

Public Note of Meeting

Reducing Reoffending Board

23rd May 2022, 13:30-15:30

MS Teams

Chair: Will Balakrishnan, Director of Commissioning & Partnerships (MOPAC)

1. Welcome, apologies and actions from previous meetings

MOPAC welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited new attendees to introduce themselves.

Actions from previous meetings were covered.

At the last meeting, an action was taken to have an agenda item on PCP actions relevant to RRB. It was decided to have this agenda item at the September board so it can wrap the discussion in with the performance framework we hope to have developed by then. To briefly update, there have been some significant changes to the PCP since the draft version came to the board. This is mostly around drugs, which now has a whole section under the Reducing and Preventing Violence section of the plan and Fraud has also been embedded throughout the plan as a priority. At the next meeting we will take a deep dive into the changes relevant to RRB and discuss what these means for the next 3 years.

2. Prisons and Probation Regional Reducing Reoffending Plan

Probation Service led this item.

The Prisons and Probation Regional Reducing Reoffending Plan has been finalised and is with ministers for sign off. Partnership working will be key to the delivery of this plan and RRB members are encouraged to engage in this plan.

The plan is broken down into the following sections:

- Training, Skills and Work
- Drugs and Alcohol Addiction
- Family, Accommodation and Readjustment to society
- Public Security through engagement and compliance

Attendees were given an overview of the above sections and were invited to comment. This plan will fall under the RRB going forward.

3. Thematic Session – Gambling

GamCare led this item.

GamCare is the leading provider of information, advice and support for anyone affected by gambling harms. They operate the National Gambling Helpline, provide treatment for anyone who is harmed by gambling, create awareness about safer gambling and treatment, and encourage an effective approach to safer gambling within the gambling industry.

Gambling - “To stake or risk money or anything of value on the outcome of something involving chance.”

Problematic Gambling - “Gambling that compromises, disrupts or damages family, employment, personal or recreational pursuits.”

Problem gambling is in stages and varies in impact.

6% of gamblers reported criminal activity as impact of their gambling. This is only those who has admitted to this, GamCare suggest this is likely to be higher. 4% referrals to GamCare were received from CJS agencies.

Howard League have an ongoing commission on problem gambling and crime which partners should engage with.

Three main links between gambling and crime

- Direct - Gambling facilitates offending or offending facilitates gambling
- Co-symptomatic – A third factor increases the likelihood of both offending and gambling (alcohol/drugs)
- Indirect - Gambling and offending are unrelated

The offences linked to problematic gambling

- Income producing – the crime is driven by the need to generate funds to gamble with or to replace funds lost gambling (theft, fraud etc)
- Emotive crimes – the crime is driven by the emotional state caused by gambling (criminal damage)
- Domestic violence/IPV – Violence brought on through tensions amongst family members/partners about money.

Community treatment falls into four tiers; signposting and information, extended brief intervention, adult treatment services and clinical residential interventions. The most gain is made in the first three sessions.

Current work in London with GamCare

- MPS pilot that ran last year. 6 month pilot which delivered training to officers and embedded a screening tool. 38 referrals during the 6 months and only 5 returned back to custody. GamCare are keen to explore what more can be done with MPS.
- London probation pilot for 12 months - training being delivered to probation officers and screening tool being embedded. A community workbook will also be created for people on probation. The data of screening and referrals will be monitored to get more information on prevalence and need.
- Strong partnership with HMP Wandsworth and developing better referral pathways, screening tool and in cell information book.

Challenges

- Gambling sits outside assessment, case management and recording systems – makes data pull hard
- Existing high workload makes it difficult to engage CJ workforce – less capacity for screening
- Complex and chaotic cohort have competing priorities – those in CJS will have other needs but if left untreated/unidentified will limit how far individuals can go in their resettlement
- Current level of understanding of gambling harm requires culture change
- Gambling does not have a clear position within national regional service strategy and operational delivery.

Recommendations

- Fund dedicated pilots providing resource and capacity to raise awareness, deliver treatment pathways and provide support and treatment
- Where possible include gambling harm screening in assessments, case management and recording
- Contribute to the ongoing pilot projects to build a national prevalence and needs analysis.

Attendees discussed the ongoing work in this area and the challenges. This item will return to the board for an update on the work partners are doing in the future.

4. Integrated Offender Management

MOPAC led this item.

MOPAC have created a dashboard that will make impact and performance information regularly available to all partners and especially local CSPs. This dashboard, which is just being finalised, is based on MPS data and includes pan-London data being routinely available for the first time on the size, demographics and crime profiles of the cohort and ongoing measurement of impact on reoffending and cost of crime. In addition, a new shared performance summary report for probation and police on IOM. The dashboard will be accessible through a secure link.

There are upcoming plans to co-commission enhanced IOM interventions pan-London which will be based on needs and gap analysis. The main area of shared agreement where significant need exists without enough provision is around mental health, neurodiversity, housing and mentoring provision.

5. AOB and Close

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1st September 2022.