



HM Prison &
Probation Service

North East

Reducing Reoffending Plan
2022-25

Annual
Update
2023



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Foreword

Welcome to the North East Regional Reducing Reoffending Plan update. Both the North East Probation Service and Prison group are fully committed to the aims outlined in this plan and believe we have the partnership arrangements in place to enable us to do so.

We work together with all three Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) to address accommodation needs, substance misuse issues and a smoother transition from custody to community; with our three Local Criminal Justice Partnership Boards.

We have some excellent initiatives in place to address reoffending and are proud of our collaborative work with various partner agencies, such as Reconnect. We will continue to build a comprehensive programme of rehabilitative support for people in prison and on probation to lead a crime free life. Whilst we have had a recent change in Prison Group Director, our approach is very much a collaborative and interchangeable one.

Bronwen Elphick, Regional Probation Director and
Simon Walters, Prison Group Director

“Reducing reoffending remains a critical priority if we are to reduce the effects of crime on communities and keep our citizens safe. These annual updates demonstrate our continuing work to tackle the drivers for reoffending and help people live decent, law-abiding lives by improving access to employment, accommodation, substance misuse treatment, and tackling anti-social behaviour. We could not do this without our partners across and outside of government, and we will strive for a joined-up, cohesive system to achieve excellence in rehabilitation.”

Amy Rees

Director General Chief Executive Officer, HMPPS

“Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales are dedicated to collaborating with HMPPS and our various local, regional, and national partners to reduce reoffending rates and maintain community safety. The updated regional Reducing Reoffending Plans highlight the importance of partnership collaboration, and all Commissioners have been involved in shaping these plans to align with local Police and Crime Plan priorities. It is only through collective efforts that we can bring about positive changes for the public, such as reducing crime, protecting victims, and keeping communities safe. We will closely cooperate with each Regional Probation Director to implement their plans, which will include the exploration of new and innovative approaches to community payback and rehabilitation through co-commissioning opportunities.”

Emily Spurrell (Deputy Criminal Justice System Lead) and
David Lloyd (Criminal Justice System Lead), Police and
Crime Commission



Delivering HMPPS and MOJ priorities

We continue to reduce reoffending by providing high quality interventions, and targeted support for those under our supervision, including our prison leavers and women, who have unique needs, to make a success of their lives. Arrangements for children and young people are not currently reflected in these plans.

We know that people who leave prison with a strong foundation in place are less likely to reoffend. Regional Reducing Reoffending Plans support improving outcomes across a range of areas including **accommodation, education, employment** and **health**, and address the **thinking, attitudes** and **behaviours** that lead to reoffending.

This government has committed significant funding to support this work. We continue to work collaboratively with our partners targeting delivery of services, maximising co-commissioning opportunities and achieving the priorities outlined in the Regional Reducing Reoffending Plans.

Over the past year, we have navigated a period of significant challenge, including increased demands on services and workforce pressures. Throughout, our focus has remained on maintaining agreed service delivery to the best of our abilities.

Over the past year, achievements include:

- launch of the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3, increasing available bedspaces to 650 and housing over 1,300 individuals who would otherwise be held in prison
- publication of the HMPPS approach to the management and rehabilitation of people convicted of sexual offences
- strategic review of all HMPPS designed accredited programmes

- new Employment Hubs and Employment Boards rolled out in 92 prisons. Since April 2022, the proportion of prison leavers finding work within six weeks of release increased from 15% to 19%, with a further 30% in work after 6 months, up from 23%
- hired over 100 Heads of Education, Skills and Work to lead and improve the curriculum for education and employment in prison
- investment in over 50 Health & Justice Coordinator posts nationwide to support our substance misuse strategy

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to delivering on the priorities outlined in these plans and recognise the importance of opportunities for collaboration across organisations to better use our collective resources and expertise.

Over the coming year, the OneHMPPS programme will create opportunities to further join up efforts across prisons and probation in our local partnership engagement, supporting HMPPS and our stakeholders to work more holistically to reduce reoffending.

We will continue to collaborate with statutory partners, private and voluntary-sector organisations, breaking down barriers to desistance from crime and work closely with Police and Crime Commissioners supporting our shared rehabilitation priorities.

Training, skills and work progress

Employment and education provide opportunities for people in prison and on probation to gain independence and contribute to wider society. Prison leavers who get a job are up to nine percentage points less likely to reoffend, which cuts crime and helps to protect the public. We will continue to raise the skills and qualifications of women, so they are more likely to secure employment on release.

Regional targets

- By April 2024, North East will increase the proportion employed six weeks after release by 4 percentage points from 14% in March 2023.
- North East will continue to increase the proportion employed six months after release from 16%, in the performance year to March 2023.



We said we would:

- Increase educational and vocational outcomes and achievements for prisoners and people on probation.
- Ensure the New Futures Network operates at full capacity.
- Establish Employment Advisory Boards, involving HMPPS staff.
- Recruit neurodiversity specialists into prisons and the community with systems in place to hold governors and probation staff to account for performance.
- Develop a joint regional education, training and employment plan with prisons, probation and local business leaders.
- Fully utilise the Education, Training and Employment (ETE) allowance for Unpaid Work participants.

Training, skills and work progress



What we have done so far – Outcome Progress:

- Made full use of the ETE allowance for Unpaid Work participants.
- Community Probation referrals into commissioned ETE services are at expected levels.
- Recruited Heads of Education, Skills and Work to all prisons, to improve training and employment opportunities.
- Recruited Prison Employment Leads in all eligible sites who have established Employment Advisory boards and Employment Hubs allowing New Futures Network operational presence.
- Successfully recruited two additional Neurodiversity Support Managers into prisons taking our regional total to three.

Drugs and alcohol addiction progress

People with substance misuse issues must experience continuity of care when they leave prison to ensure **access to the right treatment**. Community-based drug or alcohol treatment can cut crime by increasing the number of people who do not reoffend in the two years after treatment to 44% (Public Health England and MoJ, 2017).

Regional targets

- Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs) include Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs), Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATRs) and primary/secondary care Mental Health Treatment Requirements (MHTRs). These requirements seek to provide people in our care with the treatment they need to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour, in the community.
- We are driving up use of treatment requirements for those that are eligible through new investment working in collaboration with the Courts, NHS, and Treatment providers.



We said we would:

- Ensure an effective whole-prison and probation approach to drugs and alcohol to reduce demand and maximise the opportunities for recovery.
- Establish co-commissioned local authority and probation substance misuse services in place in the community.
- Assess pre-sentence reports to ensure they encourage treatment requirements where needed.
- Improve the volume and quality of interventions for prisoners and people on probation, with particular emphasis on prevention through robust community sentence treatment requirements.
- Increase engagement of drug and alcohol service providers with the judiciary.

Drugs and alcohol addiction progress



We said we would:

- Identify, pilot and commission services for other addictive behaviours such as gambling.
- Meet all seven of the recommendations from the HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) joint thematic inspection of community-based drug treatment and recovery work with people on probation report 2021.



What we have done so far – Outcome Progress:

- A probation regional Health and Justice team are in place, representing a significant investment.
- An Intensive Supervision Court pilot is underway, focussing on substance misuse at Teesside Crown Court.
- HMIP Substance Misuse Thematic Inspection recommendations are completed.
- We have commissioned a Dependency and Recovery Service, linking with Local Authority Substance Misuse providers.
- Introduced and embedded Independent Substance Free Living initiatives in HMP Kirklevington, HMP Durham and HMP Holme House.

Family, accommodation and readjustment to society progress

Risk of reoffending is reduced if people can rebuild **community and family connections** and access safe, stable accommodation. Prison leavers without stable **accommodation** are almost 50% more likely to break the law again. HMPPS supports people to maintain positive relationships while in custody and on release, including partnership working with Contracted Family Service providers, the Prisoners' Families Helpline and faith-based organisations.

Regional targets

- By April 2024, North East will increase the proportion housed on the night after release by 6 percentage points from 84% in March 2023.
- By April 2024, North East will increase the proportion in settled accommodation three months after leaving prison by 6 percentage points from 74% in March 2023.



We said we would:

- Ensure more prison leavers have accommodation on release.
- Ensure more prison leavers and people on probation are settled in accommodation three months after supervision begins.
- Encourage and support prisoners to re-establish or maintain relationships with their children and families where appropriate.
- Provide oversight for establishments' Family and Significant Others Strategy documents, and sign-off family performance measures.
- Increase involvement with educational establishments and other key partners to tackle intergenerational crime and crime prevention.
- Ensure each Police and Crime Commissioner area has a 'youth to adult' strategy and operating model to meet local needs.

Family, accommodation and readjustment to society progress



What we have done so far – Outcome Progress:

- Launched the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 to provide people who would otherwise be homeless on release with up to 84 nights temporary accommodation.
- Recruited Strategic Housing Specialists to ensure suitable and sustainable accommodation is a priority for all prison leavers.
- All prisons have reviewed their family strategies and have implemented new families and significant other contracts to ensure family ties are maintained and supported and a quality provision is delivered.
- HMP Durham have been identified as an early adopter for a peer led engagement project to support those without any regular contact from families and significant others.

Delivering the order of the court

HMPPS monitors the people under our supervision rigorously and ensures they understand the consequences of not complying with an Order of the Court. This is crucial to reducing reoffending, making communities safer and preventing people becoming victims of crime.

Regional targets

- By April 2024, North East will increase the proportion of sexual offence interventions completed by 4 percentage points from 66% in March 2023.



We said we would:

- Increase public confidence in the work prisons and probation undertake.
- Implement and embed the new Integrated Offender Management strategy to reduce reoffending.
- Implement and embed the probation Target Operating Model, including the new resettlement model.
- Meet national standards in accordance with the new unified target operating model.
- Develop mutually reciprocal joint strategic aims with partners including commissioning and delivery approaches to violence and anti-social behaviour.
- Increase victims' feedback on policy and services.
- Increase the numbers of pre-sentence reports completed on the day.

Delivering the order of the court



What we have done so far – Outcome Progress:

- The North East Probation region is the only region to date to receive a good rating from HMIP.
- The new Resettlement model has been implemented.
- The National IOM model has been implemented regionally with local police forces, our cohort size has increased by 100%.
- Prisons and Probation have aligned their approach and are working jointly to meet the Serious Violence Duty Requirements and Violence Reduction Units, including co-commissioning of interventions.
- In the first quarter, we have seen an increase in Pre-Sentence Reports completed on the day.

Priorities for the next year

The North East region is committed to reducing reoffending. Our priority is to ensure that all people in prison or on probation have the possible chance of becoming a productive member of their community.

One of our priority areas is to build on our resettlement provision in conjunction with our established partners and by exploring opportunities with third sector agencies. Our aim is to develop a rich programme of resettlement support in all prison establishments, which will be complimented by a continuation of service into the community. This will provide a programme of support that is co-ordinated, mapped effectively and suitable for the diverse needs of our population and region.

Prison and Probation in this area have a long history of collaboration; only by working together effectively can we ensure we drive down rates of reoffending and keep our communities safe. Shared priorities over the next 12 months will ensure a continued focus to work closely with partners across the area to implement our Reducing Reoffending plans.

Opportunities for the next year

- Further develop our resettlement provision across the region, which will increase opportunities for prison leavers in the community.
- Increase the availability of suitable and settled accommodation for prison leavers and people on probation.
- Ensure prisoners leavers are fully prepared for their transition into the community with access to continuity of health treatment and ID and banking, to reduce barriers when integrating into society.
- Exploring co-commissioning opportunities where there are joint areas of need, with a particular focus on strengthening Community Sentence Treatment Requirements to provide a robust alternative to a custodial sentence.



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