

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Lindsay Dunn/Martin Nugent

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| Subject/ Title: |
| Greater Manchester Integrated Rehabilitative Services (GMIRS) - Pick Up at the Gate Wellbeing Pilot |

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| Type of decision: | | | |
| Deputy Mayor's decision | x | Chief Officer's decision | |

In all cases this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

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| <p>The decision is that:</p> <p>The Big Life Group be awarded £72,157 as the lead provider for the provision of the 'Pick Up at The Gate' Wellbeing pilot for a 12-month period from the 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.</p> |
| <p>The reasons for the decision are:</p> <p>As the lead commissioner, GMCA alongside HMPPS have commissioned a 'pick up at the gate service' through the GMIRS Wellbeing Service to assist those people on probation overcome obstacles which could impact on positive engagement with both licence requirements and their own resettlement aspirations.</p> <p>The Big Life Group were awarded the contract as the lead provider for the Wellbeing Service as part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Rehabilitation Service (GMIRS) following an Open Tender procedure in September 2023.</p> <p>The Big Life Group will act as the lead provider and receive referrals to the service from the pre-release Probation Practitioner. Big Life will sufficiently resource in house support to complete the triage before transferring the facilitation of transport to On the Out, a local Community Interest Company (nonprofit) who currently support men and women leaving prison to overcome barriers faced on release such as addiction, homelessness, mental/physical health issues.</p> |

On the Out will be required to facilitate transport on the day of release to any of the ten Local Authority areas of Greater Manchester for those leaving custody who have identified needs and vulnerabilities.

The service will be provided from prison to the person on probations accommodation/approved premises and/or the initial appointment with their probation practitioner at the local Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) or Wellbeing Hub / Women's Centre. Connecting individuals on probation with local wellbeing services at the hub / centre, helps to create a network of support that addresses various aspects of their lives. This holistic method can significantly aid in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

There will be a phased rollout to enable assessment of the service and resource demand against current referral profiles. At the end of phase one, feedback will be taken from stakeholders and the provider to understand best practice opportunities for continued delivery.

Mobilisation began on 1st September 2024. Phase one of delivery will begin on 1st November 2024 when referrals will be accepted for People on Probation being released from the following prison's:

1st November 2024 to 31st January 2025

HMP Styal

HMP Forest Bank

HMP Hindley

All Young Offender Institutions across the UK

1st February 2025 – 30th June 2025

Referrals will be accepted for all remaining prisons based in the Northwest of England not covered in the first roll out.

1st July 2025 – 31st August 2025

Referrals will be accepted for all prisons in England and Wales for people on licence returning to Greater Manchester.

The pickup at the gate service will only accept referrals for people being released on licence that are in the below priority groups.

Priority 1

All 18/19-year-olds being released from a Young Offender Institute anywhere in the UK. These cases shall be prioritised in all instances.

Priority 2

Women at risk of being released as homeless from prison with support needs.

Priority 3

Male and female people on probation who have needs or risks specifically linked to their capacity to make their way to a specific address on the day of release.

The service provider will be required to have a minimum of 20 contacts per month with individual people being released on licence to all Greater Manchester Local Authority areas. These contacts will include face to face pre-release visits, video links, and where available pre-release team facilitated phone calls. These contacts also include the meet at the gate for transportation to the pre-arranged address(s).

From the 20 contacts per month, it is expected that at least 12 at the gate collections are fulfilled. Volumes will be reviewed in line with learning from the mobilisation and phase one.

A monthly report will be submitted by On the Out to Big Life which will evaluate service delivery. Both Big Life and On the Out will be required to work with GMCA to ensure the evaluation needs are met.

This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:

The vision for the Strategy is to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world ‘to grow up, get on and grow old’. A key element of delivering this vision is that every community and person in Greater Manchester feels safe and secure in their daily lives. The commissioning of the Pickup at the Gate service will act as a ‘bridge’ to connect people to appropriate support, working in strong partnership with other voluntary and statutory agencies helping to support individuals to live pro-social lifestyles and support probation services with the management and rehabilitation of people on probation.

GMCA and Greater Manchester Probation Service are developing a ‘total system’ of integrated rehabilitative services for People on Probation. They share a joint ambition to: ‘Increase the alignment of services to avoid fragmented delivery; improve support through sequencing of needs for People on Probation and recognise the voluntary and community assets that already exist within Greater Manchester communities.

Links to Police and Crime Plan:

Priority 1 – Contributing to reducing victims of violence, increasing feelings of safety and increasing confidence in community safety.

Priority 2 – Preventing violence, and the precursors to violence such as ASB. Intervening early to reduce the harm caused by violence.

Priority 3 – Supporting community resilience by investing in local services and people.

Procurement comments:

Due diligence has been undertaken by Big Life on the subcontractor, On the Out. This has been successful, and governance put in place to ensure operational and subcontracting processes are in place, including the transfer of information and data.

It is intended that this service will form a variation to the delivery of the GMIRS Well-being service (contract reference GMCA 600). There had been a significant delay in getting this over-arching contract signed. Though the service has been delivering since September 2023 the contract is still not signed due to protracted discussions between GMCA and MCC legal services. This has been escalated though Safer and Stronger governance arrangements and flagged as a risk at the CA level.

The signing of the main contract is underway and this service will be included as a variation in order to prevent any delays to the main contract delivery. Trying to incorporate this service into the main contract as part of the overall service would involve even greater delay to the signing of the contract.

It is requested that this Decision Notice is progressed in the absence of the main contract being signed, as this would delay implementation of the Pickup at the gate service, as well as having a reputational impact with our partner HMPPS.

Financial comments:

Funding for the GMIRS Wellbeing - Pick Up at The Gate pilot came directly from the HMPPS in 2023/24.

Legal comments:

Legal advice has been sought for the main Wellbeing contract. Once signed advice will be sought on the variation. Any services or products procured through this programme will adhere to GMCA commissioning policy and rules on procurement.

Risk Assessment:

A robust implementation plan and risk log will be developed with Big Life as the lead provider with oversight from GMCA & HMPPS to ensure the programme is delivered within the timescales identified in the mobilisation plan.

As the Subcontractor, On the Out will have formal contract management meetings with Big Life monthly. A monthly report will be submitted by On the Out to Big Life which will evaluate service delivery. A detailed log of referrals will be required highlighting referring prison, priority type, specific need and reasons for decision to decline transportation. In addition, On the Out will be required to demonstrate work undertaken with individual People on Probation pre and post release. This data will be discussed at monthly contract management meetings between HMPPS contract management, GMPS, GMCA and the service provider.

Both On the Out and Big Life will work with GMCA evaluation team to demonstrate effectiveness.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

The Pickup at the Gate Service will not work directly with children, however the relevant safeguarding checks have been completed.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:

Big Life and On the Out have vast experience of working with people who have been a part of the criminal justice system or have vulnerabilities, they fully understand the complexity and vulnerability of some of the adults that they work with, relevant safeguarding checks were completed during the tendering process and will continue to be monitored through the lifetime of the pilot. As part of the contract award all safeguarding procedures are checked and form part of the on-going annual review of service delivery.

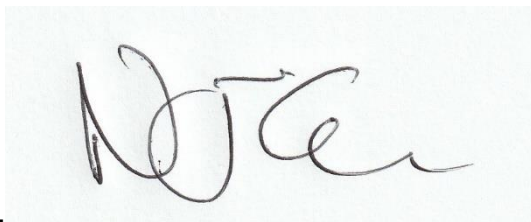
All referrals must relate to People on Probation returning to a pre agreed and pre checked address in Greater Manchester. On the out will be required to ensure these address checks have been completed and approved by GMPS prior to transportation. Whereby a Person on Probation is presenting as no fixed abode, the pre-approved address can be a Greater Manchester Probation office, Approved Premises hostel or in specific pre agreed instances a Wellbeing hub.

To help support the transition from custody, it is important that a person is familiar and feels comfortable with the support worker providing the gate pick up service. It is therefore required that the priority 1 cohort (18- and 19-year-olds being released from a Young Offender Institute) must have at least one introductory face to face appointment with the support worker prior to release.

Priority 2 cohort and priority 3 cohorts can be contacted by video link or prerelease team facilitated phone calls where face to face visits is not possible.

On the Out will ensure that there is a female worker available to assist the transportation of women. On the occasion a female person on probation has accepted a male worker, face to face or video link appointments will be required.

Agreed by Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire

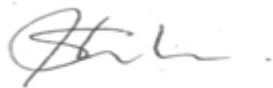


Signed...

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Date...23rd October 2024.....

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer

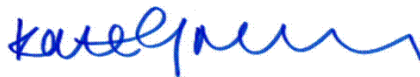


Signed

Date 24th October 2024

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

Only required for a Deputy Mayor Decision on amounts of £50,000+



Signed:

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Date: ...24th October 2024.....

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