



HM Prison & Probation Service

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To: PGDs, Governing Governors
CC Sonia Flynn, RPDs

Resettlement approach – continuation of pre-release services

As the 26th June approaches, and the unification of NPS and CRCs into the Probation Service, this letter outlines for prisons what changes are introduced, and what stays the same. All current eTTG contracts end in line with the end of all CRC contracts. The Resettlement approach has been designed to incorporate best practice from the current eTTG service such as working with specialist organisations and ensuring comprehensive robust release plans. It takes the lessons learnt from the evaluation and HMIP reports to enhance further pre-release services such as lack of accommodation on release and for prisoners serving short prison sentences, not receiving a sufficient service leading to outcomes due to lack of time. The unification into the Probation Service provided the opportunity to address some of the duplication and lack of clear accountability in the system. Working with the OMiC team and the Reconfiguration project, the Resettlement approach has been designed to utilise opportunities for clear roles and responsibilities. It works to support prisoners achieve outcomes and successfully become part of a community after release reducing the likelihood of further offending.

Regional Probation Directors have started, or are planning, engagement events within their regions including with Prison Groups Directors and Governors. As preparation for release involves prisons and probation working closely together, there will be regular discussions as the Resettlement Approach becomes Business as usual.

More information including on Commissioned Rehabilitation Service specifications are available on the Welcome Hub. [Welcome Hub \(hmpps.intranet.org.uk\)](http://hmpps.intranet.org.uk) FAQs are regularly uploaded as questions come into the programme and the presentations given by the Resettlement team are also available to view. Any questions can be sent to the following e-mails

darren.thompson@Justice.gov.uk or Jacqueline.Ashby@justice.gov.uk

If there are any concerns these can be raised at the Senior Leaders Forums in your Regions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB', written over a light blue grid background.

Jim Barton

Day 1 26th June 2021

1. The majority of **Through the Gate staff move into the Probation Service**. For at least 3 months they continue to deliver broadly the same services but adapting to use the services available through Commissioned Rehabilitative Services. Most staff remain in the prisons where they are currently located. This includes the non-resettlement prisons with exceptional/special arrangements to deliver a Pre-release service. In Wales eTTG staff are likely to move into new roles earlier as Sentence Management unification has already taken place.
2. **BCST** process will continue for pre-release planning and identification of immediate pre-release needs, including identifying any actions to avoid barriers at the end of prison term. The one change is BCST will not be completed for high risk prisoners at 12 weeks pre release to remove duplication with Probation Service pre-release assessments currently completed.
3. **Commissioned Rehabilitative Services start delivery**. These are available to all sentenced people in prison wherever they are held – resettlement or non-resettlement prison. Providers are community based in local areas where people in prison are to be released to. They have knowledge of and working arrangements with other local services. Services are mainly delivered in the community post release and can continue until outcomes are achieved or be accessed if circumstances change. Accommodation and Mentoring services start pre-release.
 - a. **Accommodation** – Accommodation providers take referrals after handover from POM to COMs or from point of sentence for those allocated direct to the community providing more time to achieve outcomes. Services include relinquishing tenancies at start of sentence, sustaining tenancies where possible, working with people in prison to secure accommodation and sustain it. The service starts pre-release and can continue post release outcomes achieved or if circumstances change. Providers will be based in resettlement prisons in the area they cover and in-reach/ remotely at other establishments.
 - b. **ETE** – services include supporting people newly released from custody into work, training or education providing the ability to continue progress in prison to achieve outcomes in the community. Referrals to CRS ETE providers should include details of Education providers working in the prison to enable effective liaison.
 - c. **Personal well-being including Mentoring** – The Mentoring service supports those lacking social support and who would otherwise struggle to establish themselves in the community to transition successfully from prison to community. Pre-release meetings build a relationship and agree outcomes. The service includes a meet at the gate provision and aims to support building social networks and engagement with other services.
 - d. **Women's Services** – the service covers all the resettlement pathways providing a holistic service. The accommodation and mentoring service starts pre-release. Providers are based in local communities providing on going support post release.
4. **OMiC** – remains unchanged on Day 1. People in prison will continue to be managed in accordance with the current OMiC model as legacy NPS or CRC until further notice.
5. **Current COM activity** – remains unchanged on Day 1. Most COMs will retain their existing caseloads. Letters will be sent to prisoners close to release to explain the changes. They will continue to work with POMs and former TTG staff remaining in the prison to prepare prisoners for release.

Resettlement approach – moving to a new approach beyond Day 1 to our target operating model

The following changes will take place at varying points due to the dependency upon additional Probation staff and decision made by RPDs regarding their approach to Pre-release, in conjunction with partners and stakeholders. Further comms will follow before the following are implemented by Probation Service Regions and Probation Reform Programme.

1. **Short Sentence Functions** – Wales and Yorkshire and the Humber are early adopters. For all other Probation regions, these will be implemented when regions have team structures in place to include a short sentence function. This provides a prompt, responsive service to those serving short sentences to sustain any existing community-based services such as accommodation or engagement with substance misuse services. Work starts from point of sentence on pre-release preparation. A robust focus is on improving engagement with the cohort with above average probability than the general prison population to commit further offences or be recalled. This should be in place in all regions by Summer 2022.
2. **Digital** – a new assess risks and needs tool is in development to replace the current BCST process. It is anticipated to be available in mid-2022. This has been incorporated into work to streamline assessments throughout prisoners' sentence to reduce duplication in questions and to draw information from one assessment to another.
3. **OMiC** – Enhanced model. The current service continues until additional staff are in post, currently anticipated to be spring 2022. Once in place, the Handover from POM to COM moves for all standard determinate cases to 7 ½ months pre-release. There will be 2 further mandated meetings including a meeting one-month pre-release to review pre-release plans and discuss licence conditions. This provides an increased level of contact between the COM and prison. A comprehensive assessment in OASys supports handover of information from prison to community including any assessments completed in prison.
4. **Increased Community Probation Practitioner (COM) activity** – as Community probation practitioners become responsible for all pre-release activity, they will be an increase in contacts pre-release. The increase in probation staff will resource this activity. Working with POMS, they will complete a pre-release assessment of risk and need, building on progress and assessments completed in prison. Prisons will see increased COM activity by spring 2022.

Further details of the full Resettlement Approach are in the Target Operating Model.

[HMPPS - The Target Operating Model for the Future of Probation Services in England Wales - English - 09-02-2021.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)