

# Public Note of Meeting

## Reducing Reoffending Board

28 February 2023, 13:30-15:30

### MS Teams

Chair: Director of Commissioning & Partnerships (MOPAC)

#### Attendees:

MOPAC  
YJB  
NHS  
LB Camden  
LB Haringey  
London Probation  
LB Hammersmith & Fulham  
LPG  
GLA  
Clinks  
DWP  
London Councils

MPS  
Maximus  
DLUHC

### 1. Thematic Review 2021 - 2022

MOPAC reflected on the need to demonstrate the impact of the partnership boards and streamline their approach, which was a catalyst for the Governance Review in 2021. MOPAC are keen to communicate the value of the boards through a chair's note to LCJB and would like to start by discussing certain thematic areas in 2021 – 22 on reducing reoffending in London.

Thematic areas from 2021 - 22 included:

- **Veterans** - presentation by the Regular Forces Employment Association outlined the specific needs of veterans in the CJS, the types of offences veterans are overrepresented in, the current support in place and the ongoing issues for partners to consider including a lack of identification across the CJS. The group agreed to increase links with the Care After Combat services and to build veterans as a specific group into work on developing trust and confidence.
- **Neurodiversity** - Genuis Within presented different types of neurodiversity, the specific needs those in the CJS have, the statistics showing a high proportion of those in the CJS are neurodiverse and the things partners need to be considering from services to everyday amendments. Partners agreed to:
  - Explore rolling out neurodiversity awareness training across their organisations.
  - Consider how the model covered could be used in London establishments.
  - Improve links with Pupil Referral Units.
- **Gambling Harms** - GamCare presented a definition of Gambling Harms, work that has taken place across London, how gambling harms and crime are linked together, the challenges and

recommendations for the partners to consider. The group agreed to share information on Gambling Harms to share with London boroughs via LHOCs.

Progress made within London Probation:

- Veteran's - Key strategic aim for London probation as part of what's called the golden thread strategy to highlight specific minoritized groups within the CJS. Probation have commissioned a specific Ex-armed service personnel engagement service for people on probation in London, which is delivered by Nacro.
- Neurodiversity – Probation are interested in neurodiversity and are working in partnership with MOPAC to look at the possible Co-commissioning of a neurodiversity service for the IOM cohort.
- Gambling - London probation has separately commissioned GamCare to deliver training to staff and to create a referral pathway for people on probation with serious gambling behavioural issues into the more clinical services.

Progress made within NHS:

- Veteran's – NHS monitor and record when someone is identified as a veteran, for example through liaison and diversion services.
- Neurodiversity - NHS are conducting a gap analysis within London Prisons and Liaison and Diversion Services to identify what more needs to take place to raise awareness of neurodiversity. This work is being supported by UserVoice. NHS have recognised they are not picking up the needs of neurodiverse people and identifying them as they through the CJS.
- Gambling – GamCare's presentation was shared with the L&D services and a meeting has been arranged with L&D managers to discuss how gambling harm needs are being identified.

MOPAC reflected on a neurodiversity interactive experience at HMP Pentonville and the growing focus on neurodiversity within prisons, with neurodiversity coordinators going into prisons around the country.

Maximus work closely with Genius Within, who provide a tool which enables staff to work with people on probation in 1-2-1 sessions and go through a series of questions (75) to examine what their strengths are and what areas they might not excel in. This allows staff to think about jobs they might be suitable for and which areas to focus on strengthening.

LPG referred to the housing specialists within prisons who are starting to work with the neurodiversity leads to look at how staff can better support people upon release. Pre-release work to look at what their needs are, highlight them with housing authorities and to assist them with managing things like form filling.

MOPAC concluded the group are picking the right themes for RRB. The conversations within the board have led to organisation's having actions, or that it works as a reminder for the work already in progress.

## **2. Offender Employment and Education**

MOPAC updated the board the recent Economy Committee on Wednesday 22 February, where MOPAC was asked about employment barriers, MOPAC's overall strategy to ETE and what

further action the Mayor could take to reduce these barriers and increase employment rates for people who have contact with the CJS.

The relevant RRB outcome is *'by 2023, 30 per cent of prison leavers will be in employment 6 months post release (up from 11 per cent)'*.

Presentations were provided during the meeting by London Probation on employment, training and education support, by Maximus on getting men on probation the right ETE support and by DWP on South London Prison Work Coaches.

MOPAC added GLA employment and skills team do a lot of work in this area. They are responsible for a huge adult education budget in London which puts in place a lot of mainstream services around adult education which works with the recovery mission for London around key sectors and things like the good work for all standards. They have supported various prison-based employment projects. Funding into - The bad boy bakery at HMP Brixton and Escape restaurant in HMPYOI Wormwood scrubs.

GLA would be interested in linking up with partners as there is a £2 million a year ex offender employment fund through the ESF, which is for people that are not subjected to statutory supervision.

Clinks raised a provider forum event next month which will be a good opportunity to speak with VCS about the great work they are doing so people can learn from it and expand it across London. A good opportunity for stakeholders to provide information on the work they are doing also.

An action was taken to map all the provision available under this agenda item and return to this agenda item at a future date.

### **3. Homelessness Prevention**

The relevant RRB outcome is: *'more prison leaders will secure accommodation within the first 24 hours of their release (currently 43 per cent)'*.

London Probation provided an overview of CAS 3, AfEO, London Offenders Homelessness Prevention Group, London Probation Resettlement Panels and the strategic housing specialists.

LPG added the strategic Housing Specialist roles came from a pilot that ran a couple of years ago. This was to look at the housing component to try and reduce reoffending. The pilot did well and is now UK wide running in 49 areas including London.

MOPAC asked partners to expand on the challenges around accommodation upon release that are out of the direct control of these services and agencies. Are there particular groups on people on probation that are facing barriers?

LPG reflected there are certain cohorts that face specific challenges such as our foreign national prisoners who haven't got recourse to public funding. There is work ongoing in this area. St Mungo's have service in the community that can be referred into. Focus is needed on:

- How staff manage to convince local authorities that prison leavers have a priority need.
- What happens when prisoners are released late, and they've missed a housing appointment.
- What kind of pathways can be developed for late releases.

- What support can be provided to those who don't tell staff they are homeless until the day they are released.

GLA Housing added, over 50% of the people that are rough sleeping are non-UK nationals. Hoping to gain more data soon to understand this better.

Clinks highlighted the provider forum consultation last week where this issue was looked at. A couple of themes did come up repeatedly that affordability and availability of housing in London is such a massive barrier for service users and the sector. It's not helped by social housing policies and providers excluding people that have been involved with the criminal justice system and also private landlords, barring anyone with records as well. It's a massive barrier for people, particularly with many things being done online now. There was a call for London councils to be better funded for specific support for people in these situations, and potentially even stopping these blanket bans by housing providers. Finally, organisations also highlighted the benefit of talking about these issues with people far earlier on their prison experiences. So, at the very least, that would allow more time to find solutions.

LPG referred to the ongoing work with people who are already in prison and have properties to provide support in terms of referring to law centres so that they can be really engaged take some ownership over keeping their properties. LPG have also run housing surveys to gather information from people who have struggled with their housing in prison. Focus groups have been carried out recently with guys at HMP Wandsworth. They took an active interest in housing strategy.

#### **4. Drug Treatment and Continuity of Care**

The relevant RRB Outcome is: 'Increased engagement with drug-related treatment'.

MOPAC thanked everyone that came to the joint continuity of care event with HMPPS colleagues. One of the things that we talked about was the London drugs forum which is a new group that's been set up – that will help with the big strategic issues.

Due to time constraints a full update on Continuity of Care will be provided at the next meeting.

MOPAC updated the group on the London Drugs Forum. It was established with its first meeting back in October and it's a multi-agency partnership that brings together criminal justice and health agencies to develop an effective pan London whole system response to both drug related harms and crimes. There have been two meetings so far which focused on:

- Combating drugs partnerships, drug treatment in London
- The development of a London drug problem profile
- Workforce challenges
- The role diversion can play

#### **5. Serious Case Review**

MOPAC reminded attendees the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have spoken publicly about the issue, including writing to central government to call for an independent, multi-agency review and mobilising partners across the Criminal justice System to ensure that these tragic events can be used for learning.

MOPAC provided an overview of the identified areas needing improvement.

# MOPAC

**MAYOR OF LONDON**  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

London Probation added it's clear sharing of information needs improvement, not just between agencies but information sharing within the entire criminal justice system is needed. More work also needs to be done with neurodiversity and how we work with people from a trauma informed approach.

## **6. AOB and Close**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 30 May 2023.