



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 24 June 2013

## **RESPONDING TO LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN QUEEN'S SPEECH**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider how to respond to the opportunities presented by forthcoming new mechanisms for dealing with offenders. In particular in relation to:
- (i) preventing reoffending through the changes to the way rehabilitation services are commissioned; and
  - (ii) providing victims with a greater say in how anti-social behaviour is dealt with, in particular through the new Community Remedy.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To endorse a recommendation to the Criminal Justice Board to establish a new subgroup or change the terms of reference of an existing subgroup to explore the opportunities and implications for the Criminal Justice System within the forthcoming new mechanisms for dealing with offenders.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 In last month's Queen's Speech 2013, the Government announced the intention to legislate in a number of key areas relating to the police and crime agenda. In particular:
- (i) Offender Rehabilitation Bill to reform the way offenders are rehabilitated in England and Wales.

- (ii) Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill, including a variety of measures to tackle anti-social behaviour and other issues.

#### **4. Offender Rehabilitation**

- 4.1 Commissioned providers are to work across the new package area of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire to take on low and medium risk work, alongside a national probation service taking on initial risk assessments and high risk work. The new providers will also provided rehabilitation to offenders serving less than 12 months for whom statutory mandatory rehabilitation will be extended.
- 4.2 While the competitive commissioning process will be managed centrally, it will be informed by local needs assessments and the new providers will be expected to work with local partners. The role of Police and Crime Commissioners has been highlighted in particular, including the potential for co-commissioning.
- 4.3 The proposed timetable are likely to see shadow structures in place in the new year, with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust dismantled by spring 2014 and the new public probation service and service providers (which will include a lead organisation and supply chain partners) in place by autumn 2014. The Bill which will enable these changes to take place has already entered Parliament and is expected to achieve Royal Assent in time to implement these changes as outlined above.
- 4.4 A subgroup may also wish to consider potential linkages with other areas within the contract package area.

#### **5. Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 5.1 The 19 existing powers to deal with anti-social behaviour are to be replaced and condensed into six faster, more effective ones, giving victims the power to ensure that action is taken to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour through the new Community Trigger, and a greater say in what form of sanction an offender receives out of court through the new Community Remedy.
- 5.2 Under the Community Remedy proposals, Police and Crime Commissioners would need to prepare a list of actions which might be appropriate for perpetrators to carry out, following consultation with the Chief Constable, community representatives and the public. Having consulted the victim, a police officer or other authorised person could then use these remedies if they believe there is enough evidence for an Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance (introduced elsewhere in the Bill), or to take other court proceedings.

- 5.3 There is some interesting research being undertaken on the effectiveness of a range of interventions, which may provide a useful evidence base for an appropriate list of actions.
- 5.4 There may be other areas of the Bill that a subgroup might wish to explore.
- 5.5 This Bill will also confer on Police and Crime Commissioners responsibility for commissioning victims services. A Victims and Witnesses subgroup of the Criminal Justice Board has already been established to support the strategic leadership of this agenda.
- 5.6 The Bill which will enable these changes to take place has already entered Parliament and is expected to achieve Royal Assent by Spring 2014.

## **6. Implementing the Changes**

- 6.1 Given the opportunities and implications of these forthcoming changes for the Criminal Justice System, and the opportunity for influence the Police and Crime Commissioner could have, it is proposed that a subgroup of the Criminal Justice Board could be established to support the strategic leadership on this agenda. If agreed, this proposal could be considered at the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Board on 25 June.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 To endorse a recommendation to the Criminal Justice Board to establish a new subgroup or change the terms of reference of an existing subgroup to explore the opportunities and implications for the Criminal Justice System within the forthcoming new mechanisms for dealing with offenders.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document (s)	Contact Officer	Location
Offender Rehabilitation Bill  Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill  Transforming Rehabilitation – A strategy for reform	Dorothy Gregson  Chief Executive	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA