offenders journey.

Scope of the agreement

This agreement covers the working arrangements between MoJ/HMPPS and DWP in both custody and the community. In particular, the agreement specifies how DWP, prisons and probation services work together across the prisoner journey through custody to the community.

Local arrangements will still need to reflect the variation in local set up in different areas, and will be a matter for prisons and Jobcentre Plus (JCP) districts in collaboration with probation services in the area into which offenders are released.

Both Government Departments are committed to this collaboration and strongly encourage prisons, probation providers and DWP districts to commit to this service.

How we will work together

Each partner to this agreement has distinct statutory responsibilities, but we must work together to ensure the most effective join up between our services – providing support to the offender in custody to prepare for employment on release, or ensuring timely access to benefits where appropriate. Through coordinating this activity, we can deliver effective rehabilitation support which will ultimately reduce reoffending.

Governance

This agreement is applicable from 1 September 2019 and will be in place until 31 December 2022, unless otherwise superseded. This partnership agreement will be overseen by the MoJ/HMPPS/DWP partnership board, which will meet quarterly and will be co-chaired by MoJ/HMPPS and DWP.

The partnership agreement provides an overarching framework that can be implemented at a local level, reflecting the different nature of individual prison establishments and local probation delivery units. The partnership board will provide a level of oversight to ensure that these local arrangements are happening effectively and joined up delivery is taking place on the ground.

Who we are

The Ministry of Justice is a major government department, at the heart of the justice system. Our vision is to deliver a world-class justice system that works for everyone in society. We are responsible for reducing reoffending and supporting prisoners into work.



Ministry
of Justice



Department
for Work &
Pensions

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. It is responsible for a network of over 100 Prison Work Coaches who provide support to prison leavers who are due to leave custody, as well as a network of Jobcentres supporting people with employment and benefits.

HM Prison & Probation Service is an executive agency of MoJ which carries out sentences given by the courts, in custody and the community, and rehabilitate and resettle people subject to a licence through addressing need and managing risk against the general public



HM Prison &
Probation Service

What we are committing to deliver together

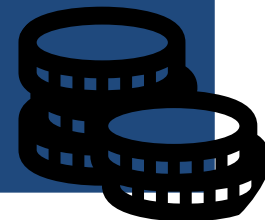
- Ensuring that prisoners have proper access to the right training and support during their time in custody
- Looking at the future approach to resettlement to minimise duplication of roles

A joined up, collaborative approach to employment support for prisoners and those subject to licences and probation supervision



- Provide access to bank accounts and ID to enable prisoners to enter employment
- Improve access to benefits on release
- Review the support provided through the Discharge Grant

Ensuring prisoners and those subject to licences and probation supervision are financially able to support themselves



Overarching obligations

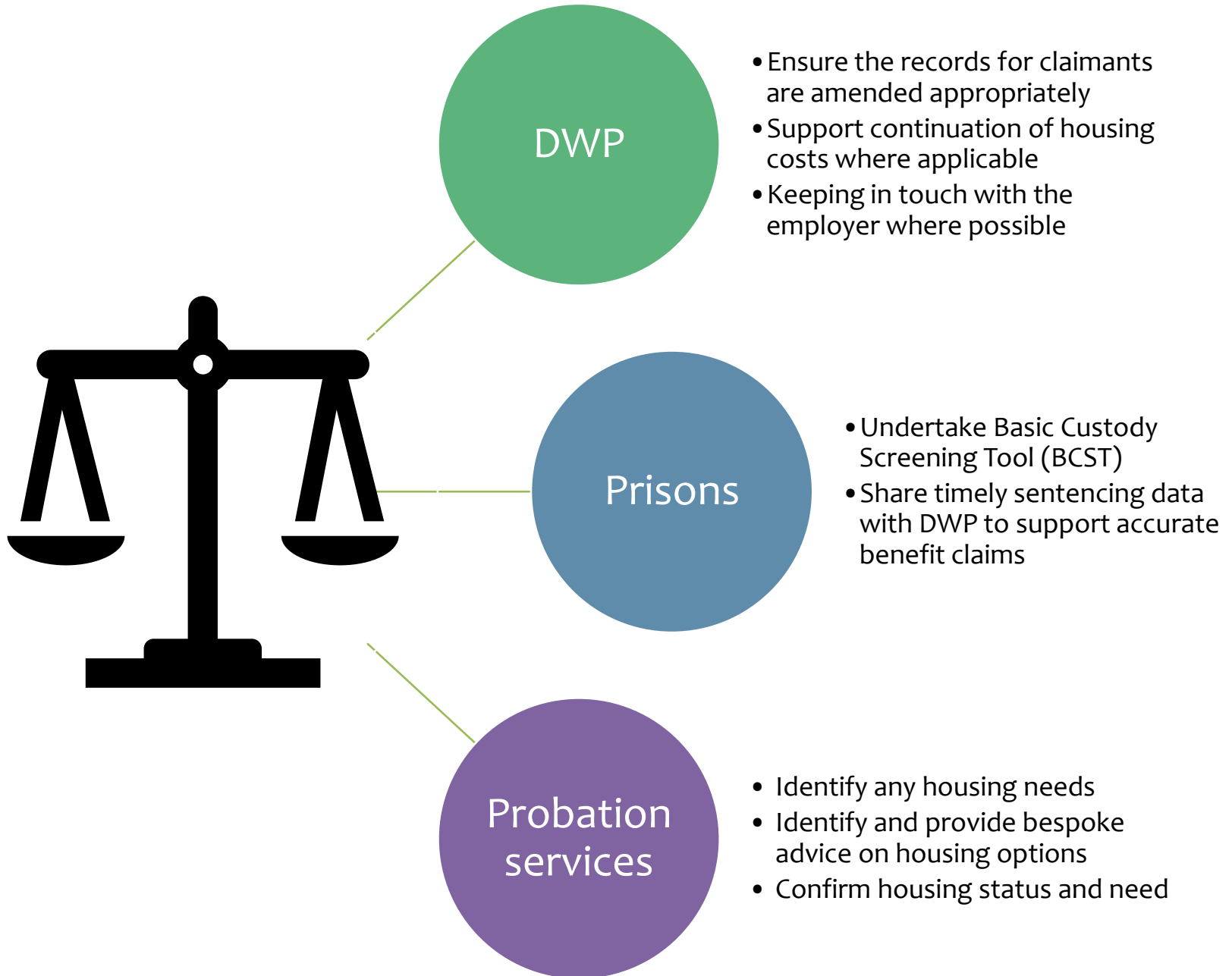
The Ministry of Justice, including HMPPS, will

- Provide work and education inside prison and work experience through Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL).
- Ensure that probation providers, including Community Rehabilitation Companies and future arrangements, deliver on their 'Through the Gate' or resettlement commitments as described in [Probation Instructions](#) including supporting prisoners with obtaining Identification Documents and to open a bank account.
- Ensure plans for release are shared with DWP where appropriate.
- Ensure that Prison Work Coaches have both the right physical environment and information on and access to prisoners, required for efficient working, including:
 - A telephone for PWCs;
 - A private space to work;
 - Clear escalation processes to enable PWCs to raise concerns;
 - Broadband access where the estate allows;
 - Secure document storage;
 - Appropriate prison training;
 - Prison intranet and e-mail address to support communication with internal partners.

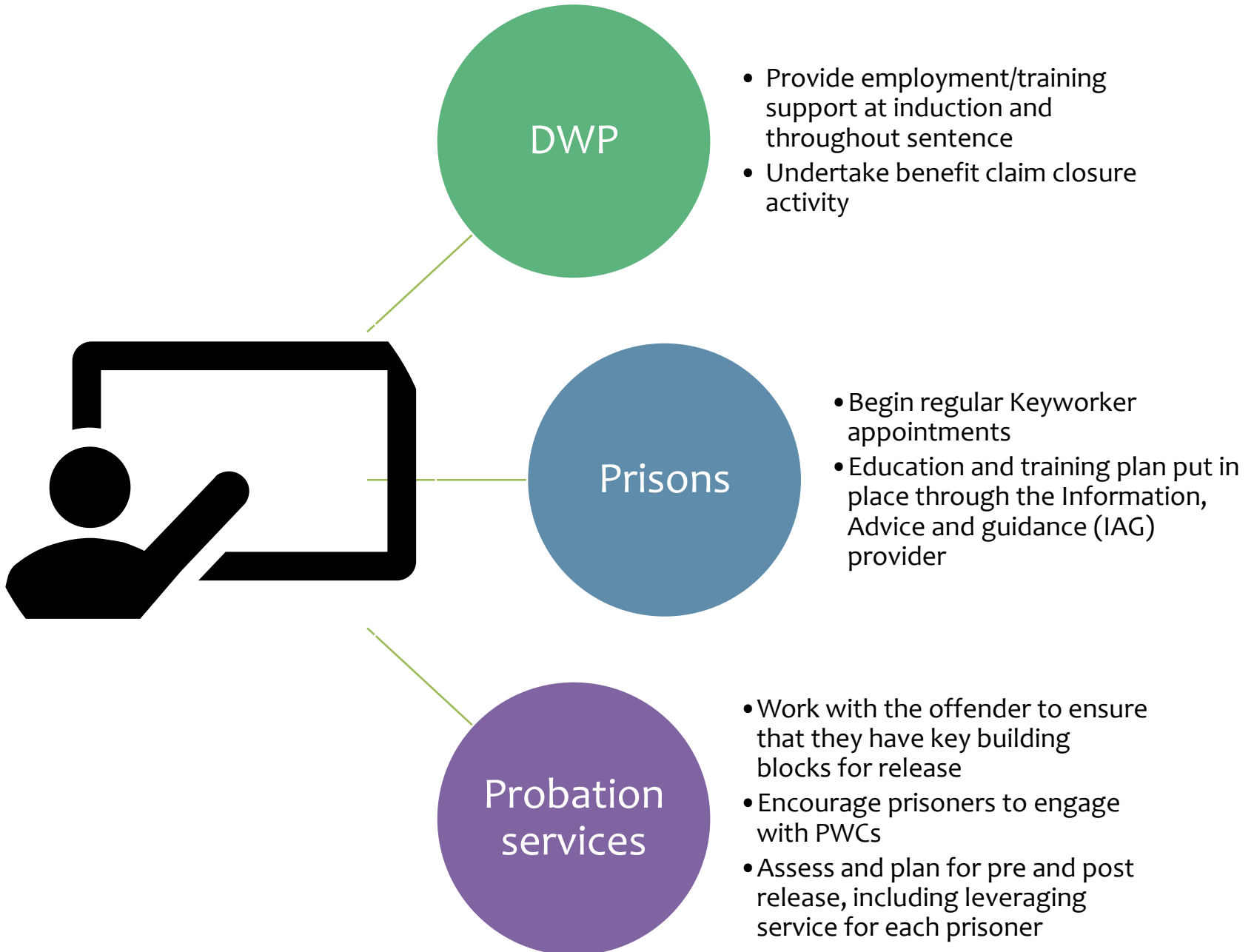
The DWP will

- Ensure that Prison Work Coaches and Jobcentre Plus/DWP colleagues are in place, with the right skills, to support prisoners and those subject to licences and probation supervision to access appropriate employment and welfare support, helping reduce re-offending. This includes:
 - Supporting continuation of Universal Credit housing costs, for short-stay inmates, to protect tenancies;
 - Liaising with the prisoner's employer, where appropriate, to preserve employment;
 - Support with claim closure on entering prison.
 - Sharing local labour market intelligence with probation colleagues/New Futures Network, to help inform "sentence plans" including training and work opportunities;
 - Proactively encouraging prisoners and those subject to licences and probation supervision to engage with Work Coaches;
 - Providing information and advice about employment, benefits and DWP services;
 - Support the facilitation of work experience, training and employment opportunities, in prison and beyond – helping employers understand the value of hiring ex-offenders;
 - 12 weeks before release, offer a range of support to prisoners such as help to make a claim for UC – including telling them about the documentation/information needed to make a claim and booking an advance appointment at the local jobcentre;
 - Liaising with Jobcentre Work Coaches to ensure continuous support as people leave prison – warm handover to JCP colleagues.

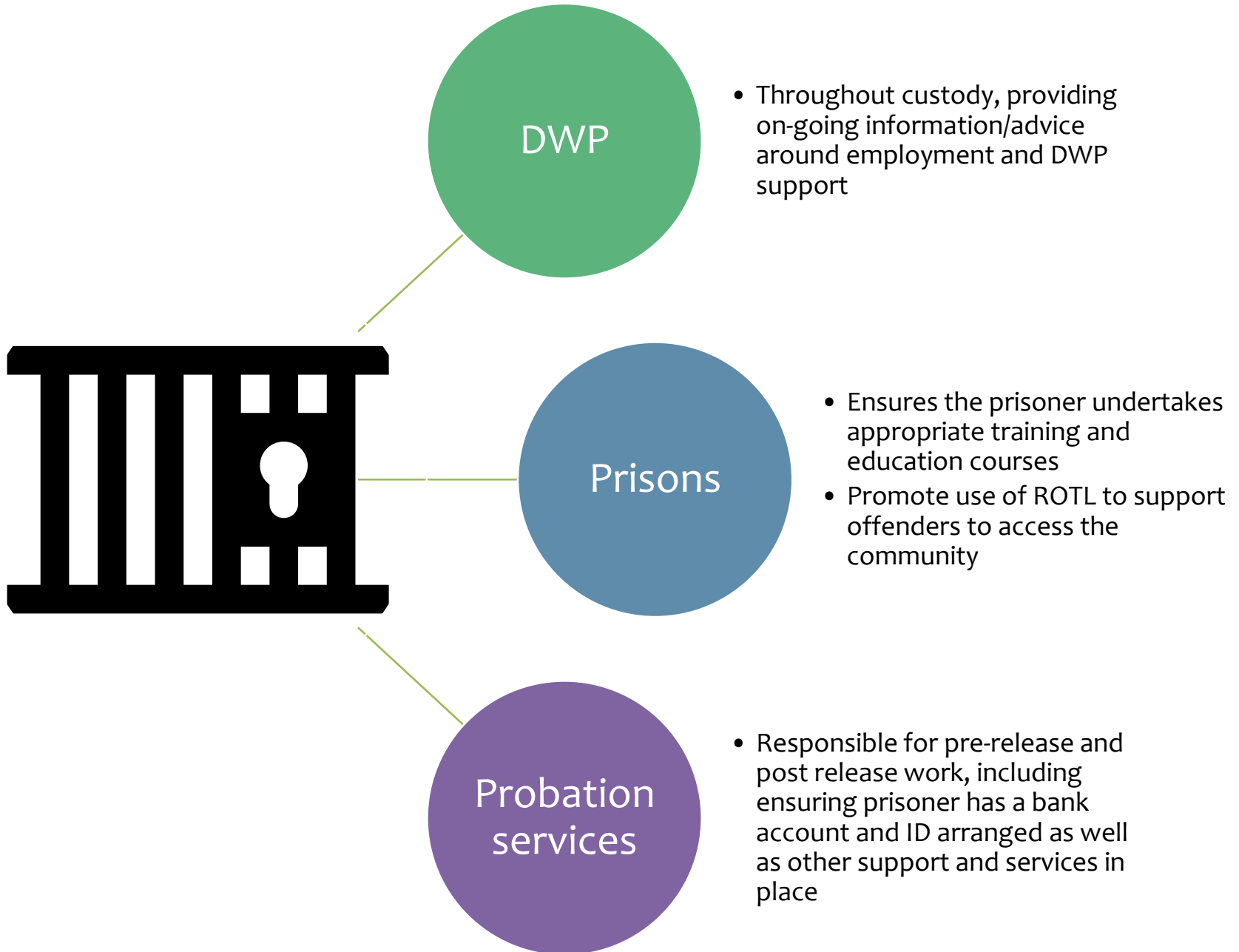
The prisoner journey: Sentencing



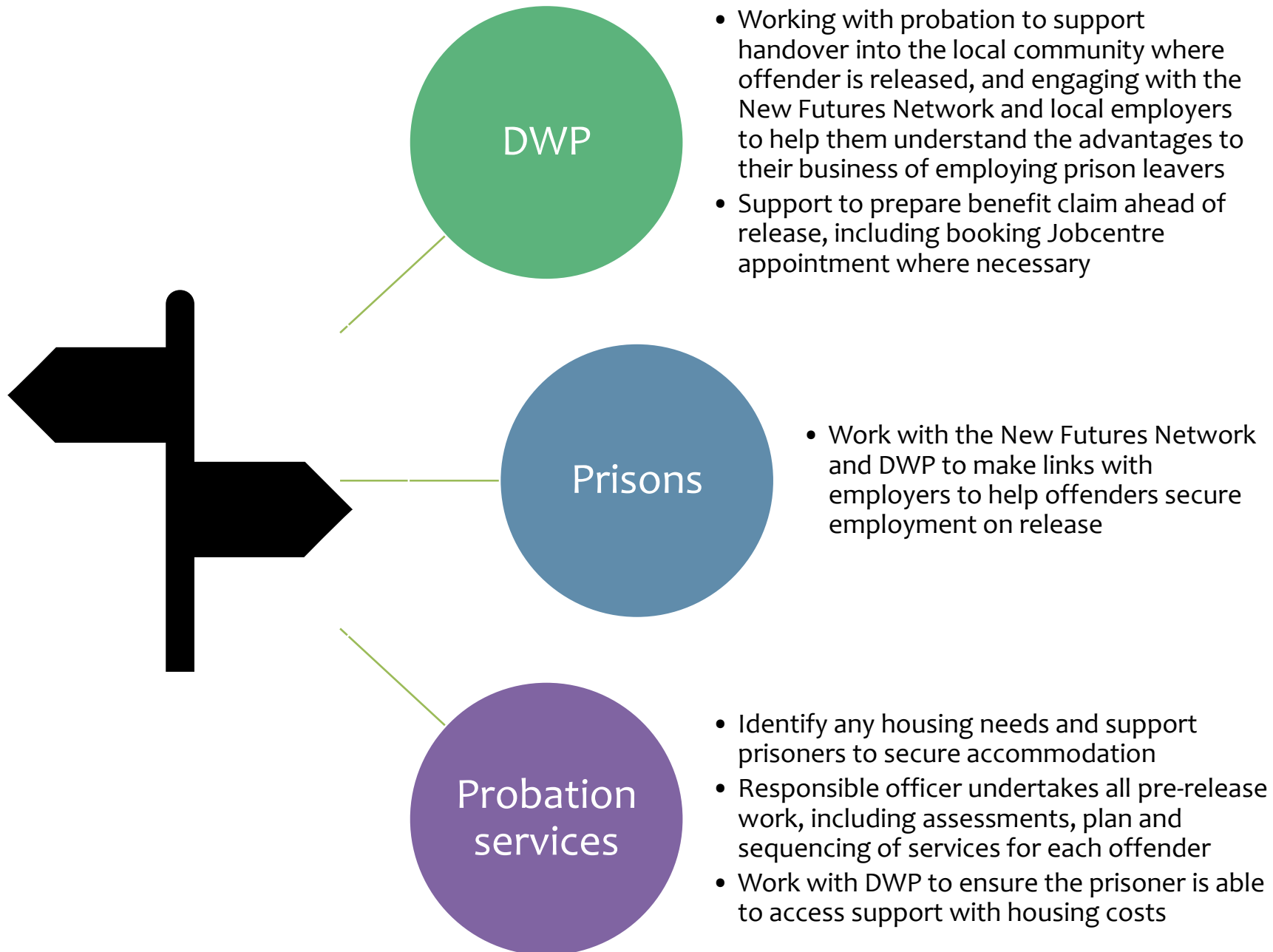
The prisoner journey: Induction



The prisoner journey: Sentence



The prisoner journey: Pre-release period



The prisoner journey: Community

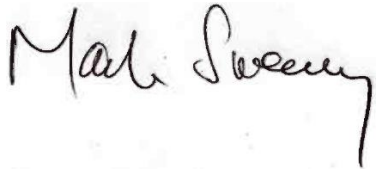


- Support claimants to prepare for and take up employment
- Work with employers and partner organisations to generate employment opportunities

- Monitor and manage the offender in the community
- Support offenders to take up and remain in employment
- Join up services and ensure rehabilitation needs are met

Signatories

National Partnership Agreement between MoJ, HMPPS and DWP covering services in England and Wales



Mark Sweeney – Director
General, Policy,
Communications and Analysis



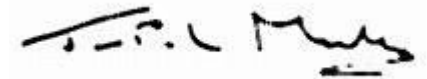
Ministry
of Justice



Jo Farrar – Chief Executive
Officer



HM Prison &
Probation Service



John-Paul Marks - Director General,
Work and Health Services



Department
for Work &
Pensions