



## HM Prison & Probation Service

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24 July 2025

Dear Martin,

### **HMIP reports on the inspections of Stockton and Hartlepool PDU, North East Region - June 2025**

Thank you for your inspection report for **Stockton and Hartlepool 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 Head of PDU with the support of the Regional Probation Director will ensure steps will be taken 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. This will require meetings with Practitioners and SPOs focussing upon a clear strategy around practice expectations. This will address the deficits identified in management oversight of all case work and assurance that appropriate assessments and offending behaviour work is being undertaken.
- The current involvement of partner agencies and other organisations in managing risk will be reviewed to identify where improvements can be made to keep people safe.
- The Regional Change and Quality Improvement Plan will be reviewed in line with the findings to ensure that all learning is captured and being 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) is the lead for Area improvement in Sentence Planning. Work will include sharing good practice and ensuring our approach to PDU Quality Improvement Plans will be reviewed to ensure that all have specific, measurable and evidence-based areas of focus, and that interventions are taking place, and enforced as appropriate.
- All Probation Practitioners in region will undertake Core Skills training including Motivational Interviewing, Engagement skills and Toolkit awareness.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much work to be carried out at Stockton & Hartlepool PDU, I am encouraged that positive outcomes were reported and note the following.

- The PDU leadership team have fostered a culture of safety, openness, and innovation where staff feel empowered to share ideas and work collaboratively to develop services. Stockton & Hartlepool has earned an Enabling Environments Award which demonstrates it is a positive, psychologically safe environment.
- The leadership team had a strong grasp of where the PDU needed to improve, particularly around improving work related to assessing and managing risk of harm and were addressing these systematically.
- There is sound evidence of a focus on engaging people on probation, particularly with regard to an embedded Engaging People on Probation Strategy and the use of Peer Mentors for people leaving prison.
- The PDU was working with Cleveland Police Domestic Abuse Solutions Team (DAST) to improve the multi-agency management of serial and prolific domestic abuse perpetrators. A specialist practitioner role had been created and was co-located with the police. Whilst this role was relatively new, police and practitioners described improvements in risk management planning and access to information.

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