



HM Prison &
Probation Service

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HM Prison and Probation Service

Martin Jones`
HM Chief Inspector of Probation
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03 July 2025

Dear Martin,

**HMIP reports on the inspection of Newcastle Upon Tyne PDU,
North East Region - April 2025**

Thank you for your inspection report for **Newcastle Upon Tyne PDU**, where you made a total of 5 recommendations.

In respect of the recommendations, I can confirm that all have been carefully considered and the Heads of PDU with the support of the Regional Probation Director will take steps to address them as appropriate. This will include the following:

- In August 2025 the PDU will be implementing the new Management Oversight and Countersigning Policy Framework. Meetings will be held with practitioners and Senior Probation Officers, focusing on a clear strategy around practice expectations. This will help to address the deficits identified in management oversight of all case work.
- A meeting will be scheduled with the Police, PDU Head and Head of Operations by the end of September 2025 to explore how we can enhance the quality of information sharing between our organisations in relation to domestic abuse enquiries.
- The regional 'Change and Quality Improvement Plan' will be reviewed in line with the findings of the inspection to ensure that all learning is captured and appropriately addressed. This includes plans to develop an enhanced regional approach to training and delivery, with an emphasis on risk management.
- The Regional Probation Director (RPD) holds the lead for Area improvement in Sentence Planning. Her work will include sharing good practice and ensuring that the approach to PDU Quality Improvement Plans is reviewed so that all have specific, measurable and evidence-based areas of focus.
- All Probation Practitioners in the region will undertake Core Skills training including Motivational Interviewing, Engagement Skills and Toolkit Awareness.

While I acknowledged that there is still much work to do at Newcastle Upon Tyne PDU, I am encouraged that positive outcomes were reported and note the following:

- The Head of PDU had forged well-established relationships with key strategic partners, including Children's Services, Adult Safeguarding, and police involved in the management of registered sex offenders and other high-risk offenders. They were highly valued by those partners and consistently ensured representation on all boards and sub-groups.
- There was a positive culture in the PDU that promoted openness, constructive challenge and ideas. This emanated from the Head of PDU and the leadership team and was built on the premise that all staff are equally respected and have a valued contribution to make.
- Appropriate Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) were functioning well at level two and three. Partnership working between the PDU and Police and colleagues engaged in Management of Sexual and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) colleagues was collaborative and effective.
- PDU leaders in Newcastle recognised and utilised diversity data to inform and drive service improvements.

I remain committed to ensuring progress against HMIP recommendations and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of Performance and Risk Group (PAR) we continue to closely monitor progress in line with your findings.

Kind Regards

Helen Judge
Area Executive Director - Northeast, Yorkshire and the Humber

CC: Private Office