

**COMMUNITY SAFETY, CRIME AND POLICING SELECT COMMITTEE
9 SEPTEMBER 2014****CHANGES TO THE PROBATION SERVICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

Report Author: Colin Wilderspin, Head of Community Safety, (01908 254533)
colin.wilderspin@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Service Group: Housing and Communities

Executive Summary

To receive a presentation from Thames Valley Probation Service, and update the Committee on the changes to the Probation Service, highlighting the potential impact in the Thames Valley Probation area and locally to Milton Keynes. The presentation will also provide an outline of the proposed Community Rehabilitation Company.

Content

- The way in which Probation Services are provided in England and Wales is changing as part of a Ministry of Justice sponsored project called the Transforming Rehabilitation Programme. This will involve the abolition of the existing 35 English and Welsh Probation Trusts, replacing them with 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies, centrally contracted by the Ministry of Justice, which will deliver outsourced services.
- In June 2014, Thames Valley Probation ceased to exist as a Probation Trust, to 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.
- A presentation was delivered to the Community Safety, Police and Crime Committee in December 2013, the Committee asked for an update presentation in 2014.
- Reducing reoffending requires a collaborative approach with partner agencies. In Milton Keynes Thames Valley Probation have a strong relationship with statutory partners including Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police and local Prisons. In addition they have a strong relationship with the voluntary sector including Woman & Work, MIND and P3.

Key issues

- Probation are a statutory Partner within the SaferMK Partnership under the Policing and Crime Act 2009, which came into effect on 1 April 2010. Additionally, the SaferMK partnership has a duty to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending of both adult and young offenders.
- Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 add a duty for Unitary Authorities to consider reducing reoffending in the exercise of all their duties.

Background Papers/useful Links

- Information for Partner Agencies on upcoming changes to the Probation Service, produced in February 2014 (attached as Annex).