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To: Local Authority Chief Executives

Transforming Rehabilitation – Government reform of Probation Services

Dear Colleague

We wanted to take this opportunity to contact you all directly to outline what the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation changes will mean for the way Probation works with London local authorities in the future.

We have been keeping partner agencies regularly updated through a monthly newsletter and presentations at key meetings, including a London Councils event. This letter is designed to update you further.

The Government's Vision

The transformation programme is based on the following rationale:

- Need to reduce reoffending rates
- Investment and new ways of working to fund a new statutory rehabilitation requirement for all those sentenced to under 12 months' custody
- Greater flexibility to do what works
- More diversity of providers
- Market forces drive right behaviours if rewards are based on successful outcomes.

From 1 June, the work formerly delivered by Probation Trusts transferred to two new organisations: the National Probation Service (NPS) and regional Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs.) The CRCs will manage the majority of offenders under probation supervision until a contract for this work is awarded in October 2014. The contract award will be followed by a period of mobilisation by the new providers.

The competition for the regional contracts is being managed by the Ministry of Justice and is open to private and voluntary and community sector bidders. There will be payment by results incentives for the new providers.

The responsibilities of the new organisations are as follows.

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National Probation Service – Responsibilities

- Undertake all Court reports and parole reports
- Undertake all initial assessments to determine which provider will manage a case
- Manage offenders who are MAPPA registered, pose a high risk of serious harm, or it is in the public interest to do so
- Be responsible for victim liaison work and management of Approved Premises
- Decide on action in relation to all potential breaches beyond first warning and advise the Courts or Secretary of State on sanctions or recall to custody
- Consult on changes in risk of harm.

Community Rehabilitation Companies/New providers – Responsibilities

- Manage all medium and low risk of harm offenders excluding MAPPA
- Deliver interventions and programmes, excluding Sex Offender Treatment Programmes
- Provide ‘through the gate’ services for prisoners – a new statutory requirement for all offenders sentenced to less than 12 months’ in custody, to be introduced in 2015
- Deliver mentoring services and Restorative Justice
- Take on management of Senior Attendance Centres in 2015
- Deliver Community Payback – in London, the current partnership with Serco will terminate.

What This Means in London

In London, approximately 17,000 cases will be retained by the new public sector body. Approximately 23,000 cases will be managed by the Community Rehabilitation Company and competed for by new providers.

The Community Rehabilitation Companies will be public bodies and the new providers will also be governed by key requirements, including sharing information with partners.

The National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company have been operating as shadow organisations in London since April and are committed to working together effectively. Probation services will continue to be delivered in all London boroughs and local authorities can expect to see staff from both organisations continuing to deliver local services.

Both organisations are fully committed to supporting Adult Reoffending Strategies at a borough and London-wide level. Both will contribute to inter-agency work, including Integrated Offender Management, Community Safety Partnerships, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs and Safeguarding Boards. Probation Assistant Chief Officers will continue to attend relevant partnership meetings.

The enclosed ‘Offender Journey’ diagram will give you an indication of how this will work in practice: NPS Court staff will be responsible for assessing risk, preparing Pre Sentence Reports and allocating cases to either the NPS or CRC. The NPS will be working with Directors of Children’s Services and their staff to agree a process for providing early information about safeguarding children to inform risk assessments.

As the leaders of the two new London organisations, we are determined to deliver high quality probation services in the capital and to support local and London-wide targets to reduce reoffending. We will be hosting a joint breakfast seminar on 15 July which will explore this new model for delivering probation services in London. The seminar will run

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from 9.00am (registration from 8.30am) until 10.00am at 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London. You may like to hold this date in your diary as the event will give you an opportunity to find out more and ask any questions you may have. You will receive a formal invitation with more details separately.

In the meantime, please see attached contact details for your local Assistant Chief Officers – we would encourage you to contact them to discuss local arrangements in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Smart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick Smart
Chief Executive
London Community Rehabilitation Company

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Robinson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sara Robinson
Deputy Director
National Probation Service – London

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