



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Action Plan: Domestic Abuse Thematic Report (Community Rehabilitation Companies)

Action Plan Submitted: 07th November 2018

A Response to the HMI Probation Inspection: Domestic abuse; the work undertaken by Community Rehabilitation Companies

Report Published: 25th September 2018

INTRODUCTION

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation is the independent inspector of youth offending and probation services in England and Wales. It reports on the effectiveness of probation and youth offending service work with adults and children.

In response to the report, HMPPS/MoJ are required to draft a robust and timely action plan to address the recommendations. The action plan confirms whether recommendations are agreed, partly agreed or not agreed (see categorisations below). Where a recommendation is agreed or partly agreed, the action plans provides specific steps and actions to address these. Actions are clear, measurable, achievable and relevant with the owner and timescale of each step clearly identified. Action plans are published on the HMI Probation website. Progress against the implementation and delivery of the action plans will be monitored by HMPPS/MoJ and reviewed by HMI Probation via annual inspection.

Term	Definition	Additional comment
Agreed	All of the recommendation is agreed with, can be achieved and is affordable.	The response should clearly explain how the recommendation will be achieved along with timescales. Actions should be as SMART (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound) as possible. Actions should be specific enough to be tracked for progress.
Partly Agreed	Only part of the recommendation is agreed with, is achievable, affordable and will be implemented. This might be because we cannot implement the whole recommendation because of commissioning, policy, operational or affordability reasons.	The response must state clearly which part of the recommendation will be implemented along with SMART actions and tracked for progress. There must be an explanation of why we cannot fully agree the recommendation - this must state clearly whether this is due to commissioning, policy, operational or affordability reasons.
Not Agreed	The recommendation is not agreed and will not be implemented. This might be because of commissioning, policy, operational or affordability reasons.	The response must clearly state the reasons why we have chosen this option. There must be an explanation of why we cannot agree the recommendation - this must state clearly whether this is due to commissioning, policy, operational or affordability reasons.



ACTION PLAN: Domestic Abuse Thematic Report (Community Rehabilitation Companies)

1. Rec No	2. Recommendation	3. Agreed/ Partly Agreed/ Not Agreed	4. Response Action Taken/Planned	5. Responsible Owner	6. Target Date
1	<p>The Ministry of Justice should:</p> <p>As part of the probation systems review, consider how to compel CRCs to focus on the quality of work with perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse.</p>	Agreed	<p>New CRC contracts are expected to be implemented by the end of 2020. As part of the probation systems review, the Ministry of Justice has identified that it will want new providers to continue to deliver relevant accredited programmes for Domestic Abuse perpetrators. The review includes consideration of how to focus on the quality of services delivered through the new performance framework and maximising the number of eligible cases who undertake the Building Better Relationships (BBR) accredited programme. We will continue to mandate that all CRCs offer this programme. We will look at the use of the effective proposal framework to improve advice to sentencers by the National Probation Service (NPS) and targeting of accredited programmes. In addition, we are reviewing a range of contractual levers and performance levels to secure these outcomes.</p>	Deputy Director (Probation Review and Vulnerable Offenders team)	December 2020
2	<p>Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service should:</p> <p>Identify and disseminate an effective, integrated pathway for working with domestic abuse that takes account of the full range of domestic abuse contexts and the need to protect victims and children.</p>	Agreed	<p>HMPPS will issue a new Domestic Abuse Policy Framework which will highlight expectations for working with domestic abuse perpetrators and set out access to interventions and referral routes including those aimed at protecting victims and children.</p>	Head of Public Protection Group	June 2019
3	<p>Introduce and promote a system across England and Wales to evaluate and legitimise domestic abuse</p>	Agreed	<p>The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) promote the importance of using evidence to inform interventions and already have a system in place to facilitate evidence-based practice across CRCs, the NPS and prisons. MoJ use the Correctional Services</p>	Deputy Director, (Prison and Probation Analytical Services)	June 2019



	<p>interventions and provide assurance that HMPPS and CRC interventions are evidence-based.</p>		<p>Accreditation and Advice Panel (CSAAP) to provide assurance that HMPPS and CRC interventions are evidence based.</p> <p>The Building Better Relationships (BBR) programme, the main Domestic Abuse programme mandated for CRC delivery, is CSAAP accredited. MoJ are developing a set of CSAAP approved standards to guide the quality of other interventions that may not be suitable for full accreditation.</p> <p>HMPPS has produced good evidence for community domestic violence programmes which target those who are at medium or high risk of reoffending. The BBR intervention is a replacement for earlier programmes. BBR is based on a similar evidence base and draws on the identified strengths and research base of Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) and Community Domestic Violence Programme (CDVP). HMPPS and MoJ are committed to evaluating BBR and plans are in place to start work in 2019/20 to establish the most appropriate evaluation approach. MoJ routinely publishes findings from research they have commissioned and the results from the evaluation of BBR, once available, will be published on the government website.</p>		
4	<p>Community Rehabilitation Companies should make sure that:</p> <p>Responsible officers have the right training and support to identify and manage the risk of harm posed by perpetrators of domestic abuse.</p>	Agreed	<p>CRCs accept the importance of domestic abuse (DA) training and where gaps exist, plans are in place to increase/improve arrangements. Contract management teams (CMTs) will carry out assurance checks to ensure improved training arrangements are put in place.</p> <p>CRCs are continuing to develop their Quality Assurance Frameworks and CMTs are monitoring delivery of QA activity on a quarterly basis. CRCs will be expected to evidence their approach to managing the risk of harm posed by DA perpetrators and the systems in place to support Responsible Officers (RO) in this work.</p>	CRC Chief Executive Officers / CRC Contract Management Team	April 2019
5	<p>Domestic abuse cases are flagged appropriately on their information management systems to provide an accurate national picture of</p>		<p>The CMT function continues to develop assurance exercises. CMT risk management monitoring includes checks to ensure consistent use of DV (Domestic Violence) flags to highlight DA cases. Where risk management is found to be insufficient, contractual remedies will be used.</p>	CRC Chief Executive Officers / CRC Contract Management Team	December 2018



	domestic abuse cases managed by CRCs.				
6	Service users complete appropriate, evidence-based interventions in a timely way, and that these interventions are delivered effectively and safely.	Agreed	<p>All CRCs deliver the Building Better Relationships (BBR) accredited programme to DA perpetrators with a requirement attached to their community order or licence. The CMT function is currently developing a new Management Information report to monitor waiting times to drive improvements. We are also monitoring the use of Delius flags to check that CRCs are targeting their interventions appropriately. The Accredited Programmes Interventions Integrity Framework ensures the delivery of BBR is both safe and effective.</p> <p>The delivery of Rehabilitation Activity Requirements (RAR) is currently being reviewed by HMPPS. The Agency is working to deliver a range of improvements including the publication of operational guidance. In addition, some CRCs are looking for accreditation of their RAR DA interventions from external bodies, for example Wales CRC are working with Wales Effective Engagement Panel and Durham Tees Valley CRC are seeking independent accreditation.</p>	CRC Chief Executive Officers / HMPPS Whole System Improvement Team / CRC Contract Management Team	December 2018 June 2019
7	Victims, including children, are protected and supported sufficiently for the duration of a case, and there is an appropriate response to all new information about risk of harm.	Agreed	<p>The CMT has identified management of the risk of harm as a key area to monitor and report on and a range of activity has been put in place including the development of new Management Information reports and case file checks. Where risk management is found to be insufficient, contractual remedies will be used. Our risk management monitoring includes the following DA checks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks to ensure DA and safeguarding information has been obtained from the Police/local authority • Spousal Assault Risk Assessments have been completed on all DA cases • The sufficiency of risk assessment and risk management plans • That risk is reviewed following a significant change of circumstances <p>In response to this report, CRCs have put in place a number of improvements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing their Public Protection Policy • undertaking quality assurance on safeguarding • delivering additional safeguarding training • inclusion of safeguarding on supervision templates 	CRC Chief Executive Officers / CRC Contract Management Team	December 2018



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> internal safeguarding publicity campaigns to improve the awareness of all staff. <p>CMTs will monitor CRCs individual plans to ensure the proposed actions are completed.</p>		June 2019
8	Partner Link Workers have the time and support to fulfil their duties effectively.	Agreed	<p>CRCs accept the need to resource the Partner Link Workers (PLW) role sufficiently and a number have increased the number of PLWs and/or changed their delivery models to increase the available PLW resource.</p> <p>CRCs also recognise that staff awareness of the PLW role is critical and many CRCs are relaunching the service, simplifying the referral processes and setting in place performance frameworks to monitor delivery against the PLW Manual.</p> <p>CMTs will monitor these developments and encourage CRCs to provide dedicated support/clinical supervision for the PLW role.</p>	CRC Chief Executive Officers / CRC Contract Management Team	December 2018 June 2019

