

## Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Panel

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Subject:** Reducing Harm and Offending: Greater Manchester Prisons & Probation (HMPPS) Reducing Reoffending Plan

**Report of:** Chris Edwards, HMPPS

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### **Purpose:**

The attached Reducing Reoffending Plan for HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in Greater Manchester (GM) builds on the foundations laid since the probation regions came into existence on 1 April 2020. It reflects the uniquely innovative approach to local co-commissioning and sets out to strengthen the benefits of working as one HMPPS. This plan will also support the delivery of the local Police and Crime Plan, Standing Together, and one of the three key priorities in particular: Reducing Harm and Offending. Plan attached as Appendix.

### **Recommendation:**

To receive the report and to note the new Reducing Reoffending posts which will be deployed to support local Reducing Reoffending Boards.

## 1. Overview:

A unique Memorandum Of Understanding is in place between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and HMPPS which has set a direction of travel for some time, formalising the principle that decisions about Manchester should be made with local stakeholders and not done to them. This has created momentum to step outside of national commissioning approaches, design services with GMCA, pool funding and govern reducing reoffending providers jointly. This matches the vision which drives the plan :

***Working together across the Greater Manchester region to protect the public and help people to live law-abiding and positive lives***

The Principles contained within the approach taken to deliver the plan are:

- Enable people to be their best
- An open learning culture
- Transform through partnerships
- Modernise our estates and technology

Delivery is not without challenges as the new GM Probation Service emerges from a significant period of structural and cultural change – in the midst of an ambitious recruitment process which will provide for increased capability and capacity in the future but creates a medium-term imbalance in experience and caseload pressure.

That said, in Greater Manchester our footprint, firm foundations and approach to partnership working and collaboration has provided new opportunities for delivering effective resettlement and rehabilitative approaches. These include:

- an integrated approach to accommodation support;
- the highly regarded Whole System approach to Women;
- establishment of Welfare Hubs in each district;
- creating extra capacity and co-location with local substance misuse services;
- Peer support offer and;
- An Education , Training and Employment support service

All services have been recently re/commissioned the majority being local VCSE/ not-for profit organisations and we will monitor progress over the next three years.

## 2. Priorities:

Reducing Reoffending is the main remit for HMPPS in recognising that people who leave prison with strong foundations in place to make a success of their lives are less likely to reoffend. These foundations include a stable home, a stronger connection to family and local community, a steady job, and good health free from substance misuse. For women, this means a gender-informed approach to deliver better assessments and interventions. The continued focus on these key areas has been highlighted by the recent publication of the Prisons Strategy White Paper and the cross-government 10-year Drugs Strategy.

The GM plan highlights both progress made already but also sets three-year ambitions for the following priorities:

- Training, skills and work
- Drugs and alcohol addiction
- Family, accommodation and readjustment to society
- Public security through engagement and compliance

Senior leaders across prisons and probation are being encouraged to build relationships and have a co-ordinated their voice across local Reducing Reoffending Boards and meetings with external partners. HMPPS in GM is proud of their achievements, building services to offer real opportunities for change and keep communities safer as a result. There is more work to be done and we are not complacent. HMPPS will be fully integrated with other organisations as GM builds back post-pandemic. We have strong relationships with local partners and a record of committing resource and funding to support collaborative approaches. There is much to be optimistic about, but neither are we naïve about the challenges ahead. Two new Reducing Reoffending Posts have been jointly funded with GMCA to work across the 10 Local Authorities to support Reducing Reoffending Boards and to ensure full integration of the Greater Manchester Integrated Rehabilitative Services Programme.

**Recommendation:** to receive the report and to note the new Reducing Reoffending posts which will be deployed to support local Reducing Reoffending Boards.