

Children and Families of Offenders Pathway Group **Terms of Reference**

Aim

- To take forward the aims of the Children and Families of Offenders pathway in *Joining Together in Wales*, the joint NOMS Wales and Welsh Assembly Government strategy to reduce re-offending.
- To advise the Reducing Re-offending Strategy Board for Wales on progress in delivering the action plan.

Definitions

The pathway group's definition of a child is in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's definition which is a child or young person from the ante-natal stage to the age of 18 years, together with those participating in or receiving youth support services (within the meaning of Section 123 of the Learning and Skills Act) up to the age of 25, and care leavers (up to 21 or 25 if in education or training).

Families refer to those who take responsibility for bringing up children and young people. This can include mothers and fathers, foster carers, adoptive parents, step-parents, grandparents and in some cases members of the extended family such as aunts and uncles.

Offenders include adults and young offenders in custodial or community settings.

Role

- To protect the public and reduce re-offending
- To promote work with prolific & priority offenders

Objectives

- To prepare a business plan for the work of the group.
- To prepare an all-Wales action plan to deliver the Children and Families of Offenders pathway for both offenders in custody and in the community.
- To ensure that services will be delivered with a full commitment to all aspects of diversity and fully delivers all legislative responsibilities.
- To oversee the delivery of the pathway strategy and action plan, establishing sub-groups and task and finish groups to undertake specific actions as necessary.
- To monitor progress in delivering the pathway strategy and report to the Reducing Re-offending Strategy Board.

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- To advise on and facilitate the co-ordination of any proposals for local, regional and national (Wales) funding applications that support offenders' access to services.
- To ensure offenders and their families are included in national (Wales) and local strategies and initiatives
- To ensure information (specifically ONSET/OASys/ASSET) is used to inform service delivery decisions for offenders and their families
- Consider the issues relating to the transition from children's services to young adult service provision

Meetings

- Frequency of meetings will be bi-monthly from August 2006. More frequent meetings may be held at the instigation of the Group.
- Agendas (and any working papers) will be circulated to members approximately 10 days prior to the meeting. If members have papers for discussion these must be forwarded to the Pathway group Project Manager at least 3 weeks prior to the meeting for which they are required.
- Notes of the group meetings will be circulated within 2 weeks of the meeting occurring. Where members are asked to undertake any action they are requested to report back (verbally or in writing) to the next meeting on progress.

Membership

- The group will be chaired by Elizabeth Taylor, Director of Children & Schools Group, DELLS, Welsh Assembly Government.
- Project management will be provided by Ingrid Zammit, NOMS Wales
- The initial membership will comprise of:
 - Welsh Assembly Government
 - NOMS Wales / Home Office
 - Youth Offending Team
 - CAF/CASS
 - HM Prison Service (Public Sector)
 - HM & YOI Parc – contracted out prison
 - Welsh Local Government Association
 - Welsh Council for Voluntary Action
 - Children in Wales
 - Children and Young People's Partnership

Reporting Arrangements

To report to the Reducing Re-offending Strategy Board for Wales

Review

Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the group to ensure focus, frequency and membership of meetings is still appropriate.