

JAN 08, YH ROM External Communication

TO: YH NOMS Regional stakeholders

Date: Jan 08

Subject: NOMS reorganisation, SLA Negotiations including IPPs, Corston, Reducing Re-offending Consultation, Data Capture on Short Term Prison Population and Butler Trust Awards.

Author: Hilary Campbell, YH Regional Offender Manager (ROM)

NOMS website: www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk/noms-regions

I hope you have enjoyed a good start to 2008. The year has started with a full agenda for NOMS both in the region and nationally. I hope this summary of headline issues is of use. As usual I welcome all feedback and comments.

ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

JOINT STATEMENT :TONY HASSALL , YORKSHIRE AND YUMBERSIDE PRISON AREA MANAGER AND HILARY CAMPBELL , REGIONAL OFFENDER MANAGER

On 29th Jan the Justice Secretary announced to Parliament the outcomes of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Organisational Review.

The intention is to bring NOMS and the Prison Service together, streamlining headquarters and rationalising regional structures in order to improve the focus on frontline delivery. Strategic policy for offender management will become a separate responsibility, including a regulatory function (e.g. ensuring there is a level playing field for providers from all sectors) and will link more closely with the other parts of the criminal justice system.

Phil Wheatley, who is currently the Director General of HMPS, will become the Chief Executive of NOMS and Helen Edwards will become the Ministry of Justice's Director General for Criminal Justice and Offender Management Strategy. Both Phil and Helen will sit on the MoJ Board.

While the changes at national level will be implemented from 1 April, integration at regional level will be phased over the next 12-24 months. For each of the English regions, a Director of Offender Management (DOM) will be appointed to commission all of the prison and probation services in their region, whether from public, private or third sector providers. The DOMs will have the authority to deliver national policies in ways which meet the needs of their region. In turn, individual prison governors and Probation Trusts will have the authority they need to determine how best to deliver against their contractual requirements. These new arrangements will be implemented in London and Wales from April 2008, and elsewhere over the next 12-24 months.

These are significant changes, and need to be managed well to avoid disruption to front-line services particularly at a time of significant operational pressure. Trade unions and staff will now be consulted as we need to develop the structures, systems and processes to move forward.

This reorganisation means that while reducing re-offending continues to be the main aim, commissioning will focus more robustly on ensuring the efficient use of available resources with delivery through effective contract and SLA management in line with Lord Carter's recommendations. The reorganisation will also improve the management of individual offenders as they move through the prisons and probation system. This will help to ensure resources are used efficiently to protect the public and reduce the likelihood of further offending.

These are the headlines; the picture will become clearer over the next few weeks as more staff become involved in developing the next steps both nationally and within the region.

We will continue to work closely together to manage the transitional arrangements. This monthly communication will be used to update you as the detail and timetable for change in our region becomes clearer.

End of joint statement ..

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) NEGOTIATIONS

The 08/09 SLA and Contact negotiation process has been agreed between the Prison Service Area Manager, Probation Chiefs and Chairs and the ROM. Many of the first meetings have been held, others are imminent. A second set of meetings have also been scheduled which will consider provisional agreements and identify any outstanding issues which need further consideration.

I have attached, at the end of this note, the priorities about which the SLA process is focused. Within these, work with offenders given indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPPs) remains of national and regional importance. In the region we will continue to work with providers to support proper management and the provision of appropriate services for IPPs. Following a review carried out by my office, and a series of interventions across the region, an IPP Stakeholder meeting is to be held in February.

THE REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CORSTON REPORT

Following the governments response to the Corston Report which focused on vulnerable women within the criminal justice system, a part of our response is to conduct a review of services to women offenders in the region.

The aim of the review is to inform an improved regional response to the needs of women offenders, including the identification of the most appropriate commissioning models to address those needs. The review will take into account the National Service Framework (NSF) for women offenders which will set out national policy on commissioning services for women. This is due to be published in April 08. My office is supporting both the development of the NSF and work, both nationally and regionally, to support a strategy to address the health needs of women offenders.

CONSULTATION

NOMS Strategic plan for Reducing re-offending; Offender health strategy; NOMS Third Sector action plan; NOMS/YJB Plan for working with the Faith Sector.

Consultation on these four significant national strategies was launched jointly at a partnerships event in London on 27 November 2007.

The documents contain strong cross-cutting themes which provide an indication of the future focus of the work of NOMS and our partners. These include increased and enhanced engagement with Third sector and Faith organisations in effective, integrated offender management, along with improved partnerships to increase efficiency.

A regional consultation event was held on 14 January in Leeds, jointly hosted by Jayne Brown (Chair of Doncaster PCT) and Neil Evans, (Chair of "Safer Leeds"). 120 cross sector delegates attended. The event facilitated vibrant discussion between senior colleagues from NOMS, Third sector, Health organisations and Local Partnerships.

The day also acted as a vehicle to disseminate the learning from the regional NOMS "Equal" funded employer engagement initiative, and to highlight the critical role of economic inclusion in diverting offenders from crime. Further information on this initiative and is available from Julie Wallace Julie.wallace@justice.gov.uk

A summary from the consultation event will be submitted nationally and available shortly for delegates and other interested parties. The consultation is open until 22 February.

DATA CAPTURE ON SHORT TERM PRISON POPULATION

Regional NOMS , HMPS and Government Office YH, has commissioned a project to capture information on the profile and needs of the 12 month prisoners released to Local Authorities in the region to inform LAA priority setting. It has been agreed that a three month project will be led by a prison governor and supported by the ROM team Information Manager and GOYH. The project will identify the information that already exists, and what extra needs to be collected. A process will then be established for collecting and collating information on a regular basis.

INTERGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT (WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE)

Over the Christmas period this partnership model, led by West Yorkshire Police, was tested by targeting prisoners released from the regions prisons, returning to West Yorkshire. This offered the opportunity to assess how prison releases can be managed in a more effective and efficient manner, with the following objectives:

- To reduce the re-offending rate of those released from prison between the 21/12/07 and the 01/01/08.
- To produce Action/Care plans for those released aiming to reduce re-offending.
- To allow appropriate arrangements and services to be in place for the release of High Volume, High Crime Causing Offenders and therefore provide re assurance and support to the wider community

Voluntary Sector service providers were invited to participate to support needs including debt advice, finance management, benefits advice, accommodation and young people's issues. Over 30 organisations expressed an interest.

Early indications are that the initiative was successful in identifying and engaging the target group of prisoners and the Police are now pulling together a formal debrief including lessons learnt for the future. I will keep you informed of progress.

BUTLER TRUST AWARDS

The Butler Trust contributes towards showcasing excellent practice undertaken by staff working with offenders in custody and in the community. To date 220 major awards and 520 certificates have been presented. Within our region this year, awards have been received by Humberside Probation, North Yorkshire Probation and HMPS.

Humberside Probation:

The Prolific and Priority Offender Teams were awarded the Offender Management and Sentence Planning Award.

Mike Clarke, Senior Probation Officer has been successful in obtaining an Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the effective care of offenders.

North Yorkshire Probation:

The Making Safe Team in Scarborough won the Public Protection Award for their innovative project addressing domestic violence.

HMPS

Awards went to:

Janet Walker - (Head of Learning & Skills) HMP Lindholme
Timothy White - (Officer Instructor) HMP Moorland (closed)
Richard Logan - (Officer Instructor) HMP Moorland (closed)

I wish to extend my personal congratulations to all those recognised by these prestigious awards and the valuable contribution their work makes to our collective efforts to supporting the management and rehabilitation of offenders.

As all of the above indicates, the year has commenced with a great deal of activity, including significant challenges which we can only truly meet by working in partnership. I remain committed to ensuring our work continues to explore innovative ways of meeting these challenges. As ever, I will keep you informed of developments in future correspondence.

Best wishes

HILARY CAMPBELL
Regional Offender Manager Yorkshire & Humberside

YH REGIONAL COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES

Our key priorities for 2008/09 are to:

1. Ensure end-to-end offender management services are in place for those qualifying offenders, and that providers meet required standards. OM is central to bringing closer together the efforts of prison and probation providers. We must also explore affordable options to target present supervision arrangements more effectively with appropriate focus on those offenders who pose the greatest risks.
2. Streamline, modernise and improve the targeting of interventions, and aggregate local and regional targets into a national set, with increasing emphasis on joining up prison and probation efforts.
3. Implement the priorities of reducing re-offending boards to ensure effective local delivery.
4. Ensure that the delivery of services for additional custodial places matches the priorities set out in this framework.
5. Underpin better commissioning through the development and implementation of National Service Frameworks for women and for prisoners with indeterminate sentences for public protection.
6. Ensure courts receive the quality and timely sentencing advice they need.
7. Deliver Premium Service to all PPOs, including those subject to short term sentences, released without licence.
8. Deliver bail information, assessment and support services for all court areas across the region.

Our key enabling priorities to support commissioning delivery are to:

9. Use our new probation area and local authority level metrics, to build up a more informative picture of re-offending. This can then be used to drive work to reduce both volume and serious re-offending more effectively.
10. Develop commissioning and joint commissioning skills and capability across all NOMS commissioners at national, regional, and local (probation boards/trusts) level, and support commissioning with the 'best value' mechanism being currently developed.
11. Continue to develop robust partnership and joint commissioning arrangements and plans to support public protection and reducing re-offending objectives at national, regional and more local level.
12. Maintain effective engagement with sentencers at national, regional and local level.