

Prevention and Rehabilitation Sub Group Good Practice Update



**Northumbria
Criminal Justice Board**
working together for the public

LCJB - Prevention and Rehabilitation Sub Group Priorities

The Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) has been developed as part of the Police and Crime Plan. This document showcases some examples of good practice and some of the excellent work being covered by various partner organisations within the LCJB Sub Group.

The Prevention and Rehabilitation Sub Group of the LCJB has been set up to deliver initially, the following two priorities:

1) Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Governance. This priority fits primarily within the “punishment and rehabilitation of offenders” and is designed to ensure that the LCJB oversees a robust multi agency response to the management of offenders in custody and the community. The IOM approach seeks to address the causes of offending perpetrated by those who cause the highest levels of harm to the public and those who repeatedly and persistently offend. Agencies are operationally tasked to combine efforts and resource to provide an individualised and intensive approach to reduce harm and reoffending. Strategic oversight through the LCJB will ensure that relevant agencies are operationally supported to reduce re-offending and rehabilitate offenders. A revised operational delivery model has been designed which also fits with the priority of the “fair, just and effective progression of cases” (flagging perpetrator cases to ensure a speedy resolution at Court where possible).

Success Measure: A measurable reduction in the algorithm score of offenders targeted (measurements of recency, frequency and gravity).

Success Measure: A measureable reduction in the gravity and/or frequency of the reoffending rate of IOM offenders targeted (using proven conviction information)

2) Restorative Justice and Community Resolution: A partnership approach to reducing re-offending. Out of court disposals allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level, often first time offending which could more appropriately be resolved without prosecution at court. Community Resolution is one such out of court disposal, it empowers officers to apply their professional judgement in deciding if a Community Resolution is ‘the right thing to do’ after considering the offence, victim and offender and options available with the Community Remedy. Victim First Northumbria (VFN) is an expert in the delivery of restorative practice which when used in early intervention aims to keep people out of the criminal justice system. This LCJB priority aims to divert adult offenders (18 years and over) to VFN as a condition of the Community Resolution, in order for it to be completed by them in a manner that focuses on their offending behaviour and the impact caused to their victim, thereby reducing the potential for re-offending and subsequent re-entry into the criminal justice system.

Success Measures: A measurable reduction in the re-offending rate (re-entry into the CJS) for those receiving a Community Resolution.

Success Measure: An increase in the number of Community Resolutions appropriately given as the correct out of court disposal for the offence, offender and victim

Success Measure: An increase in the number and quality of indirect restorative justice interventions undertaken.

Increased engagement and responsivity - National Probation Service

Tom was allocated to Sunderland North team with significant mental health issues including paranoid thoughts and belief that police, probation and prison staff were in a conspiracy which had led to the torture, rape and murder of his close relative.

Unfortunately, due to the level of paranoia, Tom completely refused to work with his Probation Officer, insisting she had previously worked with his relative. Joint meetings between Tom, the Probation Officer and Senior Probation Officer failed to resolve the issue and his case was reallocated to another officer.

Tom's mental health issues continued, creating issues for all concerned. On a weekly basis Tom was extremely emotional, angry and upset. He frequently demanded to speak to the Senior Probation Officer and insisted his new Probation Officer was part of the same conspiracy.

Through a consistent and supportive approach, assisted by the Personality Disorder team, Tom's Probation Officer worked hard to engage this offender, adopting her approach to best suit his needs and fulfil the Order of the Court.

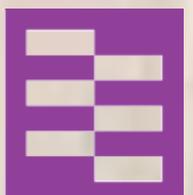
Eventually Tom was sectioned under the Mental Health Act. Following his discharge, he received less than appropriate levels of aftercare from the community team. His Probation Officer actively followed this up, challenged service provision and with advice from the Personality Disorder specialist team, worked collaboratively with Mental Health teams across two Local Authorities, to ensure the Offender obtained the best possible aftercare.

Despite dealing with extreme behavior, anger and accusations towards her, Tom's Probation Officer continued to work in a completely professional and respectful manner towards this client, fighting for his rights.

Having identified Tom had an interest in art, but limited finances, his Probation Officer submitted a grant application to obtain money to purchase him some art items. He asked "why she was being nice to him", a question which appeared to be prompted by a genuine disbelief that anyone would bother to be nice to him, rather than paranoia.

Tom now attends all of his appointments, he engages in conversation, talks in sentences, rather than with one-word utterances he previously communicated with. He is engaging with appointments which is enabling his Probation Officer gain some insight into the thinking, behavior and motivation underpinning his offending behavior.

The level of resource required to manage his attendance has reduced from 2:1 supervision to 1:1 supervision, evidencing a reduction in the risk of serious harm. He has not requested to speak with the Senior Probation Officer for over 3 months and whilst reluctant, he is engaging with Mental Health Services. Tom has not come to the attention of police during the period of this Order, evidencing a reduction in reoffending.



Victims First Northumbria

Victims First Northumbria (VFN) is an independent charity created in April 2015 to provide emotional and practical support to victims of crime across the Northumbria area. Our charity puts the victim at the heart of everything we do and aims to help those affected by crime, particularly those who are the most vulnerable and persistently targeted, by creating individual plans to help them cope and recover from their experience. Our primary focus is the welfare of the victims we support, but in doing so, we work with key partners that engage with offenders in custody and the community with the aim of providing increased access to restorative justice interventions, thus allowing more victims and offenders to engage in the process, with the ultimate aim of reducing reoffending and preventing any further victims of crime. Victims First Northumbria has 20 members of staff who are facilitator trained in restorative justice and 12 staff who are trained to deliver serious and complex RJ interventions. This enables each victim of crime to have the opportunity to enter into conversation regarding restorative justice to explore the options available to them, as part of their entitlements within the Victims Code of Practice. Additionally, we have 8 volunteers who are facilitator trained and there are currently 21 active volunteers who have received introductory awareness RJ training which enables them to enter into initial discussions with victims and identify potential cases.

CRC

There are three CRC members of staff seconded to Victims First Northumbria who provide a key link for offender-initiated restorative justice interventions. The CRC staff engage with offenders who receive Community Orders and complete victim awareness related work as part of their rehabilitation activity requirement. They highlight suitable participants and work with the Victim Coordinator to identify the corresponding victim to then explore the option of progressing to a direct or indirect restorative justice intervention. This co-working arrangement enables a successful joined-up approach between key services representing the interests of the victim and offender.

REFORM

The **Restorative Engagement For Offender Recovery Management** (REFORM) project is a joint initiative between Victims First Northumbria and HMP Northumberland to provide prisoners with support and access to restorative justice interventions whilst in custody. Having a base within HMP Northumberland has enabled greater access to restorative justice interventions, creating an additional pathway for victims of crime to have the opportunity to have their voice heard, and for perpetrators to acknowledge their wrong-doing and address their offending behaviour whilst still in custody to try and break the cycle of offending. REFORM focusses upon offences committed within the Northumbria area however, as HMP Northumberland houses offenders from across the country, this has enabled us to co-work with partners locally and nationally, with examples including Plymouth, Rotherham and Cumbria. Additionally, the REFORM project is working with HMP Northumberland to embed restorative justice within the internal prison adjudication system to use interventions to help address incidents in custody and prisoner-prisoner conflict.



Restorative Justice within HM Courts

Victims First are in the process of establishing a greater presence within the courts across the Northumbria region to provide victims with increased access to restorative justice interventions by creating an additional pathway for cases found guilty at court. This will enable the victim to be given the choice at an earlier opportunity and reinforces their rights within VCOP of being offered support and interventions throughout the process.

Retail Crime Network

Victims First Northumbria and the CRC have been exploring the option of working together with a range of stores across the region to create a retail crime network to target the most prolific shoplifters. The aim is to use proxy victims represented by each of the stores to engage in victim awareness and restorative justice interventions with offenders identified by the CRC to highlight the impact of their offending and help them to acknowledge the harm caused by their offending. The plan is to have the meetings on a quarterly basis but initial exploratory work is still in progress.

V-AWARE

The V-Aware project is a Northumbria Police initiative supported by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner and is delivered by Victims First Northumbria to provide participants with the opportunity to think about the impact of their offending upon their victim, themselves and others. The programme was launched in November 2017 as a pre-court disposal and forms part of a Conditional Caution. The programme is interactive, lasting for 3.5 hours and aims to raise awareness of the impact and consequences of crime, as well as increasing the motivation of participants to help them stay crime-free and change their behaviour. The project also provides an additional route for offender-initiated restorative justice and encourages partnership working between all agencies.

Look at some recent examples of the fundraising work VFN are doing below:

Meet Toby – The Victims First Trauma Teddy

“The joint Victims First and Northumbria Police Trauma Teddy scheme is going from strength to strength. Giving these teddies to young victims of crime is such a great way to help calm, soothe and often distract from what has been occurring around them, giving them something to focus on and ‘look after’ to take their mind off what has or is happening. Our resident Trauma Teddy Toby has been out and about around the North East so far this summer, meeting new people, spreading awareness and even going up in the Police helicopter! If you see him at any of our events come along and say hi!”

Deposit Your Closet” Clothing Drive

“We regularly work with desperate women (and men) who have experienced domestic violence and have had to leave their family homes – often with very little and sometimes nothing but the clothes they stand up in. We are collecting unworn / unwanted clothes, shoes, accessories and DVDs to help raise money to buy new items such as clothing, underwear, toiletries and perhaps toys for children for these vulnerable victims to help them start again.”

Community Links (House Block 16) - HMP Northumberland

With the sudden closure of House Block 6 earlier last year, an opportunity arose to provide our red band residents with the chance to explore ROTL.

Due to electrical issues within House Block 6 and the subsequent closure of the unit, the FM team subsequently have restored and developed the derelict reception unit to cover the loss of HB6. This particular piece of work was extremely time consuming, urgent and vital to the establishment and the FM team delivered this project on time and

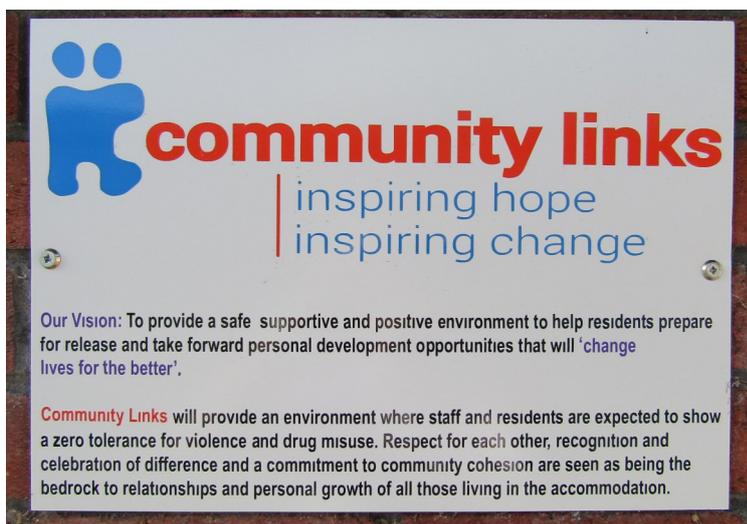
to the highest standard. Residents who live on this House Block have stated “This is by far the best unit in the prison and is seen by other residents as something to aspire to”.

This unit provides a safe, supportive and positive environment to help residents prepare for release and take forward personal development opportunities that will ‘change lives for the better’.

Community Links has supported residents who are working towards self-managing lifestyles, have shown a motivation to change and are preparing for release and/or advanced progression within the boundaries of HMP Northumberland.

We have developed Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) opportunities from Community Links with a number of residents working outside the grounds of the establishment, with two particular residents working with the local town of Amble. This has been a real achievement and the evidence is clear with one of the residents being offered full-time employment within Amble upon his release from prison.

We aspire to have further residents being supported through ROTL arrangements with up to 50% of the unit being on ROTL within the next 12 months. The other residents from House Block 16 will support the wider internal work of the prison, as many already do, offering opportunities for gaining personal responsibility and trust within the broader prison community.



Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service

HMCTS to ensure we provide a better and more efficient service and ensuring that justice is open, fair and timely.

Providing consistent advice to magistrates in line with the TSJ principles and Criminal Procedure Rules, and performing consistently, robustly and efficiently dealing with cases in line with TSJ principles -

Earlier resolution of pleas

Reduced number of hearings

Effective hearings

Consistent and robust judicial case management

Compliance with the Criminal Procedure Rules; Criminal Practice Directions and Court Orders

Digital working

The vast majority of cases do not go to trial but result in guilty pleas. Where there is to be a guilty plea it should be entered sooner rather than later.

First, and most important, this is in the interests of victims of crime and witnesses, but it also assists the court in the objective of only listing effective cases.

Where there is guilty plea or finding of guilt the Court sentence without unnecessary delay or hearings. This enables the purpose of the sentence to be put into effect as soon as possible so it is meaningful; and that the distress caused to victims and witnesses is reduced.

