



Policy name: National Framework for Interventions (NFI) Policy Framework

Reference: N/A

Issue Date: 18 December 2023

Implementation Date: 18 December 2023

Replaces the following documents (e.g., PSIs, PSOs, Custodial Service Specs) which are hereby cancelled:

- PSO 4350 - Effective Regime Interventions.
- The National Effective Intervention Panel (NEIP).
- The Effective Intervention Panel (EIP)

Introduces amendments to the following documents:

- Service Specification for Rehabilitation Services in Custody
- Service Specification for Physical Education

Action required by:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HMPPS HQ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Sector Prisons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heads of Group
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contracted Prisons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Probation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Youth Custody Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other providers of Probation and Community Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HMPPS Rehabilitation Contract Services Team		

Mandatory Actions:

All groups referenced above must adhere to the Requirements section of this Policy Framework, which contains all mandatory actions.

For Information:

Prison Group Directors (PGDs), Regional Probation Directors (RPDs) and Controllers of contracted prisons must ensure adherence to this Policy Framework, ensuring that any resulting new local policies are compliant with relevant legislation, including the Public-Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act, 2010).

Section 6 of the Policy Framework contains guidance to implement the mandatory requirements set out in section 4 of this Policy Framework. Clear reasons to depart from the guidance should be documented locally. Any questions concerning departure from the guidance can be sent to the contact details below.

How will this Policy Framework be audited or monitored:

Prisons, probation regions and youth custody sites should not commission or deliver any in-scope intervention that has not received NFI endorsement. Compliance may be subject to management checks (and may be subject to self or peer audit by operational line management, contract managers or HQ managers, as judged to be appropriate by the managers with responsibility for delivery).

In addition, the HMPPS Rehabilitation Directorate will oversee the NFI process and maintain a directory of all interventions endorsed by the NFI. The team will also keep a record of all NFI panel session decisions either granting or declining endorsement of specific interventions. A route of appeal will also be available for programme providers/developers to pursue if required.

Quarterly highlight reports will be sent via the appropriate Rehabilitation Board governance or sub governance as a way of assuring decisions.

Resource Impact:

The resource impact of this Policy Framework is expected to be minimal. Until implementation of this Policy Framework, all providers, and developers (whether internal or external) should have applied for endorsement via the processes set out in either the PSO 4350, the NEIP or the EIP. Upon implementation of this Policy Framework, said bodies will continue to apply for endorsement but will do so via the cross system NFI process, as set out in this Policy Framework.

This Policy Framework brings together the existing prison and probation processes to be overseen by one central HQ team. The principles by which an intervention is assessed remains the same. Although, the new process does encourage some frontloading of activity into a pre-screening/triage stage, in an attempt to minimise the need for providers/developers to produce full applications if the intervention is not something that is currently feasible for the organisation to adopt. Learning has been sought regarding the pre-screening stage from the youth custody service who have been using a similar approach since 2014.

It is difficult to fully determine the scale of in-scope interventions that are currently being delivered which will require review via the NFI but have not yet been via the PSO 4350, the NEIP or the EIP. In order to minimise the burden on both the Rehabilitation Directorate and panel members, a timeline will be developed that prioritises interventions for review. It is likely that a programme of thematic panels will be scheduled, that aims to review all interventions of a particular type across an agreed time period. The dates of panels will be agreed in due course.

Contact: rehabilitationstrategy@justice.gov.uk

Deputy/Group Director sign-off: Matt Grey, Executive Director, Reducing Reoffending, Partnerships and Accommodation.

Approved by OPS for publication: Sarah Coccia and Tom Browning, Joint-chairs, Operational Policy Sub-board, November 2023.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 This Policy Framework refers to the National Framework for Interventions (NFI) and replaces PSO 4350, the National Effective Intervention Panel (NEIP) and the Effective Intervention Panel (EIP). This policy describes the new process for the endorsement of rehabilitative interventions provided to people on probation and in prison/youth custody.
- 1.2 The NFI applies to all activity that seeks to change an individual's attitudes, thinking, emotions or behaviour and which are informed by psychological methods or content such as drawing upon Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) methods. This activity is referred to as an 'intervention' throughout this Policy Framework.
- 1.3 The NFI is fundamental in helping HMPPS achieve its rehabilitation ambitions by driving improvements in the quality of provision to achieve better outcomes from our collective investment in the range of rehabilitative interventions delivered across HMPPS.
- 1.4 The policy aims to enable consistency in the quality and evidence standards applied to rehabilitative interventions delivered across prison, probation, and youth custody.
- 1.5 The NFI aims to enable operational colleagues to make good investment choices, by identifying the activity that is likely to make a difference in supporting individuals to change their attitudes, thinking, emotions and behaviours.

2. Evidence

- 2.1 This Policy Framework is based on evidence that demonstrates that efforts to support individuals to address their attitudes, thinking, emotions and behaviours requires careful consideration and that, if done wrong, can lead to unintended consequences, including the increased likelihood of further offending. The evidence dictates that all interventions delivered in HMPPS should meet required minimum standards for effective intervention delivery.
- 2.2 This Policy Framework has also taken account of the lessons learnt from the delivery of the existing processes it is set to replace.

3. Outcomes

Resulting from this Policy Framework:

- 3.1 In England and Wales, the new NFI process replaces PSO 4350, the NEIP and EIP.
- 3.2 The HMPPS headquarters Rehabilitation Directorate oversees and provides the secretariat function for the new NFI process.
- 3.3 The NFI is aligned with the governance for the design and delivery of interventions within Youth Custody Services across England and Wales. To ensure that the appropriate experts review interventions for children, the YCS process will be managed via the Youth Custody Assurance Board (YCAB).
- 3.4 **Custody only:** The NFI is aligned to existing business specific thematic panels, such as PE, faith, and restorative justice. These panels will continue to operate and will direct provision that is aiming to address an individual's attitudes, thinking, emotions and behaviour to be reviewed by the NFI. The intervention will either be reviewed by a panel set up by the NFI team or the business specific panel will make recommendations to the NFI following their

review. The NFI will take a whole system view when considering whether to agree with the recommendations of the business specific panel.

- 3.5 The Correctional Service Advice and Accreditation Panel (CSAAP) processes remain unchanged in both England and Wales, so interventions accredited via CSAAP do not need to follow the processes set out in this Policy Framework.
- 3.6 External scrutiny from CSAAP will be reserved for interventions where the delivery risk is highest, e.g., where the volume of delivery is expected to be high, the intervention targets a high risk/high harm/high profile group and/or where the evidence supporting the intervention is relatively new.
- 3.7 This framework aims to ensure that any interventions which regions wish to deliver to meet the needs of their population (outside of those accredited by CSAAP) are aligned with the evidence and are likely to achieve the intended outcomes. The framework is not setting out any new commissioning/procurement routes, so there is no anticipated change to how interventions are currently sourced and funded. Where an intervention is approved, the choice to commission and, where necessary, allocate funding will sit with the relevant commissioner who has budgetary control.

4. Requirements

- 4.1 Prison Group Directors (PGDs), Regional Probation Directors (RPDs) and Controllers of contracted prisons must ensure compliance with the following mandatory requirements outlined below in 4.3 to 4.18.
- 4.2 All interventions, including structured interventions and toolkits are in-scope for the NFI regardless of whether they are delivered by HMPPS staff or external bodies and regardless of how they are commissioned, including those provided at nil cost.
- 4.3 Interventions that are commissioned/co-commissioned by other strategic partners such as Health are currently out of scope of the NFI. This is because their intervention design and delivery are validated by other means, such as adherence to the NICE guidelines and other clinical governance processes. If other strategic partners do not have a mechanism to validate their intervention delivery, they should seek advice via the NFI.
- 4.4 Interventions currently delivered via Creating Future Opportunities (CFO) are out of scope as they are subject to European Social Funding regulations. Future changes to CFO and the associated regulations may require intervention design to be reviewed by the NFI.
- 4.5 The NFI is available to intervention providers who are out of scope if they wish to use it to aid alignment, share practice and to build system wide evidence across the range of outcomes that our effective interventions seek to address. Operational senior leaders should discuss relevant provision with those contracted to deliver it and actively encourage accessing the NFI in order to collectively drive system orientated rehabilitation solutions.
- 4.6 **Custody only:** With the exception of Democratic Therapeutic Communities, interventions that are delivered as part of Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) services are out of scope.
- 4.7 **Custody only:** Individual interventions delivered by psychologists are out of scope of the NFI. This day-to-day work is out of scope as the work is individualised, delivered within the relevant standards of practice and ethical guidelines. The Head of Psychology Services will provide the Rehabilitation Directorate an annual account of all the planned/delivered work for HMPPS Psychology staff.

- 4.8 **Custody only:** the commissioning of education provision should focus solely on academic and vocational curriculum so should not include interventions/activity to help manage an individual's attitudes, thinking, emotions and behaviours. If Governors/Directors are unsure if their education provision falls within the remit of an intervention this should be discussed with the Education Contract Management team and an application made to the NFI if required.
- 4.9 Endorsement via the NFI is required prior to testing, piloting, and implementing intervention products, as the NFI provides the assurance that the product meets the required standards for effective intervention delivery.
- 4.10 Any in-scope interventions that are currently being delivered but have not yet received endorsement from the NEIP, EIP or PSO 4350 must be prioritised for submission to the NFI process. Confirmation should be sought from the Rehabilitation Directorate for existing interventions requiring NFI approval to continue delivery until the NFI process is completed. Agreement will be dependent on it being deemed safe for the intervention to continue as an interim measure.
- 4.11 Plans should also be made for any existing interventions that have previously received endorsement from the NEIP, EIP or PSO 4350 to be resubmitted to the NFI. This is to ensure that the intervention remains aligned to the current and emerging evidence base and any learning from delivery is captured and utilised. The date for resubmission should be agreed in consultation with the Rehabilitation Directorate and will be dependent on the length of time since the intervention was last approved.
- 4.12 Prisons and probation regions should contact the Rehabilitation Directorate at the earliest opportunity to inform them of the interventions that require review and collectively agree a plan for submission.
- 4.13 All submissions to the NFI, should follow successful completion of the regional triage/pre-screening stage.
- 4.14 Where it remains unclear if a product falls within the scope of the NFI, please contact the Rehabilitation Directorate to establish whether or not it requires approval via the NFI. Further information on the scope of the NFI can be found in Annex H.
- 4.15 Any intervention infringing any copyrights or intellectual property rights (IPR) will not be considered by the NFI until such IPR issues are addressed.
- 4.16 All successful interventions will be required to undertake the learning and evaluation plan, agreed as part of the submission.
- 4.17 Careful consideration will be given to all unsuccessful applications, particularly where this relates to a service already being delivered and creates a perceived gap in provision. Where relevant, advice and guidance will be sought from relevant operational colleagues and governance boards to assist in the decommissioning of interventions, with a plan developed to mitigate any identified risks. The decommissioning plan should assist with communicating decisions to those who may be impacted and will help both staff and prisoners who may be at heightened risk by the decision.
- 4.18 Where it is determined locally that an in-scope intervention is no longer required, appropriate decommissioning plans should be put in place and notification sent to the Rehabilitation Directorate.
- 4.19 The Rehabilitation Directorate will maintain a forward look of NFI panel sessions, a record of NFI decisions and a directory of endorsed interventions.

5. Constraints

- 5.1 From the implementation date of this Policy Framework, all new in-scope intervention delivery must receive approval from the NFI prior to it being delivered in any prison, probation region or youth custody site.
- 5.2 Plans must also be made to ensure that any in-scope intervention delivery that is currently being delivered is retrospectively reviewed by the NFI, in line with the requirements outlined above.

6. Guidance

- 6.1 To ensure the correct process is adhered to and the mandatory requirements set out in Section 4 of this Policy Framework are achieved, all staff should follow the processes described within this Policy Framework.
- 6.2 Failure to follow the guidance could be challenged, particularly given the potential to cause harm through poorly designed and implemented interventions. Any desire to depart from this guidance should be discussed and agreed in advance with the Rehabilitation Directorate (or with the YCAB for interventions delivered for children).
- 6.3 Alongside providing assurance that all interventions meet the required minimum standards for delivery within HMPPS, the NFI will also act as a conduit for innovative solutions by facilitating access to business sponsors/resources to help develop the proposed intervention where appropriate and when the organisational need for the concept has been agreed.
- 6.4 As part of its scrutiny of interventions, the NFI will give careful consideration to all categories of protected characteristics including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, marriage and pregnancy, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation, and will also consider Welsh language and sign language needs. Accordingly, NFI panels will be required to consist of experts able to consider the equality and diversity issues affecting the intervention.

Terms of Reference of the NFI

Panel membership

Panel membership will include a range of representatives from differing backgrounds from across HMPPS and elsewhere to offer a range of perspectives about how the intervention meets the seven effective intervention principles.

Core members: i.e., those members who have the ability to use their experience and, where possible, their clinical knowledge, to appraise and score the application. It is anticipated that for each panel the core members will be drawn from subject matter experts (SMEs) across HMPPS. Individuals with particular expert knowledge or interest may also be called upon to be core members in addition to the list below.

The range of SMEs that could be called upon, as and when their expertise is required include representatives from:

- Psychology Services
- Intervention Design
- National Rehabilitation Governance
- Probation programmes, e.g., Regional Heads of Interventions
- MOJ analytical Services
- Evidence experts
- Diversity and Inclusion
- OMiC (Offender Management in Custody)
- Effective Practice/Service Improvement/Assurance
- Public Protection Group
- Contract Management
- Learning and Development
- Lived experience
- Relevant policy areas
- Operational Policy, e.g., sentence management and resettlement
- HMPPS Wales

The presence of experts – with an in-depth understanding of the evidence base – will help ensure that the panel process will never reach decisions (e.g., that the rehabilitative service meets certain principles/criteria), based only on the word of the provider/presenter.

Attending members: i.e., those members who do not score applications but may be asked to provide professional, expert input. For example, operational colleagues to advise on the feasibility of implementation and to cascade panel decisions to relevant parts of the organisation.

Additionally, people, including external subject matter experts who have specialist knowledge may be invited to attend NFI internal process sessions where a particular intervention requires it (although it has not been deemed necessary for the intervention to be reviewed by CSAAP) or where there is insufficient internal HMPPS subject matter experts to adequately review an intervention. The inclusion of external subject matter experts will be considered on a case-by-case basis and does **not** mean the interventions needs to then be labelled ‘accredited.’

Panel Chair: The Rehabilitation Directorate will oversee the NFI process and will chair the panel sessions, facilitate discussions, and ensure that all views are heard. Where needed the role of the chair can be delegated to an appropriate person outside of the Rehabilitation Directorate, for example, to help manage demand and to minimise the length of time to wait for a panel to convene.

The role of the chair will be mindful of maintaining impartiality between the design of the intervention and the approval process.

The expectations and responsibilities of panel members:

- To familiarise themselves with the NFI internal review process, the seven effective intervention principles and the scoring criteria for approval.
- To take time to read submissions and score the application, returning to the NFI team by the required deadline.
- Provide feedback and questions in advance of the panels.
- Act as a critical friend, ensuring a robust appraisal of the submissions against the criteria is achieved.
- The Chair is ultimately accountable for success and will lead the panel.
- Panel Members must also assume a collective responsibility for ensuring successful outcomes.

Declaration of Interest

The Chair is to ensure that no panel members have any conflicts of interest in the interventions presented to the panel. For example, this may include involvement with the design and development of the intervention or a previous commercial relationship with the programme developer.

The flow of NFI activity

Regional triage (pre-screen) and planning

Stage 1

All proposed interventions must be pre-screened. Ideally regions will lead on the engagement with potential providers at the pre-screen stage, and the provider/developer will complete the pre-screen once a relevant business sponsor has been identified. For further guidance on 'Lines for Regional Engagement' please see Annex B.

The pre-screen stage encourages a focus on the need for the proposed intervention and how it adds value/innovation to the HMPPS existing rehabilitation offer, as well as outlining how delivery will be resourced. Consideration of this information at the pre-screen stage aims to identify the interventions that offer a feasible investment opportunity for HMPPS and to avoid providers/developers committing resources to developing an intervention that is not aligned with the strategic ambition for HMPPS.

Once the proposed intervention has successfully passed the regional pre-screen stage, this should be forwarded to the Rehabilitation Directorate who will confirm if the proposal should progress to a full screening panel. If a decision is made not to progress an application, the reasons for this will be communicated.

The pre-screen/regional triage questionnaire can be requested from the NFI team at rehabilitationstrategy@justice.gov.uk

Stage 2 - NFI team

After receipt of the pre-screen checklist, the NFI team will review the proposal to ensure its alignment with the organisations strategic rehabilitation ambition and to confirm that it is not duplicative of existing service provision. Where there are similar initiatives/products addressing the same need(s), the NFI team will need assurance that the proposed intervention offers added value and/or presents an opportunity for learning via an innovative solution.

The pre-screen process also aims to identify interventions that in their current form require considerable development in order to meet the require effective intervention principles. Where appropriate, the NFI will facilitate access to a business sponsor/resource to help develop the idea.

The NFI team will confirm if the proposal should progress, maintaining a record of decisions and any required amendments/feedback. The NFI team will send the provider/developer the NFI application form which should be completed prior to convening a panel.

Pilots

All interventions even those that providers/developers wish to pilot/test require approval via the NFI prior to being delivered. Where providers/developers wish to initially pilot/test interventions, prior to a full NFI application, they should contact the NFI team to determine whether this can be supported prior to convening a formal NFI panel.

Preparation for a full application of an intervention to the NFI

Stage 3

Following NFI approval of the pre-screen, the provider/developer should complete the full application form and submit it to the NFI team. If required, the NFI team will try to facilitate access to relevant personnel who can provide knowledge and input to support the provider/developer in shaping their proposal.

The application form will require the provider/developer to provide a summary sheet outlining how the proposed intervention meets the seven effective intervention principles, highlighting some of the significant elements of the intervention such as number of sessions, the intended cohort, and the evidence-base.

The provider/developer will also need to clearly outline the cost and resource implications for HMPPS. Where an intervention is approved, the choice to commission and, where necessary, allocate funding will sit with the relevant commissioner who has budgetary control.

All of the materials required to implement and deliver the intervention will be submitted with the application form.

The NFI team will review the application form and provide panel members with all the relevant materials. If the application form submitted is not completed properly the NFI team will provide feedback to the developer, for this to be rectified prior to sending to panel members.

Stage 4 - Independent provisional scoring of intervention by panel members

The NFI team will compile an information pack for each submission. Panel members will also be provided with the NFI Guidance for Panel members which will include the Effective Interventions Principles, scoring guidance and outcomes (see **Annexes C and D**).

The NFI team will provide this to panel members at least two weeks prior to the deadline for score submission. A minimum of three panel members should review the pack and score the intervention against each of the criteria using the scoring sheet provided. All score sheets, along with any feedback and/or questions for the provider/developer should be sent to the NFI team by the agreed deadline.

The NFI team will collate the provisional scores. Any intervention that unanimously receives a score of 1 from all panel members in any of the criteria will not progress to a formal panel. The NFI team will notify panel members and the provider where this is the case.

The providers/developers of Interventions that successfully pass the panel's provisional scoring will be invited to present at a formal panel.

Prior to the panel, the NFI will provide any relevant initial feedback from panel members and any planned questions, so the provider is prepared in advance of any particular areas of interest/concern from the panel.

If required, for example, where there is a disparity in provisional scoring from panel members, the NFI will convene a pre-panel preparation session in readiness to engage well with the provider/developer.

Delivering the NFI review panel

Stage 5 - Formal Panel

Panel Frequency

The frequency of panels will depend on the volume of interventions that require review, and ad hoc panels will need to be convened as and when proposals are received. The NFI team will publish a forward look of planned panel dates and explore options of having themed panels linked to the areas where innovation is most needed.

Panel Format

The panel will follow a standard agenda consisting of:

- A presentation by the provider.
- Panel member questions.
- A private panel discussion, to include final score moderation and to decide on the panel outcome.
- The outcome of the panel will be communicated in writing to the provider/developer by the NFI team following completion of the private panel session.

NFI outcome decision

Interventions will either be awarded 'approval,' 'declined,' or 'request for further information.'

The panel outcome decision will outline the agreed context and cohort for operationalising delivery, e.g., approved for women in the community. Agreement should then be sought from relevant operational colleagues and governance boards regarding the plan for implementation, e.g., specific delivery sites and volume of delivery etc. This should also include any additional actions that are required to ensure the intervention can be delivered and used by practitioners. For example, authorising effective recording via NSIs (in nDelius and pNomis), providing guidance and toolkit material on Equip and providing relevant material on the EPF, OASys, Find and Book.

The panel will also agree how learning should be captured and utilised from the delivery of any successful intervention, escalating any evaluation plans for approval by the National Research Committee (NRC) as appropriate.

The panel decision will also outline the agreed timescale for any successful intervention to be resubmitted to the NFI to ensure all interventions remain fit for purpose.

Post panel actions and communicating the recommendations.

Stage 6

Following each NFI panel, the Rehabilitation Directorate will maintain a record of the session, outlining how the intervention performed against each of the seven criteria and whether the intervention was endorsed for use within HMPPS.

All successful interventions will be added to a directory of effective interventions and receive a Kitemark of approval. Updates to the directory particularly where interventions have been added or

removed will be communicated to key commissioners, e.g., PGDs, RPDS, Controllers, Governors/Directors, Heads of Reducing Re-offending, Heads of Community Integration, Heads of Interventions, and to Courts so that we can ensure that the Effective Proposal Framework (EPF) is aligned.

Unsuccessful applications

If the intervention is unsuccessful, developers/providers can re-submit applications for approval with updated materials, provided they have attended to any feedback.

Appeal Route

Providers/developers may wish to appeal a decision made by the NFI panel. If this is the case, the Rehabilitation Directorate should be notified of this intention and the reasons why. The panel Chair will take action to address the issues raised within the appeal which could result in a further panel to reconsider the intervention and/or escalation to the agreed governance route which is the Rehabilitation Board or Sub Board for further input.

Decommissioning an intervention

Following an unsuccessful application and, if applicable, unsuccessful appeal of an intervention already being provided, the NFI team will work closely with the provider and operational colleagues/boards to plan a process and timeframe for the decommissioning of the intervention from where it is being delivered.

The agreed decommissioning plan will be tailored for each intervention and should seek to minimise the impact on people receiving/awaiting the intervention currently, allowing those people to complete the intervention where appropriate. If possible, the decommissioning process will include the identification of an alternative intervention (for example, if required to meet the needs of a specific cohort).

The decommissioning plan will also outline all the required communications to staff and to those receiving the intervention (where applicable), and any necessary updates to digital services.

Stage 7 - Implementation

The NFI does not authorise funding, operationalising, or implementing any of the interventions it approves, as its purpose is solely to provide assurance that the product meets the required quality criteria.

Once an intervention is approved, the developer and or business representatives will need to seek funding and approval for their implementation plans with relevant operational colleagues and operational governance Boards.

Recording authorisation process for delivery under RAR (Probation Service Only)

Approved interventions will require authorisation from the NFI team prior to creating a case management RAR recording capacity. This currently applies to RAR NSIs within NDelius but will also extend to any future digital recording functions.

Reviewing of rehabilitative services

Stage 7

The Rehabilitation Directorate will maintain a log of the agreed learning and evaluation plan for each intervention, alongside the agreed timescale for the intervention to be resubmitted to the NFI.

The provider/developer must be proactive in contacting the Rehabilitation Directorate in readiness for the resubmission of their intervention(s). Where the agreed timeframe elapses, the Rehabilitation Directorate will contact the provider/developer to arrange a date for resubmission. Delay in resubmission may result in the intervention being decommissioned and/or temporarily suspended until the resubmission process is completed.

The resubmission process will be dependent on the agreed learning and evaluation plan, for example, providers/developers may be asked to provide a summary of usage data, service monitoring data and any learning, alongside any recommendations for changes that have arisen as part of the resubmission process.

Access NFI internal review documents, guidance, and tools

All NFI documents (including the application form, guidance notes, decisions and actions log, a copy of the directory of approved services, etc.) will be made accessible via the [Rehabilitation Portal](#).

Reviewing the Terms of Reference

This Terms of Reference document will be reviewed by the Rehabilitation Directorate annually to ensure it remains relevant and effective and can incorporate any changes which are needed following implementation. Where a material change to the operating environment takes place, these terms of reference will be reviewed to ensure that the work of the NFI remains relevant to HMPPS.

Regional Engagement with potential Providers

When responding to providers/developers in response to the pre-screen/regional triage stage, regions may wish to use the following template for delivering their decision.

Pre-Screen Outcome letter

Dear [applicant

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the National Framework for Interventions (NFI) pre-screening process for the intervention titled “[insert name].”

Based on the checklist, it has been decided that your proposal [delete where appropriate]:

- is suitable for full submission to a full NFI panel session – to which you are invited to attend and present your application. Details enclosed.
- is too similar to existing HMPPS interventions and does not address a gap in service provision.
- will not meet the effective interventions principles without considerable further development work.
- does not align with current national or regional priorities.
- it is out of scope of the NFI as it does not seek to address an individual’s attitudes, thinking, emotions or behaviours. Where relevant regions should explain any appropriate alternative routes for the proposed provision. This might include via Commissioned Rehabilitative Service/ROIF or the PE/Faith/Restorative Justice Panels in custody.

The summary recommendation from the NFI pre-screening is as follows:

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Yours sincerely

Engaging Potential Providers: Some suggested Lines for Regions regarding the development of any new rehabilitative provision

Providers are encouraged to begin any approach to partnering with a HMPPS region by clearly defining the perceived cohort, need and gap in services. Providers will ideally outline the main objectives and/or outcomes the service aims to achieve; the target group for the service; the activities that participants will engage in and for how long; and how participation in these activities will help people to live crime free lives. Alongside, any evaluation evidence and/or audit information relevant to the service.

In circumstances where we think this need is already being covered through in-house services:

HMPPS are committed to investing in approaches that apply the latest research and/or knowledge about what works. Our current approach to addressing [X need is to offer people on probation XYZ...] (provide information on what the region currently does in this area). To commission further activities in this area, we would need to be satisfied that an alternative approach could either offer better value for money, and/or offer improved outcomes for participants, and/or be more effective at meeting the needs of particular groups of people on probation - compared to current approaches.

For interventions that aim to address, or partly address, offending related attitudes, thinking and behaviour, the first step is that intervention developers engage with the HMPPS National Framework for Interventions (NFI) team to discuss the viability of any initial product concept. Where products are more or fully developed, they can still be submitted for consideration.

This is the expectation set for all HMPPS Probation Regions and any new products would need to seek initial concept approval prior to development.

Lines in response to provider interest in the use of CRS and/ or ROIF

The Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS) are a specialist provision which commenced delivery in June 2021 and have been designed to complement existing provision. These are available for those on community or suspended sentence orders (specifically with Rehabilitation Activity Requirements) and for those on licence and post-sentence supervision.

CRS allows Probation to commission a greater range of resettlement and rehabilitative services regionally from specialist organisations. This enables the delivery of services that can be tailored to respond to the diverse backgrounds and needs of individuals to effect positive outcomes as well as maximise opportunities for collaboration with local partners, including VCSE organisations, local authorities and Police and Crime Commissioners

Therefore, CRS form a part of the sentence of the court whereas services commissioned through the Regional Outcomes and Innovations Fund (ROIF) support an individual to complete that sentence.

The Regional Outcomes and Innovations Fund (ROIF) is a small pot of money available to our regions, intended to help lever investment in wider services (for example by entering co-funding arrangements with PCCs or other commissioners) that may help reduce re-offending, but **which are not directly delivering the order of the court.**

Each region has discretion to decide how to invest their allocation of the ROIF, using evidence and local intelligence to inform their decisions. The ROIF will help Regional Probation Directors to work with a range of service providers to provide additional and ongoing support beyond sentence, or to those whose sentence provides limited opportunity for intervention but are at risk of reoffending.

HMPPS is looking at how we can make more use of grants to third sector organisations to fund activities that can contribute to rehabilitation and desistance. Specific competitions for grants will be launched through the grants application portal:

<https://ministryofjusticecommercial.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

The Effective Intervention Principles

There are seven 'Effective Intervention Principles' set out by the Correctional Services Accreditation and Advisory Panel (CSAAP). These are the minimum standards for the delivery of all interventions in HMPPS regardless of whether they are approved via the NFI or accredited via CSAAP.

The principles provide assurance that the proposed interventions can demonstrate how they speak to the current evidence base – ensuring the resulting content and delivery approach is evidence informed. They will also articulate a model of change which promotes strength based and desistance focused approaches to provide individuals with the opportunity to engage in meaningful work which seeks to support them to live a positive, fulfilling offence free future life. In doing so upholding the organisations commitment to public protection.

The seven principles which all interventions are required to meet are set out below.

- 1) The intervention is informed by evidence and/or has a credible rationale**
- 2) The intervention addresses factors relevant to reducing reoffending and promoting desistance**
- 3) The design of the intervention allows it to be replicated**
- 4) The intervention appropriately targets participants**
- 5) The intervention should be designed to motivate, engage and retain participants, with a focus on developing useful skills (as opposed to only raising awareness).**
- 6) The intervention is delivered as intended by staff with appropriate skills and quality assured**
- 7) The intervention design shows a commitment to evaluation and learning**

Further details on how to demonstrate the principles will be issued during the pre-screen stage or can be requested from RehabilitationStrategy@justice.gov.uk

Assessment Scoring

Scoring Criteria

Each intervention will be scored against each of the 7 criteria (as set out above) using a 5-point scale (see scoring descriptors below).

Panel members should **not** score based on what developers/providers *intend* to do but rather on what they have *actually* done.

The threshold is 12 points out of 14 across the seven criteria for an intervention to be considered for approval.

Each criterion is scored out of 2. Half points may be awarded.

- **0 points** = does not meet the criterion.
- **0.5 points** = promising but required development to meet the criterion
- **1 Point** = meets the criterion with major changes needed.
- **1.5 point** = meets the criterion with minor changes needed.
- **2 points** = meets the criterion completely.

Criteria	Points available
1. The intervention is informed by evidence and/or has a credible rationale	2
2. The intervention addresses factors relevant to reducing reoffending and promoting desistance	2
3. The design of the intervention allows it to be replicated	2
4. The intervention appropriately targets participants	2
5. The intervention should be designed to motivate, engage and retain participants, with a focus on developing useful skills (as opposed to only raising awareness)	2
6. The intervention is delivered as intended by staff with appropriate skills and quality assured	2
7. The intervention design shows a commitment to evaluation and learning	2
Total points available	14
Minimum threshold for initial approval	12

Panel members are also asked to comment on implementation considerations and the factors required to successfully operationalise the proposed intervention. For example, the infrastructure and organisational culture required to support the programme and its aims.

Outcomes

At the end of the NFI panel process, all panel members will agree a moderated score for each of the seven criteria. A final score will then be reached by adding all the moderated scores together and this will be recorded.

Where the panel cannot agree a rating for any given criteria the chair person will be responsible for making the final scoring decision, whilst taking account of panel members views and will clearly record their justifications.

Dependent on the final score, interventions will either be awarded 'approval,' 'declined,' or 'request for further information.'

Approval will not be automatic if the minimum threshold is met but will be at the discretion of the NFI panel. For example, if reviewing a number of similar interventions, the panel may opt to award only the highest scoring interventions approval.

Defining an Intervention

An intervention is a defined sequence of sessions or activities which target attitudes, thinking, emotions or behaviour and are informed by psychological methods or content.

It may not always be clear whether or not the intended activity falls within the definition of an intervention. When considering a potential or current product, please see below points to help you decide.

Features of an Intervention:

- Pre-planned
- Structured
- Replicable
- More than one session
- Requires an individual to complete linked activities over a period of time
- Uses and informed by psychological methods, such as drawing on any well recognised principles from models such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).

Interventions are not:

- One-off sessions to raise awareness on a specific topic
- Recreational/wellbeing activities e.g., choir
- Activities to alleviate boredom e.g., crosswords
- Core curriculum/academic education classes such as English and Maths
- General sentence management activities such as assessment, planning, enforcement, reviewing progress and unstructured discussions supporting individuals with their identified needs.

Where it remains unclear if a product falls within the scope of the NFI, please contact the Rehabilitation Directorate (RehabilitationStrategy@justice.gov.uk) to establish whether or not it requires approval via the NFI.