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2014-2020 ESF Programme

Action Note

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Working in ESF projects with participants who are offenders or ex-offenders.

Who

CFOs, Direct Bids

What

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) CFO have prepared guidance for CFO and Direct Bid staff who may receive referrals for individuals currently on licence, serving a community sentence or who have previously committed offences but the licence period has expired.

If you feel this issue is relevant to your project please contact us at ESF.2014-2020@dwpgsi.gov.uk and we will send you the guidance.

Cleared

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Background

Delivery to offenders/ex-offenders

1. HMPPS CFO are the main provider of ESF services for offenders in custody and the community, but other projects will also deliver to individuals who may have a history of offending. The guidance is intended as an overview of the issues which should be considered if an offender/ex-offender is referred to other ESF provision.

Risk

2. The guidance outlines general risk issues as well as more specific information on MAPPA – multi-agency public protection arrangements. It is unlikely that individuals on MAPPA will be referred directly from a source other than JCP. The current process requires all referrals to be routed through a Band D MAPPA SPOC for Jobcentre Plus.

Provision aimed at offenders/ex-offenders

3. HMPPS CFO is mapping all ESF provision which may include offenders/ex-offenders as part of its Technical Assistance requirement. This takes place via the HMPPS CFO Engagement Manager. Good relationships are being developed with LEPs across England, but it can be difficult to identify potential delivery to offenders where provision falls within the ‘disadvantaged’ cohort, rather than as a specific target group.

Complementary working

4. Ideally provision for offenders offered by other ESF projects will complement delivery by HMPPS CFO. HMPPS CFO is also keen to identify referral routes for offenders moving on to other provision and will work closely with any organisation looking to develop projects where delivery to offenders (particularly those reaching the end of a licence period), will be offered.

Action

If specific provision for offenders/ex-offenders is being considered and this has not been publicised previously, please contact HMPPS CFO.

Contact

For queries about the guidance or working with offenders, please contact Philippa Lyon, HMPPS CFO Policy Lead: Philippa.lyon@noms.gsi.gov.uk

To discuss potential delivery to offenders/ex-offenders, please contact Kate Dugdale, HMPPS CFO Engagement Manager: Kate.dugdale@noms.gsi.gov.uk