



HM Prison &
Probation Service

South West

Reducing Reoffending Plan 2022-25

Annual
Update
2023



Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Foreword | 1 |
| Delivering HMPPS and MOJ priorities | 3 |
| Training, skills and work progress | 4 |
| Drugs and alcohol addiction progress | 6 |
| Family, accommodation and readjustment to society progress | 8 |
| Delivering the order of the court | 10 |
| Priorities for the next year | 12 |

Foreword

We are pleased to report on the progress which is being made against our Reducing Reoffending Plan 2022-25, throughout the South West region. We are confident that such achievements are contributing to our ultimate goals to reduce reoffending, prevent victims and keep our communities safe.

We have built constructive working relationships created through the South West Reducing Reoffending Partnership Board, which has been instrumental in supporting collaborative partner working and resulted in progress.

During the last twelve months we have successfully established resettlement teams dedicated to supporting prison leavers to help break the cycle of crime and to reduce reoffending.

HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) has embraced the challenges around drugs and alcohol misuse. Our region was one of the first to fully implement services supporting Drug Rehabilitation Requirement, Alcohol Treatment Requirement and Alcohol Abstinence and Monitoring Requirement Orders. We have also implemented the Combatting Drugs Partnership boards.

During the coming year we will continue to embed our early progress and work with partners to realise the opportunities to reduce reoffending in the South West.

Angela Cossins, Regional Probation Director and
Paul Woods and Jeannine Hendrick, Prison Group Directors

“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, South West will increase the proportion employed six weeks after release by 3 percentage points from 16% in March 2023.
- By April 2024, South West will continue to maintain the proportion employed six months after release at 38%.



We said we would:

- Develop new industries contracts which provide 'real' external industry work experience, with an obligation to provide extra value, such as training sessions and mock interviews.
- Establish Employment Advisory Boards which link prisons with local businesses, assist with a positive culture change around employment within prisons, and focus on the end-to-end journey from induction to securing employment.
- Embed Employment Hubs to help prisoners find and apply for jobs.
- Focus prison curriculums on vocational and employability skills, alongside personal development and traditional learning such as English and maths.
- Increase the number of unpaid work placements through working with regional and national projects to increase access, reduce waiting times, and clear the COVID-19 backlog.
- Increase opportunities for people on probation to access education, training and employment opportunities.
- Continue to extend the number of work places available through the Going Forward into Employment (GFIE) scheme.

Training, skills and work progress



What we have done so far – Outcome Progress:

- All resettlement prisons now have Employment Advisory Boards (EAB) chaired by private sector business leaders.
- Employment Hubs are now active in all resettlement prisons, and some non-resettlement, that regularly release prisoners.
- The Commissioned Rehabilitative Service for Education, Training and Employment is assisting people on probation into work through engagement with employers.
- The region has focused on enforcement activity for unpaid work to ensure orders are completed on time and appropriate enforcement action is taken.
- The South West Probation Service Recruitment Approvals Committee now assesses all vacancies in respect of suitability for the GFIE scheme.

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:

- Work towards ensuring continuity of care and appropriate treatment is available to all those assessed as requiring it.
- Roll out services to support community sentence treatment requirement orders as directed by the courts, which will include mental health, drugs and alcohol.
- Work closely with partners to identify gaps in services across the region and fund additional services.
- Upgrade IT systems, which will allow staff more timely and improved access to update and review prisoner records.
- Commission up to £1.5 million per year for Commissioned Rehabilitative Services focused on supporting people on probation with a dependency on legal and illegal substances and activities.
- Continue to operate a zero-tolerance approach to drug abuse.
- Expand the use of alcohol tagging as directed by the courts.

Drugs and alcohol addiction progress



What we have done so far – Outcome Progress:

- The Health and Justice Partnership team (HJPT) has been created to support continuity for prison leavers.
- The Probation Service South West are part of the co-commissioning partnership arrangements for Community Sentence Treatment Requirement.
- The HJPT is currently involved in stakeholder engagement activity and service design for the Dependency and Recovery Commissioned Rehabilitative Service.
- Within the South West region, we are actively engaging at Probation Delivery Unit and Local Authority level with the Combatting Drugs Partnership Boards.
- Within the South West we compare favourably with other similar areas with the Alcohol Abstinence and Monitoring Requirement being imposed within our magistrates' courts.

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, South West will increase the proportion housed on the night after release by 5 percentage points from 85% in March 2023.
- By April 2024, South West will increase the proportion in settled accommodation 3 months after leaving prison by 9 percentage points from 71% in March 2023.



We said we would:

- Introduce the government's new accommodation service to ensure every prison leaver is offered accommodation on release.
- Further extend supported housing throughout the South West to people on probation.
- Increase the number of charities prepared to deliver services within prison, focusing on supporting people throughout their time in prison.
- Create dedicated teams in prisons across the South West to support the community probation officer in identifying individuals' needs, to help them readjust to returning to the community and to reduce the likelihood of them reoffending.

Family, accommodation and readjustment to society progress



What we have done so far – Outcome Progress:

- Across the region we are rolling out Community Accommodation Service Tier 3, to provide people who would otherwise have been homeless on release with up to 84 nights temporary accommodation.
- We are working closely with Local Authorities to commission 'wrap around' support services.
- All departments within prisons look to include and expand their support services available through local and national charities, such as Age UK, Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association and The Samaritans.
- The South West Probation Service has created Pre-Release teams in all resettlement prisons in the region and are working towards providing an in-reach resettlement support for those prisons releasing only small numbers of prisoners.

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, South West will increase the proportion of sexual offence interventions completed by 1 percentage point from 69% in March 2023.



We said we would:

- Work closely with partners to expand the Community Sentence Treatment Requirement Services available to the court.
- Commission additional services to support reducing reoffending: finance, benefit and debt services, dependency and recovery services, and the Community Accommodation Service.
- Use the regional and Probation Delivery Unit performance management framework to monitor performance against national standards, identify areas that require improvement and oversee any required action plans.
- Implement the revised Integrated Offender Management Strategy and refine the fixed, flexible and free cohorts to enable police and probation teams to better meet the identified local priorities.
- Work closely with Local Criminal Justice Boards, HMPPS local leaders forums, and people on probation to review our newly implemented pre-release services and tailor them to the needs of prison leavers from a specific prison.
- Measure the effectiveness of each prison's public protection steering group using the public protection assurance toolkit.
- Continue to comply with the Victims' Code of Practice.

Delivering the order of the court



What we have done so far – Outcome Progress:

- We are performing strongly against our Community Sentence Treatment Requirements.
- The region is progressing in the commissioning Community Rehabilitative Services, for Finance Benefit and Debt.
- We have implemented the new national Integrated Offender Management (IOM) model to better meet local priorities.
- We continue to develop our performance reporting and management framework. The refreshed South West Governance structure facilitates accountability for performance at all levels.
- The South West Regional Victims' team is compliant with the Victims code of practice, including regular attendance at the Local Criminal Justice Board, Criminal Victim and Witness Sub-groups.

Priorities for the next year

The progress made on this plan over the last 12 months is reflective of the collaborative working relationships HMPPS has with a range of supportive stakeholders throughout the South West. The Regional Probation Director and Prison Group Directors remain committed to this approach and will continue to work closely with the South West Reducing Reoffending Partnership Board, including further collaborative commissioning of services.

We will continue to progress the OneHMPPS approach of closer working between prison and probation, to further drive the progress being made towards the three-year Regional Reducing Reoffending Plan.

Our priorities include reducing reoffending, preventing victims and keeping our communities safe. In order to do this, we will put people in prison or on probation at the centre of our activity and support them to make positive life changes.

Opportunities for the next year

- Prioritising the end-to-end journey of people in prison and on probation.
- To continue to work in collaboration with stakeholders to identify the needs of people in prison and on probation to co-commission the appropriate services.
- To further strengthen joint working across Prison and Probation, reflecting OneHMPPS.



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