

# Reducing Reoffending Board Note of Meeting

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 10:30-12:30**

Teams Call

## **1. Welcome, apologies for absence, and actions from previous meeting**

### **Confirmed Attendees:**

Probation Service	Greater London Authority Health Team
Metropolitan Police Service	London Councils
Public Health England	BounceBack
London Heads of Community Safety	Catch 22
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service	HMP Isis
Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service	
Clinks	
Mayors Office for Policing and Crime	

Two Independent Custody Visitors were also in attendance.

### **Confirmed Apologies:**

NHS  
HMP Wormwood Scrubs  
Youth Justice Board

Updates were given on the actions from the last meeting.

## **2. Police and Crime Plan**

The Police and Crime Plan (PCP) must be created by every police and crime commissioner within the first year of which they're elected. In this case, it is the Mayor. For this term the PCP will be much more concise, it will reflect the manifesto, current issues in London and commissioning budgets.

There is now a draft of the PCP which is working it's way through the clearance process which will then go out to consultation.

The PCP is split into four headline visions:

1. Reducing Violence – Continue the work already happening, focusing on knife crime, hate crime, VAWG, violent high harm offenders etc.
2. Better Supporting Victims – Continue the work the victims commissioner Claire Waxman has done, improving services for victims, improve outcomes in their cases, reduce repeat victims of DA & Sexual Violence.

3. Increasing Trust and Confidence – Continue the work of the action plan, with a particular focus on black communities, reflect importance of community safety, volume crimes and neighbourhood safety.
4. Protecting People from Exploitation and Harm – This section includes vulnerable people, safeguarding, missing people, young people in justice service, reducing the number of young people and adults exploited and harmed.

There is a few more weeks until public consultation but once ready this will be through TALK London, surveys with YouGov, stakeholder meetings and community meetings.

After consultation, MOPAC will reflect and respond to feedback, then publish the final PCP by hopefully January 2022.

### **3. Probation Reunification Update**

The decision was made by government in 2019 to return the probation model into one unified service. The service is now unified, and the priority focus is to stabilise the service into a completely operational and streamlined service.

There has been a creation of 12 probation regions in England and Wales. The slides show the breakdown within London and who is responsible for what areas.

There is also a Regional Outcome & Innovation Fund (ROIF) which provides services which are not normally delivered as part of a sentence, for example, the current community football project.

### **4. Police Custody and Reoffending**

ICV schemes were created in direct response to public concerns (specifically Black, Asian and Minority ethnic Londoners) of transparency, equality and fairness of Police practices.

During the first half of 1981 several outbreaks of unrest occurred in major cities throughout the country. The most significant of these disorders took place in Brixton.

The cause of these disorders centred around young, predominately black people, protesting about oppressive policing and in particular the perceived harassment of people, especially young black people, by the police – in short, these incidents voiced a lack of trust in the Metropolitan Police Force.

Lord Scarman's report was a pivotal moment for community relations and the concepts of community policing and policing by consent. He advocated for greater community involvement in policing. His work led to the establishment of the rights of people detained in police custody for a suspected offence and began the process of the Met moving away from the idea as a police force and into a police service.

As part of the recommendations arising from the investigation and following report, Lord Scarman advocated a system for members of the public from local communities to inspect the way the police detained people in their custody. Originally referred to as lay visiting, independent custody visiting is the system that has been developed to meet this recommendation.

Every PCC now has a legal obligation under Section 51 of the Police Reform Act 2002 to make arrangements for detainees to be visited by persons appointed under independent custody visiting (ICV) schemes.

An ICV panel operates in every London borough that has an active custody facility. Overall, the scheme is made up of over 21 panels visiting 34 London custody suites. In addition to visiting MPS Custody Suites, MOPAC provides ICV services to the UK Border Force (UKBF) based in Colnbrook, Hillingdon and British Transport Police (BTP) based in Islington. MOPAC also provides training to City Of London Custody Visitors ensuring consistent knowledge amongst all ICV across London.

ICV recommendations can require the police to make improvements for the welfare of detainees or staff. Working as part of a local panel, they play a valuable role in MOPAC's oversight of Police Custody and maintaining public confidence in this important area of policing by making sure that detainees are treated well.

All ICV Schemes in the United Kingdom work within the framework provided by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) and the Home Office Code of Practice on Independent Custody Visiting.

The UK is also party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). This is an international human rights treaty designed to strengthen the protection of people deprived of their liberty through a system of regular, independent visits to places of detention that serves as an important safeguard against abuses, and to prevent torture and ill-treatment in places that by their very nature are hidden from public view. ICV Schemes are an important part of our National Preventative Mechanism, which exists to ensure our adherence to OPCAT.

The London scheme took part in the Angiolini public review into deaths in custody which was published in 2017 and had visits shadowed by representatives of the NPM and UN in 2020.

MOPAC responded quickly to the pandemic by introducing and managing virtual visits. Helping to protect ICVs, detainees and custody staff as well as allow more flexibility to our ICVs. The arrangements we put in place are in line with our statutory obligations (which are to ensure a system for custody visiting is in place) and with Home Office expectations during the pandemic. We are one of only a handful of PCCs that have managed to maintain any physical visits to custody suites throughout 2020. The scheme delivered 543 visits in 2020/21 of these 263 were virtual visits.

Since 2015 ICVs role has developed and had more of a specific focus on the welfare of vulnerable people in police custody. This was triggered by a HMICFRS thematic report on the welfare of vulnerable people in police custody. The inspection focused on three groups where there was "a pronounced concern" about their treatment in police custody:

- those with mental health conditions;
- those from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds; and
- children.

The findings from this inspection further informed MPS, MOPAC, ICVA and of course the HMICFRS understanding, policies and strategies regarding these groups.

ICVs have been directed by MOPAC and further public reviews, inquiries and inspections to focus these vulnerable groups. Between 2018- 2020 ICVs spoke on average to 45% of total detainees in custody.

ICV make up:

- 55% female 45% male
- 45% under 65 year old
- 16% of volunteers identify as non-white
- 25% of volunteers have between 10-25+ years of service
- 50% of volunteers have 5-9 years of service

ICVs have diverse traits, experiences and skills these include knowledge of their community, neurodiversity, legal practices, healthcare, probation and the criminal justice system. Their diverse knowledge has resulted in ICVs directly influencing Custody understanding of religion – a case where a detainee had been refusing food for over 24 hrs, prior to the ICV visit. The ICVs personal experiencing of the Islamic religion meant they were able to identify the detainee was refusing food on the basis they would have to eat it in the cell which contained a visible toilet, which was against their religious practices. The detainee was assessed and considered able to be offered the opportunity to eat their meal on a bench outside their cell.

ICVs reports and panel meeting discussions feed MOPAC's oversight of custody. Examples of this include – reviews of use of powers and confidence in practice such as strip-searching powers and use against children, the delivery of key rights and entitlements such as the provision of sanitary products for women.

All ICVs are living embodiments of values that drive MOPAC, MPS and I say many Londoners; Fairness, Integrity, Courage and Compassion. They connect with detainees on an individual level and see the humanity of both detainees and MPS staff. This allows them to build mutual trust and respect and cultivates an environment where the police respond to well-founded criticism with a willingness to listen, learn, grow and change.

ICV Ongoing Concerns (see slides for more detail):

- Neurodiversity and mental health support
- Young people and children
- Courts and prisons
- Disproportionality

Research shows that roughly 50% of first-time offenders will not come back into custody but those who come back in for a second or third time should be targeted by focused interventions as they're then 5x more likely to return to custody again. 75% of minor offences do not result in interventions following custody and this is a big issue.

Autism is also a huge gap within custody and we need to remember custody suites might not even be local to them anymore as many were shut down and operate by BCUs. We need to ensure operationally programmes are localised.

## 5. Local Leadership Innovation Fund

- £7.1m MoJ fund to test new approaches that support prisoner resettlement and reduce reoffending for prison leavers with a maximum of £1m per successful bid
- Key principals are co-design, systems led change, innovation and evaluation
- Wide range of outcomes including improved health, ETE, family and relationships, accommodation, well-being and overall reoffending
- Round one bids were in February and March 2021 with delivery starting in September/October 2021
- Round two bidding just about to open.

Successful pilots in London:

### 1. Achieving Compliance and Engagement (ACE)

The aim is to reduce the number of Fixed Term Recalls (FTR's) due to non-compliance with licence conditions for adult male prisoners in East London resettlement boroughs.

This will be done through two cohorts:

- Cohort One: at risk of recall due to non-compliance with licence conditions
- Cohort Two: at risk of recall upon release from London Prisons into target resettlement boroughs

The pilot will offer a structured alternative to recall due to non-compliance using strengths based assessment of needs and identification of goals/aspirations. Having a person – centred approach with tailored interventions as well as mentoring, advice and advocacy. There will also be a personal grant offer with an accommodation focus.

### 2. Bounceback - Prison Leavers Project

Project objectives:

- Better experience on day 1 of release – Effective holistic IIRP,( available on day of release) proposed by programme will ensure improved experience
- Smoother access to services – Integrated coordinators, and peer mentoring to increase accessibility and engagement via improved resettlement planning
- Family and community better prepared to support prison leaver on release – achieved through improved family relationship output outlined above.
- Improved relationships with family and friends – achieved through culturally informed NVR and CBT outputs
- Access to continued substance misuse & mental health support – SMS Connecting Communities Lead to improve pathways between prison and community; more PLs to access support.
- Employment at 6 weeks and 6 months after release – Increased accessibility to existing provision and Employment support, skills development, and Employment in this pilot should result in increases in employment

The pilot will work with:

- Prisoners sentenced to 12 months or less released into targets boroughs
- Prisoners on Remand (sentencing under 12 months if convicted)
- Prisoners Released due to time served

## **6. AOB and Close**

The creation of an adult disproportionality action plan was something previously discussed at the RRB, and is now being developed along similar lines to the youth action plan.

Next meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.