

Pathway News

Contents:

▪ Step Change & RRAP Refresh	Pg. 1
▪ Pathway Action Team's Overview	Pg. 2-9
Together Women	Pg. 2-3
Employment, Learning & Skills	Pg. 4
Drugs & Alcohol	Pg. 5-6
Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour	Pg. 7
Accommodation	Pg. 7
Prolific & Priority Offenders	Pg. 8
Finance, Benefit & Debt	Pg. 8
Voluntary & Community Sector	Pg. 9-10
Children & Families	Pg. 10
Mental & Physical Health	Pg. 11

Step Change

Jackie Lowthian has now completed her secondment to NOMS and returned to her employment with NACRO. We offer our thanks and best wishes to Jackie and to Karen Desai, the Stepchange administrator, who has secured continuing employment with Clinks.

NOMS is grateful to Jackie for working relentlessly to 'champion' the role of the VCS within correctional services in the region over the last 12 months, and for leaving a legacy of additional developments and contacts to deliver enhanced services to offenders in custody and community. Fortunately, Jackie has agreed to continue chairing the VCS Pathway Action Team.

Details on the Step Change Final Report and its recommendations are contained in the VCS Pathway section on page 9.

Refreshed RRAP

Following on from extensive consultation undertaken across the region, the refreshed RRAP 2007 to 2010 is ready for publication.

Comments were received from a huge range of individuals and organisations, and these, along with a piece of peer research undertaken by representatives from the NOMS Service User Forum, provided very valuable guidance on the content of the final document.

We look forward to working with all agencies over the coming months to deliver the outcomes that we have all signed up to.

Reducing Re-offending Team
and areas of work
firstname.lastname@justice.gov.uk

Hilary Campbell
Strategic Partnerships Manager

Louise Gartland
Accommodation / PPO's /Civic
Alliance / Respect Agenda

Rachel Batchelor / Julie Wallace
Employment Learning & Skills /
Corporate Alliance

Sue Mitchell
Drugs & Alcohol / Mental & Physical
Health / LAA's / GOYH

Mahala Hodgson
Children & Families / Finance,
Benefit & Debt / Youth Justice /
Diversity

Emma Godley
Team Co-ordinator

Lesley Viggars
Team Administrator

Peter Connor
Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour /
Offender Management /
Interventions

Jenny Bowles
Together Women Programme
Manager

Contact us:

Reducing Re-offending Team, NOMS Yorkshire & Humberside, Raines Business Centre, Denby Dale Road, Wakefield, WF1 1HR.
Tel: 01924 882409 emma.godley@justice.gov.uk

For the latest NOMS news and publications: <http://www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/>

Pathway Action Teams Overview

Together Women Programme (TWP) – Chair: Jenny Bowles, NOMS TWP Project Manager



Together Women Project (TWP) is fully operational!

together women

The Bradford Together Women Centre went live in April, now all three TWP centres are providing services for women offenders and women at risk of offending.

The set up phase of the project has been a challenge but the completion of the three women's centres and the establishment of an experienced and professional team has been rewarding.

Doncaster TWP went live in Dec 06 and is now working with 45 women. The centre is working with a range of partners including South Yorkshire Probation, local VCS organisations, the Courts and organisations working to protect the victims of Domestic Violence. One feature of the activity in Doncaster is the developing relationship with the visitors centre at Doncaster Prison and the establishment of a support group, run by TWP Doncaster, for women visiting friends and relatives in the prison. The development of this group is being supported by current TWP service users who are active in the development of the services.

Leeds TWP went live in Feb 07 and is working with 69 women. Leeds is also working with a range of partners and its first Local Advisory Group Meeting will take place in May. A highlight of the services being developed at Leeds involves a partnership with local colleges which is allowing basic skills and classes that aim to develop emotional literacy, to run from the Centre. In addition strong links have been developed with Ripon House and a number of women living in the hostel have self referred themselves to TWP and are working with key workers.

The Leeds centre opened its doors in March to welcome over one hundred guests, from a wide variety of organisations, to its first open day. Guests had the opportunity to speak with staff and service users about the project; they also enjoyed a tour of the centres facilities and a long lunch which allowed for networking. Helen Edwards, Chief Executive of NOMS, also attended and spoke about her support for the project, emphasising the interest in the work nationally and the need to deliver results.

The Bradford Centre opened its doors on the 2nd April and is already working with 6 women. Good early relationships have already developed with West Yorkshire Probation as well as local substance misuse agencies and supported housing providers. Discussions have also taken place with organisations to provide training around basic skills and self esteem at the Centre. Plans are taking shape for an open day and the formation of the Local Advisory Group.

As we move into our first full year of delivery we are looking forward to a number of significant developments including the launch of our Volunteer Mentor Programme which will start recruiting volunteers soon. We expect this service will add value and complement the role of the key workers becoming an integral component of the TWP Service.

TWP has started to deliver services at HMP New Hall which will focus on supporting the accommodation needs of women as they move from custody back into the community. This post will link with the key workers based within the women's centres to ensure continuity of care.

We will also be further developing our service user involvement activities. We have established service user involvement groups as we will ensure the women we work with have the opportunity to be involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of the service, which we recognise, will increase the likelihood of its success.

The month of May will see the beginning of an independent research programme into TWP. TWP work is monitored heavily to ensure we learn lessons from this approach, which if successful, may influence the future provision of services for female offenders and women at risk.

Our work will continue to progress in consultation with local stakeholder groups set up within each of our delivery centres areas and with the oversight of a dedicated TWP Pathway Action Group. If you are interested in joining the local stakeholder meetings, please make contact with the Centre Managers, (details below). We are committed to working in partnership with existing services and learning from your experiences, so your attendance and involvement will be valued highly.

If you do have any queries or feedback about the project, please do get in touch! Jenny.bowles@noms.gov.uk

TWP Bradford

Broadacre House Annex,
George Street, Bradford,
BD1 5AA

Tel: 01274 303390

TWP Delivery Centre Manager
Bradford: **Cathy Scarr**
cathys@foundationhousing.org.uk

TWP Doncaster

Doncaster Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland Street, Doncaster,
DN1 3EH

Tel: 01302 309800

TWP Delivery Centre Manager
Doncaster: **Helen Falconer**
Helen.falconer@ywca.org.uk

TWP Leeds

Tennant Hall,
Blenheim Grove, Leeds,
LS2 9ET

Tel: 0113 688903

TWP Delivery Centre Manager
Leeds: **Judith Saynor**
JudithS@foundationhousing.org.uk

For further information keep an eye on the TWP website (*currently under development*)
www.twpyandh.org.uk

Employment, Learning & Skills - Chair: Linda Crossley, Business in the Community

This Pathway has been re-named as Employment, Learning and Skills (ELS) to reflect the focus on offender employability and employment. Linda Crossley from Business in the Community (BITC) has ably taken over as Chair of the pathway action team which is now structured to deliver the refreshed ELS action plan.

It has certainly been a busy few months since the last newsletter, for the ELS pathway. The employer engagement Toolkit for managers / practitioners has now been printed and will be distributed around the region, in both hard and electronic copies, over the next few weeks. The Launch of the Toolkit took place on 3 May 2007, hosted by Carillion in Leeds and attended by Gerry Sutcliffe MP plus 20 or so regional partners. As Paul Wilson said in his presentation, this Toolkit is the culmination of months of hard work on behalf of many across the region, for which we are very grateful. It represents a really exciting time for Yorkshire and Humberside as offender employment is now so high up the agenda and we have the opportunity to make a real difference.

On 3 May 2007 a highly successful Employer Event took place at Hazlewood Castle attended by over 20 employers. Regional partners facilitated discussions, with presentations from Paul Wilson, Carillion and Richmond Ice Cream. Both Carillion and Richmond Ice Cream reported their positive experience of working with offenders and the criminal justice system. Levi Solicitors provided a case study for group discussion regarding offender recruitment. Some employers were new contacts who had limited experience of knowingly employing ex-offenders, others were already 'warmed up'. The feedback from all was extremely positive with lots of requests from employers for more information about the Corporate Alliance.

As a region, we are pleased to report significant new resources to offender employment, learning and skills. The regional NOMS team welcomes Julie Wallace, on secondment from West Yorkshire Probation Area. Julie and Rachel will continue to work on the regional co-ordination of the ELS pathway and in particular the new EQUAL provision. BITC continues to work closely with NOMS to bring in their business expertise and connections.

Yorkshire and Humberside is benefiting from EQUAL funding and consequently has new Trackwork provision in HMP Lindholme and Wealstun and new vocational workshops at HMP Leeds and Northallerton. Four new Employer Engagement Managers are being appointed in each of the Probation Areas to co-ordinate sub-regional activity, including the employer / learner support workers.

Nick Hill has been appointed by National Employment Panel Ltd as Job Developer in Doncaster. He will be working with stakeholders to generate job opportunities for offenders residing in the Doncaster area.

Please contact Rachel Batchelor or Julie Wallace for more information on any of the above.

Drugs & Alcohol - Joint Chair: Wayne Sivyer & Liz Butcher

Pathway Chair

After relinquishing its role as Chair of the Drugs & Alcohol Pathway last year due to staffing issues, the NTA has recently agreed to resume its place at the helm of the D&A Pathway. From 1 May 2007 this role will be shared between Liz Butcher (who is regional NTA lead for the Drug Intervention Programme) and Wayne Sivyer (who leads similarly on Young People). This is excellent news as it means that the pathway once again will benefit from having a regional organization as lead.

Sadly this means that Donna Linehan will be stepping down as Pathway Chair. We would like to say thank you to Donna for so readily taking on the role of Chair of the Drugs & Alcohol Pathway and for her proactive and enthusiastic approach which has been of real benefit in taking forward the refresh of the Reducing Re-offending Action Plan.

It's not goodbye to Donna as she will continue to be an active member of the D&A Pathway and the DIP/Prisons clinics

In terms of a meeting schedule for the rest of the year, the NTA feel it an advantage if we can link in with the current drug treatment performance cycle i.e. so that Pathway members can see the latest activity data around drug use as collected by the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). The Chair(s) will therefore be sending out a proposed meeting schedule in due course.

Contact details are: wayne.sivyer@nta-nhs.org.uk 0113 341 2840
liz.butcher@nta-nhs.org.uk 0113 341 2650

The NTA Treatment Outcome Profile

On 16 May, the TOP project will be launched officially by Caroline Flint, Dept of Health Minister at an event in London. This will be followed by a regional event on 8 June where the scope of this new initiative will be outlined. Basically, a new set of data fields will be added to the NDTMS to measure client treatment outcomes from 2008. We expect to phase in the collection of this information from October onwards. This new client profile has been extensively piloted and the work was led by Dr John Marsden. Included in the new client data to be collected will be items on housing status and offending so that we can begin to see how effective treatment and social care is in tackling exclusion.

Reminder

All new substance misuse treatment policy documents, performance information and good practice guidelines are available via the NTA website. Please register with www.nta.nhs.uk to receive regular updates on what is new and relevant in the substance misuse field.

DIP/Prisons Clinic

The Clinics have now changed from sub-regional to regional. The next event is planned for 27th June 2007 and will be held at HMP Askham Grange. The full day meeting will be separated into two parts:

- Morning: Exec Group to address policy and strategy issues
- Afternoon: Operational Group to work through procedure, process and practical issues.

Invitations will be sent out in due course and we look forward to a well attended and productive event.

For further information please contact Sue Mitchell in the Reducing Re-offending Team.

Sub Regional Alcohol Group Meetings

The inaugural meetings of the Sub Regional Alcohol Group happened at the beginning of May with representation from Local Authorities, Health, Police, Probation and Government Office Yorkshire and Humber. The purpose of the group is to bring together senior policy and management professionals from across Yorkshire and Humber in a group that aims to reduce alcohol-related harms, share good practice, experiences and knowledge, improve and co-ordinate service delivery, foster partnership working and to facilitate learning and professional development.

In addition to this the group aims to support local-level implementation and delivery of Choosing Health and the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and advise the Department of Health and Home Office on the progress, and coordination of, delivery across all sectors; including the nine agreed Yorkshire and Humber Annual Alcohol Tracking Outputs.

The initial agenda covered aspects of alcohol related harm of relevance to the criminal justice system including an update on the Screening and Brief Intervention research 'trailblazers', a paper on the evaluation of the Preston Nightsafe Conditional Caution Alcohol Awareness Pilot Project, alcohol related crime statistics for each locality and an initiative through the Teaching Public Health Network aimed at understanding current public health education provision and improving and enhancing this where necessary and developing and strengthening networks that support public health capacity and capability.

If you would like any further information on the Sub Regional Groups or any of the agenda items above please contact dianne.draper@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour - Chair: Maxine Myatt, West Yorkshire Probation

On 15th June 2007 the Arts Council, in partnership with the ATB pathway, is hosting an event to raise awareness of the opportunities the arts offer in reducing re-offending. Hilary Campbell, Strategic Partnership Manager, NOMS, Yorkshire and the Humber will be chairing the event and speakers include Andy Carver, Executive Director, Arts Council England (Yorkshire) and Tony Hassall, Prison Service Area Manager (Yorkshire and Humberside). The main aim of the day is to explore, with key managers/commissioners in probation and prisons, the positive impact that arts based work can have upon the attitudes, thinking and behaviour of offenders, particularly through increasing individuals self esteem and self confidence. This event will shortly precede the launch of the NOMS Framework for the Arts and offending which will highlight the important role the arts can play in reducing re-offending and lay out how this can be taken forward.

There are a huge range of organisations, many from the voluntary and community sector, working in this area and the day will provide an opportunity to hear from some of the arts based organisations already working within the region. These will include Dance United, DARTS and CYC (Connecting Youth Culture). In the afternoon delegates will focus upon how the arts can meet the needs of the offenders they work with (both in custody and in the community). The arts offer an alternative approach to reaching out to some of the most excluded people within society and could play an increased and critical role in reducing re-offending in Yorkshire and Humberside. This event will enable participants to share the growing body of evidence to show how the arts can address offending behaviour and help individuals to engage with work and education.

Although the ATB pathway will be responsible for taking the work forward, the emerging Arts and CJ agenda is very relevant to other pathways. For example, it is hoped that the new framework will support creative curriculum developments within OLASS provision which can be taken forward through the Employment, Learning and Skills pathway.

Accommodation - Chair: Derek Kettlewell, Foundation Housing

The Corston report into the needs of vulnerable women recommended an urgent review of accommodation services for women within the criminal justice system.

An initial action plan has been drawn up with the Together Women project to progress this matter, and will be linked to national and regional activity through the Accommodation Pathway.

Sheffield City Council and Doncaster prison have been jointly commissioned by Government Office to develop the PHoRC (Preventing Homelessness, Reducing Crime) initiative with Local Authorities.

Glenna Thorpe and Richard Rowley will be approaching Prisons and Probation Areas in the region, along with Local Authorities to draw together positive initiatives that are operating, and support the extension of promising approaches.

Prolific & Priority Offenders - Chair: Peter Wright, Humberside Probation

'The Way to go with PPOs'

On 26 April 2007 at Hillsborough stadium, we held our first regional PPO event. Aimed at providing information on national, regional and local developments, showcasing high impact initiatives and supporting multi-agency practice, the feedback from the 200 participants was very positive.

The programme included briefings from national speakers such as Bernard Lane, the Home Office PPO lead, along with PPOs who spoke of direct experience of positive life change. In total 13 workshops provided information and opportunities for discussion around topics ranging from DIP/PPO alignment, to women PPOs, IT solutions and cross-organisational offender management.

A summary of the event along with actions to be taken forward and the next steps will be produced shortly and will be available from Emma Godley.

Sheffield Hallam University has now produced findings from a study of the Wakefield PPO arrangements. This report offers a valuable external insight into PPO needs, and levels of investment in PPO services, and many of the recommendations are applicable to PPO schemes across the region.

Copies of the full report or executive summary are available from Emma Godley.

Finance, Benefit & Debt - Chair: Peter Nelson, Legal Service Commission

In 2002 the Social Exclusion Unit report *"Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners"* identified that almost a quarter of prisoners said they needed help with a benefit and debt problem, and almost a half had a history of debt. This report also identified that for a third of prisoners, existing debt problems had worsened in prison, and recognised that not having enough money was likely to increase the chances of a prisoner re-offending shortly after release.

Despite the scale of need within the prison population a significant proportion of offenders in custody across Yorkshire and Humberside have little or no access to advice services. The lack of advice available results in ex-offenders struggling to become financially stable, acting as a barrier to securing employment and accommodation once back in the community.

The work of the Finance, Benefit and Debt pathway is often viewed to be niche and a lesser priority yet at its heart is the issue of poverty which is often an offenders barrier to addressing their other resettlement needs. The pathway team has prioritised the provision of independent financial advice and financial literacy to offenders both in custody and in the community. Another significant area of work is working with financial institutions to assist offenders in opening bank accounts. Funding of these services remains a significant barrier to meeting the objectives within the reducing re-offending action plan and members of the PAT seek to influence commissioners and providers to meet this fundamental need of offenders.

Voluntary & Community Sector - Chair: Jackie Lowthian, NACRO

Step Change Final Report & VCS PAT Changes

The Step Change Final Report has now been finalised and contains recommendations for the VCS Pathway Action Team that have been presented to both the PAT and the ROM and have been agreed as the way forward. The VCS PAT will be reconfigured to enhance delivery of the plan. The VCS PAT will combine membership from the Step Change steering group and the VCS PAT of which the ROM will be a member. Areas of work to be covered include providing expert advice on commissioning models that address VCS participation to Probation Boards and the Prison Service; they will explore capacity building bids to Future Builders and consider commissioning the service in the future; and explore ways of commissioning VCS organisations to provide expertise in diversity and equality training.

Two other very important pieces of work contained in the VCS Action Plan are Service User Involvement and Race Equality and these will be taken forward by sub-working groups that will be formed by expert members of the existing VCS PAT. Both these areas of work will be fully supported by the Reducing Re-offending Team.

This report also highlights recommendations for NOMS nationally on effective engagement of the Third Sector in the future. It recommends that mechanisms are established to ensure effective implementation of *'Partnerships in Public Service: Action Plan for the Third Sector'* at regional and local level. Other recommendations include: to develop models of commissioning activity that will enable VCS service providers to offer services; to promote effective models of sub-contracting with prisons and probation; expand and develop the NOMS Grant Programme with delegation to the NOMS regions for administering and awarding the grants to retrieve and strengthen the membership of the VCS Pathway, with the ROM as a core member.

A copy of this report will be available on the NOMS website soon. For further information please contact Emma Godley.

Regional Service User Forum

The forum was established in September 2006 and the first meeting focused on the RRAP pathways. From the discussions at this meeting it became apparent that there was a need for some detailed work on the pathway themes and representatives were keen to take this forward. This resulted in plans for a piece of peer research. Members of the forum agreed to focus on three specific pathways - Accommodation, Learning and Skills and Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour - and to explore in detail how offenders in prisons felt their needs were being addressed in relation to reducing re-offending under these pathways. A questionnaire was designed and used to elicit opinions from approximately 180 prisoners. That data has been analysed and a report is currently being written up. It is hoped that this report will be presented to commissioners and providers of services.

Initially NOMS and prison staff took the lead in facilitating the forum but as confidence has grown, service users now both chair the meeting and arrange the agenda. The Reducing Re-offending Team and HMPS Area office support the service users in the organisation of the forums which are currently taking place bi-monthly.

The forum has recently begun to scrutinise the work of the Pathway Action Teams. The first scrutiny panel was held last month with the Accommodation Pathway leads. A number of issues were taken away by the PAT Chair, Derek Kettlewell, for consideration at the next Accommodation PAT meeting. Outcomes of this meeting will be fed back to the Service User Forum. The next Service User Forum is to be held in June and the Employment, Learning & Skills Pathway is on the agenda. The VCS PAT has worked closely with prisons across Yorkshire and Humberside to develop an active Service user Forum. The forum consists of service users currently in custody and in the community.

Particular thanks go to Karen Desai, of Clinks for her substantial contribution to the work of the forum.

Children & Families - Chair: Malcolm Potter, Youth Justice Board

SAFFAR PROJECT

The Batley based Pakistan & Kashmir Welfare Association's Saffar Project has been successful in obtaining funding from the NOMS VCS Grant Programme 2007/08 which has been matched by the West Yorkshire Probation Area, to deliver a comprehensive support service to the families of South Asian prisoners in Kirklees. The project was one of only eight successful applications from a total of 578 applications nationally to the NOMS VCS fund, and the only successful bid from the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

In 2005 PKWA undertook a research project for the Department of Health which highlighted the lack of support services for South Asian prisoners and their families. Realising the impact family stability has upon successful reintegration into society after a term in prison, PKWA developed the Saffar project on a voluntary basis, and supported the project from its own resources, with the help of a small grant from Action For Prisoners Families. Receiving the funding from NOMS and West Yorkshire Probation area will enable the Saffar Project to reach more families and to develop a fully professional service.

The Saffar project aims to use the NOMS and West Yorkshire Probation Service funding to recruit and train suitable volunteers to act as family support workers, and to support in the region of 100 families a year with problems ranging from drug and alcohol addiction to housing, debt, and prison visiting. The links between a strong, stable family base and an offender's likelihood of re-offending are well documented, and the Saffar project aims to significantly reduce re-offending by providing support to the families.

By recruiting volunteers from the community to deliver this service it is anticipated that a further outcome will be an opportunity to gain skills and training, leading to enhanced routes into employment for the wider community.

PKWA would like to extend our thanks to the National Offender Management Service and to the West Yorkshire Probation Area for supporting this valuable initiative.

Mental & Physical Health - Chair: Angela O'Rourke, CSIP

The first meeting of the Interim Regional Offender Health Board, chaired by the Strategic Health Authority, will take place on July 24. This will bring together key regional stakeholders and commissioners to agree terms of reference for new regional and local partnership arrangements in Yorkshire and Humberside to improve access to healthcare by offenders in custody and the community. Further information will be shared following this important meeting.



Working in Partnership to Reduce Re-offending

Contact us:

Reducing Re-offending Team, NOMS Yorkshire & Humberside, Raines Business Centre, Denby Dale Road, Wakefield, WF1 1HR.
Tel: 01924 882409 emma.godley@justice.gov.uk

For the latest NOMS news and publications: <http://www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/>