

Call for evidence: Probation services in London

June 2022

The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee has launched an investigation into the London Probation Service. We will consider how the London Probation Service is working in partnership with statutory agencies and voluntary sector organisations since reunification, to support people under probation supervision and reduce their risk of reoffending.

The Committee would like to invite you to submit views and information to the investigation, giving you the opportunity to inform our work and influence our recommendations.

Background

In June 2021, the London Probation Service was established, signalling a major change in how probation services are delivered across London.

The creation of the London Probation Service was part of wider reforms to the delivery of probation services across England and Wales. These reforms brought to an end the previous *Transforming Rehabilitation* model, which split the delivery of probation between privately-operated Community Rehabilitation Companies and the state-run National Probation Service. In its place, the Probation Service was established, with London as one of its 12 regional units across England and Wales. The reunified service is responsible for the delivery of all sentence management, Unpaid Work, structured interventions and the

commissioning of rehabilitative and resettlement services from third party providers.

One-year on from these reforms, the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee will consider how well the reunified model is operating and whether it is working as effectively as it can with partner agencies such as the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Metropolitan Police (the Met), London Boroughs, voluntary organisations and community sector organisations, to reduce reoffending.

Key questions

1. What, if any, improvements have there been in the delivery of probation services in London one-year on from reunification? Please refer to any aspect of probation delivery you have knowledge of, i.e.
 - advice provided to court
 - pre-release planning
 - resettlement support
 - access to accommodation
 - sentence management
 - delivery of Unpaid Work, accredited programmes and structured interventions.
2. How have changes to probation services affected partnership working between the London Probation Service, MOPAC and the Met?

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3. Has the experience of those bidding for contracts or applying for grants to deliver services under the new model improved, either through the London Probation Service or MOPAC?
4. What further action could MOPAC and the London Probation Service take to access voluntary sector expertise in the design and delivery of services aimed at reducing reoffending?
5. Are the specific needs of women being met under the reunified probation service?
6. Are there particular challenges facing Black, Asian and/or minority ethnic people under probation supervision in London?
7. Are the specific needs of other groups of Londoners being met under the reunified probation service? For example, disabled people, people who are LGBTIQ+, older people etc.
8. Do you have any other thoughts in relation to probation services in London not covered by the questions above?

How to respond

Submissions should aim to address any of the questions outlined above, and other issues that are relevant to the investigation. We are keen to hear from probation practitioners, campaigners, voluntary sector

organisations, London boroughs and anyone else with an interest in this topic.

We also particularly welcome evidence from service users and those with lived experience of probation services in London and are open to receiving evidence in different formats, such as videos or voice recordings if that makes it easier for someone to respond.

To contribute, please send submissions to the committee by the deadline of **Monday 18 July 2022** using the details below. If you have any queries, please get in touch.

Please note: We will usually publish written submissions online unless they are marked as confidential or there is a legal reason for non-publication. We may be required to release a copy of your submission under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if it has been marked as confidential.

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| Email submissions | scrutiny@london.gov.uk Please use 'PCC- probation investigation' as the subject title |
| Further information | Janette Roker, Senior Policy Adviser, 07511 213748 Janette.roker@london.gov.uk |

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| | Philippa Goffe, Senior Policy Adviser, 07729 625453 Philippa.goffe@london.gov.uk |
| Media enquiries | Emma Bowden, External Communications Officer, Emma.bowden@london.gov.uk 07849 303897 |

- Tony Devenish AM
- Neil Garratt AM
- Susan Hall AM (Chair)
- Sem Moema AM
- Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM.
- Keith Prince AM
- Caroline Russell AM
- Dr Onkar Sahota AM.

About the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee

The London Assembly consists of 25 elected London Assembly Members, who publicly examine the policies and programmes of the Mayor of London and relevant agencies through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.

The Police and Crime Committee examines the work of MOPAC, which oversees the Met. It also investigates key issues and other matters which the Assembly considers to be of importance to policing and crime reduction in London, and it routinely publishes the findings and recommendations of its investigations.

The members of the committee are:

- Marina Ahmad AM
- Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair)