

Pathway News

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News & Events

Retirement of the ROM

At the end of last month Paul Wilson retired as ROM. We would like to thank Paul for all his support for the work on reducing re-offending and wish him well for the future.

Dawn Elaine will be acting ROM until the end of November when she leaves to join Premier Serco. Hilary Campbell will then take up the role of acting ROM until a permanent appointment is made.

West Yorkshire Police launched a new Integrated Offender Management vision on 5 and 6 September. There was a strong commitment from all partner agencies with an interest in Offender Management to work together to develop a joint approach, and this innovative initiative has achieved national interest. A follow up event will be held on October 16 to take forward the next steps. For further information contact Louise Gartland.

Contact us:

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

Pathway Action Teams Overview

Accommodation - Chair: Derek Kettlewell, Foundation Housing

Progress has been made in convening several events to further the understanding of offender accommodation issues within mainstream housing partner organisations.

4 NOMS Offender housing events for Housing policy leads:

- Mansion House, York - 19th November
- Leeds Town Hall, Leeds - 26th November
- The Cathedral Project, Sheffield - 10th December
- Quality Inn, Hull - 10th January 2008

GOYH/NOMS Supporting People/LAA event for Chief Executives 2 November 2007.

- To explore opportunities to include offender outcomes within LAAs.

Homeless Link VCS/LAA Event GOYH 1 November 2007.

These arrangements follow on from significant research findings in the South West and North East detailing the exclusion of offenders from accommodation services. This picture is mirrored within this region, and demonstrated within statistics drawn from prison admission data (06/07), and a 6 month survey of accommodation status on release carried out by CARATs drugs teams within the regional public sector prisons.

For copies of any of this information please contact Lesley.viggars@justice.gov.uk

Prolific & Priority Offenders - Chair: Andrew Chandler, West Yorkshire Probation

In August 2007 Peter Wright (*Humberside Probation*), completed his term as PAT chair and handed over the reins to Andrew Chandler (*West Yorkshire Probation*). Peter was warmly thanked for his stewardship by all PAT members.

After the successful PPO regional event in April 07, a summary of questions and issues raised throughout the day was produced and PPO PAT members provided answers from a personal perspective. A copy of this information is available from Lesley.viggars@justice.gov.uk.

Following on from the event, a series of sub-regional meetings were held between the ROM, CDRPs and LCJBs to further develop the regional/local links.

Another issue to be picked up from the event is to increase engagement of VCS organisations with PPO arrangements. Discussions have been opened up through Clinks and the Regional Forum and an initial meeting has been convened.

Martin Iles (GOYH) is re-convening the group reviewing the methodology for calculating re-offending rates of PPOs. This measure has been agreed regionally and implemented within local PPO teams in the absence of national guidance. Through this work we will have a consistent picture of positive outcomes with PPOs in Yorkshire and Humberside.

Mark Beedham (*Humberside Police*) is re-convening the Information Technology sub-group to continue the development of effective multi-agency communication around PPO management.

Following a promotional visit to the PPO PAT by the managers of Wakefield Westgate Approved Premise, there has been an increase in the number of PPOs accessing the residential facility from across the region.

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



The Together Women Project (TWP) is progressing well with all three centres working with significant numbers of women (over 460 have been referred to date). Recently the outreach service, working in the Keighley area, has been launched and welcomed by local services and local people.

The centres are busy, offering a range of services from one to one support, peer support groups and short courses. The TWP counselling provision is in great demand and we are in discussions with local PCTS about how they can support us in addressing mental health needs. A full range of services which are on offer at the centres are available from the centre managers (details below).

Our key work service within New Hall prison, targeting short sentenced women and women on remand, is in high demand. Support from custody to community is a key part of the project.

Following the preparation for the volunteer mentor service, potential volunteers are now progressing through interview and induction processes. There has been a positive response to this opportunity, attracting women from a range of backgrounds that want to volunteer.

An independent evaluation of the impact of the project is ongoing; we expect the first report to be published at the beginning of 2008.

TWP Centre Contact Details

<p>TWP Bradford Broadacre House Annex George Street Bradford BD1 5AA Tel: 01274 303390 TWP Delivery Centre Manager Bradford: Cathy Scarr cathys@twpyandh.org.uk</p>	<p>TWP Doncaster Doncaster Women's Centre 21 Cleveland Street Doncaster Tel: 01302 309800 TWP Delivery Centre Manager Doncaster: Helen Falconer Helen.falconer@ywca.org.uk</p>	<p>TWP Leeds Tennant Hall Blenheim Grove Leeds LS2 9ET Tel: 0113 368 8800 TWP Delivery Centre Manager Leeds: Judith Saynor JudithS@foundationhousing.org.uk</p>
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Women, Children and Families Pathway - Chair Simon Pellew, Time for Families

Leading on from the work of TWP, and in recognition of recent reports (*including Corston and Fawcett*), as well as the 2007 Gender Duty, we have introduced a new pathway to focus on the needs of women, closely aligned to the work of the children and families pathway.

The remit of the group is to influence strategic planning and commissioning of services to meet the needs and improve the outcomes of vulnerable women, women offenders and the children and families of offenders, to support a reduction in crime and re-offending and improve life chances.

We are delighted that Simon Pellew, Chief Executive of Time for Families, has agreed to chair the group which includes senior representation from the statutory sector and the VSC. We would like to thank the work of Malcolm Potter who chaired the Children & Families Pathway for the last 2 years. Malcolm has agreed to continue to sit on this new pathway.

The existing children and families action plan will be taken forward in work streams and will be led by Adam Brown. A work plan focusing on women is being developed and will be lead by Jenny Bowles.

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

The NOMS team continues to coordinate employer engagement activity across the region, via the regional information and network meetings and a variety of other forums. NOMS has held a series of meetings with NHS staff to discuss the future of their employability schemes and is shortly meeting with Sector Skills Councils.

NOMS holds a regional spreadsheet of all engaged employers which, at the time of writing, has over 170 entries. The Employer Pledge has been produced and published in Yorkshire and Humberside and has since been rolled out nationally. It has proved a valuable tool to assist employers in identifying the ways that they might become involved. To date, over 12 Employer Pledges have been signed and submitted to London for a ministerial letter in response.

The Business Champions Network met for the first time at the end of September and consists of a small number of business leaders from across the region, representing different sectors and sizes, to work more closely with NOMS on offender employability and employer engagement.

Employer Engagement Managers are now in post in each of the sub-regions. For further information on local activity, please contact:

Debbie Clark	West Yorkshire	debbie.clark@west-yorkshire.probation.gsi.gov.uk
Vicky Wilkinson	North Yorkshire	vicky.wilkinson@north-yorkshire.probation.gsi.gov.uk
Rupert Sellors	Humberside	rupert.sellors@humberside.probation.gsi.gov.uk
Catherine Hughes	Humberside	Catherine.hughes@humberside.probation.gsi.gov.uk
Avril Montgomery	South Yorkshire	avril.montgomery@south-yorkshire.probation.gsi.gov.uk

Voluntary & Community Sector - Chair: Jackie Lowthian, NACRO

The Voluntary and Community Sector PAT with its new membership and focus convened on 11th September. The RRAP actions for the VCS PAT are largely focused on increasing the level of VCS services delivered to offenders and the membership of the PAT has been reconfigured to include those who are likely to have commissioning responsibilities at local, area and regional level. The voluntary sector is represented by Clinks, the Regional Forum and the BME Regional Panel. The Offender Management Act makes it clear that Probation Boards or Trusts will continue to be the lead providers of services for offenders in the community. We also know that the public sector Prison Service will continue to meet the majority of demand for custodial services. However, the expectation is that these public bodies will commission interventions from VCS and private providers. The meeting focused on probation sub-contracting plans, receiving an informative report from Peter Johnston, Regional Business Development Manager for Y&H. Peter outlined the national picture on achieving the 5% target spend on VCS and private sector providers last financial year and looked at how Probation Boards in Y&H compared. He then talked through the sub-contracting plans which aimed to move towards the target 10% spend for 07-08. This is regarded as a very challenging target but some Probation Areas expect to achieve it.

The meeting also received updates from the Service User Forum and the newly formed Race Equality Group. A national update from the NOMS Voluntary Sector Unit was also provided and a copy of this can be obtained by contacting Emma Godley. Finally, there was some discussion about the national Reconnect project - an initiative that hopes to secure European funding for the delivery of resettlement support to short-term prisoners. The region hopes to be involved in this and discussions with co-financing body, the LSC (Learning & Skills Council) are on-going.

Race Equality Group

A new Race Equality Group is being established to take forward section 3 of the VCS Action Plan. The terms of reference for the group are as follows:

- Develop a strategy for engagement with small local BME groups/agencies.
- Provide advice and guidance to commissioners on race equality issues.
- Monitor progression on race equality issues raised within the Equality Impact Assessments. Provide advice and guidance on how to progress the issues.
- Monitor the implementation of recommendations arising from the NOMS Diversity Census.

Membership will be formed from staff that lead on race equality and diversity within their daily working roles and also pulled from existing Pathway Action Team members who have a good knowledge and commitment to the race equality agenda and also have a good working knowledge of one or two of the pathways.

The first formal meeting will be set for January. For further information please contact Emma Godley.

Service User Forum

The last Service User Forum was held in July at HMP Wealstun with Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour as the pathway for discussion. This lively debate presented a number of issues for the Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour Pathway Action Team to consider. Members also expressed their appreciation for the Arts agenda as an excellent means of changing offenders' attitudes, thinking and behaviour. The arts based programmes were highly commended as producing better rounded, improved communicative and more confident individuals, which go on to help with tackling substance misuse issues, gaining employment and moving on to live a crime free life.

The next Service User Forum will be held 16th October and will concentrate on the Health Pathway. A representative from Smart Justice has also agreed to speak to the members about the work they are involved in and around engaging with the media to positively promote offenders to the community.

For more information please contact emma.godley@justice.gov.uk

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

The "Now lets talk money project" is now up and running, and a marketing campaign is being organized with the prisons and probation areas. The project is designed to give advice and guidance on finance, debt and opening bank accounts. The free phone number put the user through to an advice worker who can offer a service or signpost the user appropriate service who can offer help.

The project is funded to March 2008, however there maybe be an opportunity for an extension depending on outcomes and performance. For further information contact adam.brown@justice.gov.uk

South Yorkshire Probation Area has had some success in progressing bank accounts for offenders, with help from the Co-operative bank and local credit unions. HMP Doncaster and HMP Hull are also having local success with bank accounts. This is an area of work we hope to progress across the region in this next period.

A potential funding stream has been offered to the ROMs team, to work with offender on finance issues. We will be conversing with our partners for ideas on this exciting opportunity in the near future.

Drugs and Alcohol Pathway – Joint Chairs: Wayne Sivyer & Liz Butcher, NTA

The membership and focus of the Drugs and Alcohol pathway has been reviewed, and a meeting was held on 1st October. The pathway is now equipped to address continuity in services between custody and community, and to strengthen "wraparound services" to ensure treatment is effective. This multi-agency approach will add value to the endeavours of the individual member agencies and network representatives.

The DIP Prison Clinics has been rescheduled and will be held on 29th October, chaired by Avtar Purewal. This group will be signing off an agreed protocol for DIP/CARATs engagement, and looking to overcome blockages in continuity. If you wish to be on the mailing list for this please contact Emma Godley.

The Regional Alcohol Board that brings together senior policy and management professionals from across the region has agreed to take on the actions from the RRAP around alcohol. This is to ensure a fully co-ordinated approach to the alcohol agenda and avoid duplication.

The Home Office has commissioned Karen Whitehouse to support delivery of identifying and promoting good practice around families and drugs. This is building on from the recent publication 'Around arrest, beyond release' which is a consultation by NOMS Drugs Strategy team and NTA National and regional carers group.

The document highlights Sheffield DIP as a model of good practice in relation to drug users and their families.

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

Accredited Programme developments in the region include the piloting of the new generation, modular version, of the General Offending Programme - designed to replace ETS, Think First and the Priestley One to One Programme. The pilots will take place in HMP Lindholme and in West Yorkshire Probation in the autumn before going back before the Accreditation Panel in February 2008. This initiative places Yorkshire and Humberside in a strong position when the programme is rolled out more broadly in 2008-09.

The Service User Forum gave full consideration to ATB issues at its meeting in July and gave very useful feedback to the team. This included; the positive value of well-delivered programmes, the importance of targeting to the right people, stressing the link between acquiring positive attitudes thinking and behaviour and getting a job and concern for short-term prisoners who generally suffer from lack of access to provision. The feedback was appreciated by the Pathway Team and a representative is planning to attend the next SU Forum meeting to discuss the feedback in person.

At its September meeting the ATB pathway team agreed, in light of the stalling of national developments, to re-vitalise the regional (Specified Activity) accreditation panel. Pauline Mcavoy of HMP New Hall will lead this work and has already taken some provisional referrals from Probation Areas.

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

Regional and local structures to support the development of joint NOMS/Health commissioning and the RRAP delivery have been reviewed and a work programme developed for a Regional Health Strategy Group. Primary aims will be to review progress of PCTs in offender partnership work, and levels of participation, consult on the draft national offender healthcare strategy, oversee the implementation of a standardised prison health needs assessment and oversee the performance management of prison health indicators.

A head of prisons healthcare meeting has been set up across all the regions prison establishments to facilitate contributions to regional and national strategic work, and provide a clear communication route to the Group.

The GP registration project has now been completed. For details of the results please contact Emma.godley@justice.gov.uk
