

Arrangements for probation and rehabilitation services in Thames Valley in 2014 and beyond

Information for Partner Agencies



February 2014

In June 2014, Thames Valley Probation will cease to exist as a Probation Trust. It will be replaced by two organisations – the National Probation Service and Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company. Both will still cover Thames Valley, but with different responsibilities. Staff will be split between the two.

Operational arrangements associated with the changes will begin from April, 2014, prior to the Trust's formal closure on May 31, 2014. Further changes will be implemented over the following months towards the completion of tendering of the Community Rehabilitation Company and mobilisation by the successful bidder early in 2015. Key milestones are subject to change and further clarification will be issued if appropriate.

The new arrangements will additionally cover all offenders who serve less than 12 months in prison, as they will have a new statutory requirement for 12 months' supervision following release. Amendments are being made to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill to bring this into effect.

This paper sets out the background, the changes, the implications and considerations for partner agencies and partnership arrangements within Thames Valley.

The Background

- The aim of the MoJ's Transforming Rehabilitation Programme is to improve reducing re-offending performance by opening up the delivery of probation services to the market and introducing payment by results contracts. An additional aim is to deliver more for less – to make savings plus expand services to offenders sentenced to less than 12 months' imprisonment.

The Structural Changes

- The 35 Probation Trusts covering England and Wales will be abolished on May 31, 2014
- 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) will be created to deliver outsourced services, which will be centrally contracted by MoJ/NOMS. The CRCs will take on management and supervision of medium and low risk offenders, as well as the new <12 month prisoners on release
- A new National Probation Service (a civil service function) will be created to manage the higher risk of harm offenders, victim services, all MAPPA offenders, approved premises, court services, including pre-sentence reports, breaches, and enforcement. The new NPS in Thames Valley will also risk assess all offenders and allocate them to a CRC or the NPS.

What will happen in Thames Valley?

- Thames Valley is lucky in that it is one of the 21 CRCs and is not being merged with any other probation trusts.
- While the 'split' officially takes place in June 2014, bidding for the CRC contracts is still ongoing. In the interim, the Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (TV-CRC) will be managed by current Thames Valley Probation CEO Paul Gillbard and his senior management team.
- Towards the end of 2014, the new owner will run TV-CRC 'in tandem' taking over the complete contract in April 2015.
- Thames Valley Probation currently has five Local Delivery Units – Berkshire West, Berkshire East, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. These will be retained, by both the NPS and TV-CRC, but within two clusters - Oxon/Bucks/MK (to be known as Thames Valley North) and Berkshire (to be known as Thames Valley South).

How will the changes affect partnership working?

There will be changes but we will strive to ensure that there won't be any reduction in quality or effectiveness of joint working. In November 2013 the MoJ produced a paper, Statutory Partnerships and Responsibilities, which outlines the changes. You can view this document online at:

www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/transforming-rehabilitation/statutory-partnerships.pdf

The paper does not cover non-statutory partnerships. We are currently mapping our partnerships to ensure all local relationships are captured and to test the resourcing of partnership activity as part of our transition planning.

The MoJ will write into the new contracts for CRCs exactly which statutory bodies they will be expected to work with and what duties they will be required to perform. It is also considering how best to ensure that all providers engage appropriately in those non-statutory partnership working arrangements which make an important contribution to protecting the public.

Outlined below are the key partnerships and who will be responsible for what. We have used the acronyms NPS (National Probation Service) and TV-CRC (Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company) throughout:

Community Safety Partnerships

Both the NPS and TV-CRC will be designated as Responsible Authorities under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and will therefore be subject to the statutory requirement to participate in Community Safety Partnerships. We will endeavour to provide joint representation where appropriate, to avoid unnecessary doubling up.

MAPPA

The NPS will continue to be the responsible authority to lead on Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements since it will be working with high risk offenders. TV-CRC will not be a MAPPA responsible authority but will have a contractual duty to co-operate.

Safeguarding Children's Boards

While the NPS will continue to sit on Safeguarding Children Boards, TV-CRC will also be designated as a "board partner" who must provide a representative to sit on the board.

Safeguarding Adult Boards

Safeguarding Adult Boards responsibilities are currently non-statutory. The Care Bill which is currently going through parliament doesn't make probation a statutory board member. Both NPS and TV-CRC will be under a general duty to co-operate with local authorities in relation to social care.

Youth Offending Teams

The NPS will be responsible for deciding whether an offender who is sentenced as a juvenile but who turns 18 during their sentence should be supervised by TV-CRC or the NPS or stay with the relevant YOTs. TV-CRC will be required to co-operate.

Victims

The NPS will retain the victim contact role. TV-CRC will not be subject to statutory duties except in relation to participating in domestic homicide reviews. TV-CRC will be contractually required to support the NPS in its work relating to the Victim Contact Scheme.

Police and Crime Commissioners

Both the NPS and TV-CRC will be required to work with the PCC to "help provide an efficient and effective" criminal justice system within the local police area. Of course, some of the new Contract Package Areas will require CRCs to work with two or more PCCs but this is not the case in Thames Valley.

Integrated Offender Management and other non-statutory partnerships

As mentioned, the Statutory Partnerships and Responsibilities paper does not cover non-statutory partnerships such as IOM. However, the Transforming Rehabilitation strategy makes it clear that all CRCs – including TV-CRC – will be expected to demonstrate how they will sustain, develop and, indeed, take the lead on Integrated Offender Management, which is a key non statutory partnership.

Next steps

- We will keep you up to date with the progress of the changes including key dates
- We will ensure that we work with the MoJ Transforming Rehabilitation team, stakeholders and others to ensure that partnership consultation and engagement remains a high priority in the design of future services
- We will identify any operational risks arising from the changes and seek to mitigate these in consultation with relevant partners
- We will engage with the CRC preferred bidders to ensure that they have a clear understanding of Thames Valley issues and priorities.

Arrangements for probation and rehabilitation services in Thames Valley from June 2014*

*Operational practices will begin to change from April 2014

Ministry of Justice/ National Offender Management Service

Commissions work via central contract. Payment dependent on results.



Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

Private Company

Responsibilities

Management and supervision of:

- Low to Medium Risk of serious Harm offenders in the community or custody
- Prisoners serving less than 12 months (includes additional licence supervision for 12 months)

Delivery of:

- Integrated Offender Management
- Domestic Abuse programmes
- General Offending programmes
- Activities designed to reduce re-offending (as part of the new Rehabilitation Requirement)
- Unpaid Work

National Probation Service

Part of Civil Service

Responsibilities

Management and supervision of:

- High Risk of Serious Harm offenders in the community or custody
- All MAPPAs offenders
- Victim Liaison Service
- Approved Premises

Delivery of:

- Court services, including all pre-sentence reports, breaches/enforcement (both for NPS and TV-CRC cases)
- Recalls (as above)
- Risk assessments and allocation of all cases to either NPS or TV-CRC
- Sex offender treatment interventions

Continuous liaison and communication

Where there is actual or likelihood of escalation of Risk of Serious Harm, a case will be immediately transferred to NPS

Both TV-CRC and NPS will be responsible for maintaining liaison and service level agreements with partnerships, both statutory and non-statutory across Thames Valley to effectively reduce re-offending