

Subject: Responses to Committee Output

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| Report to: | Police and Crime Committee |
| Report of: | Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat |
| Date: | 24 May 2023 |
| Public Access: | This report will be considered in public |

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the responses received to Police and Crime Committee outputs.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the responses to the Committee’s report on Probation Services in London from the following:**
- (a) His Majesty’s Prison & Probation Service, as attached at Appendix 1;**
 - (b) The Magistrates Association, as attached at Appendix 2; and**
 - (c) His Majesty’s Courts & Tribunals Service, as attached at Appendix 3.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Committee used its meetings on 22 June and 20 July 2022 to discuss probation services in London with invited guests. Following those meetings, the Committee prepared a report making the following recommendations:
- The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) should meet with the London Probation Service before the end of March 2023 to discuss how it can support a large-scale recruitment campaign for probation staff in London.

- The Mayor should work with the Regional Probation Director for London and regional representatives of Napo to deliver a proposal to His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) for the payment of either: (a) market forces supplements to all people working in roles within the London Probation Service that are subject to high vacancy levels or low retention rates; or (b) an uplift in London weighting for all roles within the London Probation Service.
- His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, the Magistrates Association and the London Probation Service should establish a joint mechanism to record and report on the quality of pre-sentence reports provided to sentencers in London Magistrates' Courts. This information should be used by the London Probation Service to drive improvements in the advice it provides to courts.
- MOPAC should update the London Blueprint for a Whole System Approach to Women in Contact with the Criminal Justice System to include substantive commitments on how statutory agencies will work together operationally to reduce haps between services.
- MOPAC should establish a London Blueprint for Black men and boys in contact with the criminal justice system, which brings together prisons, the London Probation Service and Black-led organisations to agree a set of actions to improve the support provided to Black men and boys under probation supervision.
- The London Probation Service should publish an annual review of its work to support the His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service Race Action Plan.
- Recognising the staffing crisis in probation, including the chronic shortage of resettlement staff, the London Probation Service should work with the London Prisons Group Director to empower key workers in prisons to make referrals to contracted probation providers prior to someone's release.
- The London Probation Service should work with prisons, MOPAC, local National Health Service providers and London Councils to establish improved referral pathways for prison leavers into community mental health services.
- MOPAC should work with the London Probation Service, the London Prison Group Director and London Councils to ensure all London boroughs make it possible for people to submit housing applications from prison, rather than only after release. This should include providing people in prison with better access to computers and telephones to contact London boroughs prior to release.
- MOPAC should work with the London Probation Service and London Councils to ensure all contracted providers of probation services are able to make referrals to local authorities under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
- MOPAC should coordinate a new joint protocol which will set out how to maximise the opportunities presented by Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 (CAS3) to secure long-term sustainable accommodation for people on probation. This work should involve: the successful CAS3 provider, the London Probation Service, the London Prisons Group, London Councils, all 32 London boroughs, the contracted provider of accommodation services to people on probation (currently St Mungo's), and G15 Housing Associations.

- The London Probation Service should work alongside MOPAC to lead a programme of engagement with probation staff, people on probation, and voluntary and community groups, to identify gaps and needs in each London borough. This should inform how the London Probation Service allocates grant funding through the Regional Outcomes and Innovation Fund, and future grant-making decisions.
- MOPAC and the London Probation Service should conduct a review of local voluntary and community sector services in London that work with people on probation. This joint mapping exercise should result in a London Services for People on Probation database. The London Probation Service should host and maintain this database, and make it available to all probation staff via its intranet.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The Committee has received the following responses from:

- His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service, dated 17 March 2023, as attached at **Appendix 1**;
- The Magistrates Association, dated 13 April 2023, as attached at **Appendix 2**; and
- His Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service, dated 24 April 2023, as attached at **Appendix 3**.

4.2 The Committee is asked to note the responses received.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Correspondence from His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service, dated 17 March 2023

Appendix 2 – Correspondence from the Magistrates Association, dated 13 April 2023

Appendix 3 – Correspondence from His Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service, dated 24 April 2023

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

None.

Contact Information

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