

JOINING TOGETHER IN WALES:

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES

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Ref No.	Correspondent	Organisation
1	Chief Constable Grange	Dyfed-Powys Police
2	Jarlath Clifford, Public Policy Officer	CRE Office in Wales
3	Tiana Williams	Legal Services Commission Wales
4	Elke Winton	Torfaen Supporting People Team
5	Nigel Stannard	Newport Supporting People Team
6	Judy Hutchings	Sure Start Parent Research Programme, University of Wales Bangor,
7	Alan Garrod, Community Safety Co-ordinator	Ceredigion County Council
8	Gareth Jones, Policy Officer	Children's Commissioner for Wales
9	Ruth S Marks, Chair	Wales Employment Advisory Panel
10	Gareth Matthews / Colin Davies	Working Links
11	Dorothy Edwards, Deputy Chief Executive	Swansea LHB
12	Clare Cox, Head of Public Affairs	Crime Concern
13	Chris Maggs, Head of Mental Health & Learning Disability Services	City & County of Swansea
14	Gill Hurley, Director	ETC Ltd
15	Clifton Robinson, Board Chair	North Wales Probation Area
16	Daniel Hayward	Forum on Prisoner Education
17	Christina Docchar, Policy Support Unit Manager	British Psychological Society
18	Marc Roberts, Assistant Director of Children's Services	NCH Cymru
19	David Evans	Swansea Social Services
20	South Wales Probation Board	South Wales Probation Board
21	The Vale of Glamorgan Magistrate's Court	The Vale of Glamorgan Magistrate's Court
22	Superintendent Gareth Wynne	North Wales Police
23	Katie Davies	Denbighshire Supporting People Team
24	Richard Walters	Dyfed Powys Probation Area
25	Christine Davies	Job Centre Plus
26	Carol Moore	North Wales Probation Area
27	Rachel Morgan	Welsh Local Government Association
28	Derek Nash	Monmouth Community Safety Partnership

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
General	Support strategy	Dyfed-Powys police	1
General	Criticise lack of acknowledgement that Police is major organisation with which NOMS Wales will have contact	Dyfed-Powys police	
General	Support suggested Governance structures	Dyfed-Powys police	
General	Need for Race Equality Impact Assessment	CRE Wales	2
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Propose link LSC contracts and CLS direct to assist offenders eligible for publicly funded advice.	Legal Services Commission	3
Children & Families	LSC fund face to face specialist family contracts across Wales. Suggest mechanisms could be established with family contract holders to enable eligible offender to access any required specialist legal advice.	Legal Services Commission	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Suggest revise info to reflect changing environment and that coverage and activity of CLSPs will change	Legal Services Commission	
Accommodation	Assembly need to set precedence and specify advantage of prison/probation affiliating with Homeless/housing and supporting people to address difficulties for ex-offenders obtaining accommodation.	Torfaen Supporting People	4
Accommodation	Feel strategy misses opportunity to realise full potential of partners. Housing support, supported accommodation and Supporting People need to be mentioned.	Torfaen Supporting People	
Accommodation	Same applies to Youth Justice Plan	Torfaen Supporting People	
Accommodation	Supporting People cuts across the other pathways.	Torfaen Supporting People	
Accommodation	Strategy realises importance of securing accommodation	Newport City Council Supporting People Team	5
	Supporting People programme can assist in cases of high risk offenders		
General	Support strategy	Ceredigion CSP	7
General	Support Governance structure in principle	Ceredigion CSP	
General	Suggest lay persons are invited to participate as board members	Ceredigion CSP	
Youth Justice Plan	Strategy does not refer to United Convention on the rights of the Child	Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales	8
General	Support Strategy	Wales Employment Advisory Panel	9
Youth Justice Plan	Need to develop seamless transition from youth to adult services	Wales Employment Advisory Panel	
ETE	Not enough attention on local delivery mechanisms	Wales Employment Advisory Panel	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
General	Suggest duplication of accountability of NOMS Wales Board and Director of Offender Management Service, both reporting to the Home Office	Working Links	10
ETE	Challenge assumption that education leads to training leads to employment	Working Links	
ETE	Education more important than Training or Employment	Working Links	
ETE	Programmes should reward organisations when offenders enter employment not just for programme delivery	Working Links	
ETE	NOMS Wales and ELWa funding mechanisms should transfer risk of failure from funding authority to delivery organisation	Working Links	
Children & Families	WAG funding training for staff to deliver Incredible Years parenting programme as part of parenting action plan. Possibility to provide programme in prisons and link with those on community orders. Incredible Years centre interested in running pilot with offenders.	Dr Judy Hutchings - Sure Start Parent Research Programme	6
Health & Social Care	<p>At the LHB level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update Prison Health Needs Assessment as part of a rolling programme in implementing the Prison Health Delivery Plan 2005-2009. Establish a Healthy Prison Steering Group to develop a Health Promotion Action Plan. Review the clinical governance action plan for 2006/7 and develop a three year rolling programme for 2006 – 2009, in addition to developing a Workforce Plan. Review current information sharing systems. <p>Implementation of actions agreed as a result of reviewing Mental Health In-Reach Services and Forensic services and substance misuse.</p>	Swansea LHB	11
Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Substance Misuse Commissioning Framework for Swansea, which will include services for young people. In addition the Children and Young People Task Group will establish an action plan and link to the work of the CSP sub-group in this area. Implementation of the Prison Health Delivery Plan 2006-2009 which includes reviewing current services for substance misuse and ensuring that treatment regimes are in line with evidence based practice. 	Swansea LHB	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
Governance Arrangements	Clear remit for Strategy Board and evidence of links to existing groups. Integrate new strategy development into existing structures/monitoring processes	Swansea LHB	
General	Support proposals	Crime Concern	12
VCS	Express concern that some VCS organisations may not have the capacity to compete in contracting environment.	Crime Concern	
VCS	Support importance of VCS involvement	Crime Concern	
General	Support cross-sector, multi-agency approach.	Crime Concern	
General	Director of NOMS Wales to stimulate probation areas to enter into strategic partnerships with 3rd sector through SLAs, guidance to boards on commercial alliances, encourage cross-sector bids, raise awareness of working across sectors.	Crime Concern	
General	Support aim of locating offenders close to home and emphasise need to raise public and sentencer awareness of non-custodial options	Crime Concern	
General	Support community involvement	Crime Concern	
ETE	Cross agency working needed to make this a success. Need to attract local employers with emphasis on filling skills gaps and link between unpaid and paid work.	Crime Concern	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Need to make interventions meaningful and useful.	Crime Concern	
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Suggest potential pilot opportunity for cross-sector working: including statutory, control and support components	Crime Concern	
VCS	Full extent of VCS contribution is not fully understood by policy makers and partner agencies	Crime Concern	
General	Strategy does not detail financial consequences. Appropriate resources need to be made available by Home Office and Assembly	City and County of Swansea	13
General	Need to identify clear responsibilities and accountability of organisations involved	City and County of Swansea	
Accommodation	Need clear view about requirements, Important to strengthen support arrangements. VCS orgs likely to be able to provide support. Helpful to establish and share best practice	City and County of Swansea	
ETE	Pathway should be well defined. Delivery dependent on needs of each offender	City and County of Swansea	
Health & Social Care	Need to take account of established arrangements. Existing arrangements should form foundation for future action. Responsibility for offenders with personality disorders should be clarified.	City and County of Swansea	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
Substance Misuse	SMATs and CSPs are key to this pathway	City and County of Swansea	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Need to give consideration to how whole system will work including roles of HMPS, LAs and VCS	City and County of Swansea	
Children & Families	Need to facilitate more sharing between organisations. Suggest arrangement with orgs, supported by guidance and finance as needed	City and County of Swansea	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Suggest research linked activity would be an important consideration	City and County of Swansea	
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Maintain balance of public safety and individual rights. Need process of research and evaluation	City and County of Swansea	
VCS	Suggest needs analysis and audit to identify duplication and gaps	City and County of Swansea	
Governance	Governance arrangement and strategy board should reflect roles and responsibilities needed and structures would be such that they readily link with existing structures eg CSPs	City and County of Swansea	
Accommodation	Release and Tag dates make organising accommodation difficult. Need greater flexibility from housing providers in terms of location and relocating	ETC Ltd	14
Accommodation	Lack of hostel accommodation for females	ETC Ltd	
Accommodation	Lack of suitable accommodation for women and children	ETC Ltd	
Accommodation	More support needed on 1st day of release getting female to accommodation	ETC Ltd	
Accommodation	Housing bonds and telephone lines for tags can create difficulties	ETC Ltd	
ETE	Suggest Basic skills be embedded in curriculum. Educate offenders about disclosing convictions to employers	ETC Ltd	
ETE	Tagging decisions for change of employer take too long, risking job. Need joined up thinking	ETC Ltd	
ETE	Working costs those staying in rehabilitation accommodation. No incentive to work	ETC Ltd	
ETE	Need better information about qualifications and how to use them on their CV	ETC Ltd	
ETE	Need to explore self-employment opportunities. Business Eye and New Deal opportunities	ETC Ltd	
Health & Social Care	Rehousing can mean change of GP, inadequate rehab provision. Good work being done on domestic violence could be better with confidence and self esteem development	ETC Ltd	
Health & Social Care	Supportive of TSS and DIP	ETC Ltd	
Health & Social Care	Relationship counselling for family and children	ETC Ltd	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
Substance Misuse	caution needed about accommodation and location of probation offices	ETC Ltd	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Financial literacy as basic skills curriculum, difficulties with child benefits payments, access to CAB, peer mentoring, peer advocacy	ETC Ltd	
Children & Families	Need to overcome difficulties with maintaining contact whilst in prison. Rates of telephone calls in prison an issue. Suggest video visits. Issue of impact of searching children coming into establishments, should be female. Lack of consistency between establishments. More Family Visits days. Info to families if prisoner has been moved	ETC Ltd	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	No behavioural courses in some prisons for women, courses on self-esteem and confidence needed assertiveness and conflict management. Support on release, more Listeners	ETC Ltd	
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Work needed in relation to Women. Review sentencing of Women (eg imprisonment for failure to pay TV licence)	ETC Ltd	
VCS	Partnership working, need replacement for CLINKS in Wales. Need open and transparent commissioning of services. Feedback to unsuccessful tenders	ETC Ltd	
Governance	Short communication / decision making process needed	ETC Ltd	
General	Welcomes the strategy	North Wales Probation Board	26
Governance	State insufficient detail in strategy to address governance issues	North Wales Probation Board	
Governance	Need Executive Board membership to represent local operational needs. Need representative for all 4 probation areas on board, or Chair and Chief executive of Trust on Board. Need VCS representation on Board.	North Wales Probation Board	
Governance	Need to clarify relationship between Reducing Re-offending Strategy Board and Executive Board. Suggest need shadow Executive Board in place	North Wales Probation Board	
Governance	Suggest Regional Advisory Boards to support Wales Executive Board. Representation would include local VCS and other partner agencies, Would feed back issues to Executive Board. Would address locality and accountability deficits that current proposals do not address.	North Wales Probation Board	
ETE	Government investment needed to provide support to offenders in custody and community to pursue ETE.	Forum on Prisoner Education	16
ETE	More robust research needed based on existing good practice and communication with practitioners and offenders	Forum on Prisoner Education	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
ETE	Should try to divert people from CJS. Training for Judiciary important. Cost of ETE escalates.	Forum on Prisoner Education	
ETE	Mentoring support important	Forum on Prisoner Education	
ETE	Research by SOVA shows success of peer support	Forum on Prisoner Education	
ETE	Establishments could better use prisoners' skills inside.	Forum on Prisoner Education	
Accommodation	Suggest NOMS Wales review adequacy of current approved premises provision for Welsh Offenders	British Psychological Society	17
Health & Social Care	No acknowledgement of differing needs of lifers.	British Psychological Society	
Health & Social Care	Suggest a link CJS worker for each CMHT is unlikely to progress without dedicated funding given demands on NHS staff	British Psychological Society	
Health & Social Care	NOMS Wales might want to consider HAFAL report recommendations using Counselling Psychologists to address needs of offenders with minor mental health needs	British Psychological Society	
Health & Social Care	Need clarity about NOMS Wales intended role of MDO Strategy groups	British Psychological Society	
Health & Social Care	Health and Social care workers to be fully involved in MAPPA to achieve partnership working	British Psychological Society	
Children & Families	Suggest assessment of children and families of offenders to identify individual needs	British Psychological Society	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Lack of Forensic Psychology MSc courses in Wales causes lack of qualified Welsh graduates	British Psychological Society	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Consideration could be given to developing strategies for offenders unsuitable for group work	British Psychological Society	
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Need to develop strategies for high-risk psychopathic offender who do not come under MHA1983 and high-risk sexual offenders	British Psychological Society	
Governance	NOMS Wales Board and Task & Finish Groups may benefit from psychological representation. Suggest BPS Policy Support Unit could find suitable expertise	British Psychological Society	
Youth Justice Plan	Specialised forensic CAMHS needed	British Psychological Society	
Children & Families	Specialised forensic CAMHS needed	British Psychological Society	
Youth Justice Plan	Need for regional and national services to be resourced and commissioned above the level of YOTs	NCH Cymru	18
Youth Justice Plan	There are weaknesses in current accommodation, residential placements and other support services	NCH Cymru	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
General	Lack of clarity which areas of probation work will be up for tender. Need to clarify quality controls and training for providers. Will providers need to bow to political influence	Vale of Glamorgan Magistrate's Court	21
Accommodation	Need to clarify legal implications of "duty to co-operate" and statutory responsibility	Vale of Glamorgan Magistrate's Court	
ETE	Need continuity between "custody to work" and Wales Training Consortium	Vale of Glamorgan Magistrate's Court	
Substance Misuse	DRR panels were not referred to in strategy	Vale of Glamorgan Magistrate's Court	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Suggest use of CAB Financial Management Scheme would be positive	Vale of Glamorgan Magistrate's Court	
Children & Families	Suggest existing services for Children and families is already overstretched, will more funding be available	Vale of Glamorgan Magistrate's Court	
Accommodation	Lack of medium - long term accommodation in North Wales for offenders	North Wales Police	22
ETE	Lack of allocated funding support for offenders	North Wales Police	
Health & Social Care	gap in service provision between adult offenders and their families	North Wales Police	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Suggest outstanding fines are converted into time served prior to release to minimise debts on release.	North Wales Police	
Children & Families	Realise benefits through engagement with YOTs	North Wales Police	
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Need clarity on LA responsibility for Housing for PPOs	North Wales Police	
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Partnership working is key to success. PPO officers within BCUs and work with YOT teams need to be explored further to ensure that persistent young offenders receive high level interventions	North Wales Police	
Accommodation	Current policy on rent arrears excludes offenders from Social Housing. Private sector is alternative but unaffordable. Suggest lease incentive for landlords to charge social housing rent. Properties leased to NOMS/YOTs then made available to individuals	Denbighshire Supporting People Team	23
General	Ned for thorough and accurate analysis of offender profile within areas to allow proper allocation of resources	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	24
General	Suggest focussing on highest priorities	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
General	Strategy needs to dovetail with Welsh Assembly's 'Making the Connections'	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
General	Need to give consideration to European match funding opportunities	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
General	Avoid duplication with work of CSPs	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Governance	Support appointment of an Independent Chair of the NOMS Wales Board	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Governance	Clear terms of reference required for all boards and groups	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	24
General	Need to recognise courts	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
General	Need to ensure Welsh Language provision	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Accommodation	Need clear rationale for giving offenders priority for limited housing. Half-way houses would counter many risks presented on release. NOMS should develop a protocol with WAG for appropriate accommodation for offenders	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Accommodation	Lack of accommodation for females and minority ethnic substance misusers.	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Accommodation	Strategy needs to include approved accommodation	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Accommodation	Assisted places need to link particularly with providers and bail information schemes	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Accommodation	Accommodation bond could be provided through partnership with Housing associations and advice organisations	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
ETE	Role of Jobcentre Plus is critical	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
ETE	Need to identify offender's achievements and strengths to build sense of self-worth for progression and avoid stigma of academic failure	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Substance Misuse	Suggest an exercise in user consultation to obtain data on needs of offenders at the end of sentences/orders	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Need to link with Legal Services Commission	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Legal and finance matters are complex and should not be left to probation and prison officers. Need professional advice from CAB. NOMS Wales could contract with CAB at an all-Wales level.	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Problems about proof of identity on release could be remedied with 'release cards' recognised by Las. Need to join up problems like needing to prove identity to be eligible for job seekers allowance to be eligible for housing benefit.	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	Holistic approach needed to provide offenders with skills to understand and act on advice and provide mentoring service.	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Children & Families	Limited provision for YO's and females	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
Children & Families	Sentence planning needs to take account of offenders and their families	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Offender Managers need to ensure work started inside is continued outside prison	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Need survey of VCS and private sector provision across Wales and in neighbouring areas in England. NOMS as co-ordinator	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	24
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Need resources to be put into restorative justice	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Support domestic abuse offending behaviour programmes	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Need to recognise needs of Welsh Language speakers	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Close working with partners needed to provide range of programmes to challenge offenders and channel energy and time	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
VCS	Need survey of VCS and private sector provision across Wales and in neighbouring areas in England. NOMS as co-ordinator	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
Governance	Strategic and financial requirement of NOMS Wales Board and Regional Reducing Re-offending Board is unclear.	Dyfed-Powys Probation Board	
ETE	More joined up approach to exchange of information needed between Jobcentre Plus and HMPS in particular. Eg qualifications achieved in prison are lost on release	Jobcentre Plus	25
ETE	All relevant partners need to work together with Welsh Assembly and basic Skills agency to provide service to ex-offenders who often experience difficulty in accessing entry-level training	Jobcentre Plus	
ETE	Encourage better consultation between NOMS, partners and schools	Jobcentre Plus	
ETE	Encourage better understanding between partner organisations of business role each has to play in developing support mechanisms that will improve services for ex-offenders	Jobcentre Plus	
ETE	Closer community networks key to developing successful working relationships	Jobcentre Plus	
ETE	Suggest developing arrangements already in place in prisons between Jobcentre Plus and Prison colleagues to raise offender awareness of support they can expect on release	Jobcentre Plus	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
ETE	Suggest extending provision of Jobpoints in all Welsh prisons to enhance access to the labour market	Jobcentre Plus	
ETE	Need to change perceptions of employers in engaging ex-offender to promote benefits of employing ex-offenders to employers. This would need to be achieved with structured approach involving key stakeholders	Jobcentre Plus	
General	Priority should be given to commissioning a small/medium community prison in North Wales to provide for women and young adult remand. sentenced prisoner and facility for male prisoner either for their complete sentence or as the pre-release period of at least 12 months to enable resettlement arrangements to be progressed.	North Wales Probation Area	26
General	Ensure offender Managers retain responsibility for supervision planning via OASys.	North Wales Probation Area	
General	C-NOMIS design specifications need to ensure bi-lingual case record format	North Wales Probation Area	
General	NOMS Wales must ensure development and implementation of C-NOMIS in Wales provides a bi-lingual format to ensure Welsh speaking offenders have access to records in language of choice	North Wales Probation Area	
General	Include user groups such as females and BME offenders in specification of development of services	North Wales Probation Area	
General	Suggest if single trust for Probation Service useful to continue local/sub regional structure with local members and stakeholders to ensure local focus	North Wales Probation Area	
General	Welsh assembly should support CSP role in reducing re-offending with prioritisation for CSP funding	North Wales Probation Area	
General	LCJBs should be encouraged to promote Reducing Re-offending Strategy within Community engagement strategies	North Wales Probation Area	
General	Support North Wales LCJB initiative Annual Volunteer Award. Suggest a Wales Justice Award to raise awareness and promote public confidence in CJS	North Wales Probation Area	
VCS	Suggest list of VCS providers would be developed at sub-regional and local level to ensure small locally based organisations are not disadvantaged	North Wales Probation Area	
VCS	Transparency of commissioning and funding initiatives needed	North Wales Probation Area	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
VCS	Inclusive, collaborative arrangements are not effective way of building capacity and developing services for offenders which will make a contribution to reducing re-offending	North Wales Probation Area	
VCS	NOMS needs to develop model of supporting VCS involvements in partnership with Probation areas in Wales to ensure that existing arrangements and partnerships are built on.	North Wales Probation Area	
Governance	The focus on an all Wales structure involving service leaders from all Wales bodies involved in crime reduction and offender management appears to potentially conflict with achieving a balance of Wales/sub regional/local. Local stakeholders (North Wales) will be marginalized and a centralised approach to strategic planning will prevail. Probation boards should be encouraged and supported to develop their role as a local body to contribute to NOMS governance arrangements.	North Wales Probation Area	
Governance	Reducing re-offending strategy board could become over centralised. Local Probation boards have important contribution to make to develop RR plans at local level.	North Wales Probation Area	
Accommodation	Local authorities should work closely with private developers to maximise the provision of suitable sustainable and affordable housing and with private landlords to encourage and enforce high levels of housing management to optimise the sustainability of tenancies	WLGA	27
ETE	Local authorities need to be involved in ETE work.	WLGA	
Health & Social Care	WLGA can play integral roles in assisting, encouraging and advocating for best environment for local government to improve access to and impact of services on health and well- being of offenders in the community. Could deliver this through efforts around the Welsh Assembly's making the Connections agenda	WLGA	
Substance Misuse	Local authorities through CSPs and Substance Misuse Teams have significant roles, supported by WLGA	WLGA	
Advice Finance Benefit & Debt	All social housing landlords should have access to housing benefit and advice and assistance	WLGA	
Children & Families	Staff need to be trained in supporting the needs of the child	WLGA	
Children & Families	Funky Dragon could be used to develop training materials for children to understand their situation	WLGA	

Area commented on	Comments	Respondent	Reference
Attitudes, thinking & behaviour	Offending behaviour and restorative justice programmes can be useful tool in addressing re-offending. Some CSPs in Wales already involved in this work	WLGA	
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Local authorities are involved in PPOs through CSPs. This work is overlooked by central government when monitoring performance as it tends to focus on crime reduction	WLGA	
Governance	Structures need to fit with existing structures such as All Wales Community Safety Forum	WLGA	
General	Concerned that resources deployed to implement strategy might detract from front-line service delivery	South Wales Probation Area	20
General	Need for increased accommodation in Wales	South Wales Probation Area	
General	Welcome joint approach to management of the Diversity agenda and development of staff skills	South Wales Probation Area	
VCS	Existing information and networks should be used to avoid 'reinventing the wheel'	South Wales Probation Area	
VCS	VCS Provision could be mapped from Welsh Assembly and WLGA information but this is a large piece of work	South Wales Probation Area	
VCS	Need decisions on how services will be commissioned, either all-Wales, sub regional or Local Authority	South Wales Probation Area	
Governance	Suggest stakeholder based advisory body. Would include reps from WAG, WLGA, Sentencers (Magistrate & Judge), YJB, VCS (WCBA), Victim Support	South Wales Probation Area	
Governance	See function of Steering Board to influence commissioning decisions	South Wales Probation Area	
Accommodation	<p><u>Pre-Release</u>: need for improved co-ordination of services to offenders pre-release. Provision varied between prisons as did the level of liaison between accommodation providers and Offender Managers. Lack of clear accountability and good end-to-end Offender Management was undermining efforts to get SMART action plans in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenancies being lost in relation to short term prisoners because action was not taken to claim benefits or relinquish the tenancy. (Some prisons are doing this routinely, others are not). The above resulting in a knock-on effect with offenders not being eligible for housing on release on the basis that arrears and 		

repossession made them 'intentionally homeless'.

Post Release: lack of suitable and sustainable accommodation.

- Lack of homeless accommodation within local authorities, eg. Of offenders from RCT being routinely based in Cardiff, therefore lacking community support and difficulties making connections and accessing support services.
- Offenders being offered unsuitable accommodation, eg. PPOs located alongside offending peers. It was felt that Local Authorities, in making efforts to discharge their legal responsibilities, could sometimes operate in conflict with aims of NOMS, eg. Public Protection and reducing reoffending.
- Concerns raised about the lack of collaboration between Local Authorities in accommodation of High Risk/Very High Risk offenders. It was acknowledged that some Local Authorities were further on than others and that this had been assisted by MAPPA SMB.
- Lack of appropriate accommodation could result in misuse of Approved Premises more accommodation in the community was needed. Lack of half-way provision made Approved Premises move on difficult.
- Resettlement of offenders needed to be holistic.
- The absence of a women's prison and women's Approved Premises provision was seen as a further obstacle to. Making links back from distant HMPs to local accommodation providers was difficult.

Good practice eg. Floating support provided through Supporting People agenda good provision via Direct Access Hostels, Women Only Housing Associations.

General Points:

- Accommodation providers asked for risk assessments to be completed on offenders. These seemed to be inconsistent –
- Bond Schemes – hard to access and a lack of consistency between Local Authorities.
- Local Authorities need to work collaboratively to house difficult to place individuals who have multiple needs over and above offending.
- For many young people (particularly single men) provision is limited. They often fall out with their families and become homeless – it was

South Wales Probation Area

South Wales Probation Area

	<p>suggested that mediation services could help – this has been used in Swansea Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation Officers cannot be ‘all things to all people’ and accessible • and well co-ordinated end to end accommodation advice/support is needed. 		
ETE	<p>Within prisons the LIDS information base stores relevant information about inmate employment histories and skill development it is essential that such information forms part of OASys. Job Centre Plus (JCP) and Careers (Wales) need to be involved in this information loop.</p> <p>Diversity issues need to be recognised – the lack of a women’s prison on the Wales estate, and the language barrier for Welsh speaking prisoners and those from other ethnic backgrounds should be fully acknowledged.</p> <p>Within South Wales there is a high referral rate to Careers (Wales) – c1500 per annum – for those in custody and the community. Need to ensure that work undertaken with inmates is developed following their release. Clear linkage between different Pathways and that a multi-modal approach to Offender Management is carried out.</p> <p>ETE initiatives that are currently under way should be used to inform future development of services</p> <p>(i) Unlocking Potential – a pan South Wales/Gwent pilot project sponsored by the EQUAL European Fund.</p> <p>(ii) Two Basic Skills Agency projects. 1. An all-Wales initiative to encourage a broad range of employers to improve the basic skills of their employees. 2. a support project designed to raise the awareness of basic skills issues amongst Prison/Probation Services staff.</p> <p>Other specific needs that should be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transition of cases from YOTs to Probation • developing offenders’ employability and job readiness could be monitored and reviewed more closely. • Learning undertaken by offenders in custody and the Community should be recognised, recorded and accredited. <p>Effective offender management requires-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good networking and working in close multi-agency partnerships. • A recognition that most offenders possess a degree of basic skills/ETE need. 	South Wales Probation Area	

	<p>the issues. Post-supervision support needs greater attention also: who provides ongoing contact once the licence has finished ? Staff need to know what is available particularly referral pathways. Mentoring a useful strategy.</p> <p>User involvement : valuable to find out more from service users on the provision provided and to understand what actually worked for them.</p>		
Finance, Benefit and Debt	<p>It should be compulsory that all impending releases are given an interview with a rep from Job Centre Plus or DSS.</p> <p>At Quay House a Benefits Agency/Job C Plus worker runs a surgery on a regular basis – this could be replicated elsewhere</p> <p>Difficult area to become expert in so could be to go into partnership with community agency such as CAB.</p> <p>Surgeries held on probation premises better attended than directing offenders to agency/partnership premises.</p>	South Wales Probation Area	
Children and Families of Offenders	<p>Whilst Social Services and Education are the lead players, Probation does have a key role and has meaningful relationships with these agencies and where appropriate to act as a conduit between them e.g. MAPPA and Safeguarding Children legislation. Probation must also take a lead in ensuring appropriate information sharing to safeguard the safety and development of children and young people.</p> <p>Information exchange between statutory agencies is important and also using voluntary organisations such as FFOPs. The importance of such an organisation is highlighted when we recognise that many offenders have no connections with Social Services and little experience of Probation. Also importance of OASys and the need to ensure regular reviews to reflect family circumstances throughout the custody period. The needs of children and young people from divorced and separated couples one of whom is a prisoner was highlighted being pivotal.</p> <p>The FFOPS leaflet is sent to all offenders from one District but not across the area. Leaflets are needed for all offenders and their family at the point of sentence and not merely when they are due out on license. Recognised that at present Probation does little joint/real work to assist children, young people and offender's families.</p>	South Wales Probation Area	

	Insufficient information is available about families and where it is available is often not shared. "Help line" support could be available to offender's families.		
Attitudes, thinking and behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an offender starts a programme in prison, he should be able to continue on Licence, (or vice versa). • Piloting a scheme for information sharing, to enable offenders undertaking ETS/Cog Skills to carry on with that programme following their release into the community. • OMs could play a key part in annotating up to date interventions information about their offenders in CRAMS. This information could then be accessed by other agencies through NOMIS. • A Joint Tutor Training approach should be adopted between probation and the prisons, establishing a central database which could then become a Joint resource list to cover shortfalls and prevent programme disruption or delay. • Joint prison/probation programme targets could be established. • More use of day release ROTL's in order for low risk offenders to access programmes that are not being offered in prison. • Programme in the prisons and in the community for the perpetrators of domestic abuse is being offered via IDAP for male on female perpetrators but does not cover Female on Male, Male on Male, Female on Female and Child on Parent. • HMP Swansea do a non-accredited 12 session programme called 'MT TO PROVIDE' which is run by Social Services. • For supporting offenders with mental health disorders the Community Health teams are the first point of reference at present. Custody suite has specialist skills which could be employed • The presence of a Community Psychiatric Nurse in every office would be beneficial. • The lack of representation of Mental Health representatives at MAPPs and MARACs should be addressed. • Integrating a programme into an offenders lifestyle i.e. tackling a drink or drug problem before they go on a programme. • Implementing the services of a Mentor • More use of Psychologists 	South Wales Probation Area	
Attitudes, thinking and behaviour		South Wales Probation Area	
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