

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	15th July, 2010
3.	Title:	Contributing to Reducing and Managing Offender Behaviour
4.	Programme Area:	Community Safety

5. Summary

To report on the work of South Yorkshire probation trust in Rotherham in reducing re-offending and contributing to making our communities safer by punishing and rehabilitating offenders through delivering the sentences of the court.

6. Recommendations

That the panel note the contents of this report and consider how to encourage full involvement of local authority led services in the developing Integrated Offender Management services being developed in Rotherham.

7. Proposals and Details

Rotherham Probation is hoping to move from its dilapidated premises in Main St/West gate by the autumn to a business park close to the town centre- however this may be affected by current reviews of all government expenditure.

As part of this we hope to be able to co-locate at least 6 police personal (the local offender management unit currently based in Maltby) as well as local accommodation and drugs services, using a regime called Integrated Offender Management. It is essential we identify how the local authority can also be integrated fully into this work.

The probation unit in Rotherham consist of myself as the head of the unit, 4 (FTE) team managers, 22 probation officers, 15 probation service officers and 15 administrative support staff. Other major support services are based in Sheffield for HR, Finance, and IT.

In a typical year we work with 1,300 offenders, last year we prepared over a thousand reports for local magistrates and crown courts, supervised 257 community orders and 215 people on licence post custody.

Our interventions unit supervised about 50,000 hours of Community Payback in Rotherham (over 400 offenders, ave 120 hours each) including schemes in Dalton, Kilnhurst, Rawmarsh, Dinnington, Kiveton, Aughton and Boston Castle.

The schemes included refurbishing and decorating premises, opening paths and bridleways, landscaping, grass cutting as well as landscaping and the construction of foundations for a hyperbaric chamber at the Multiple Sclerosis Centre and Community nominated projects at Little London, Maltby Allotments, Maltby Craggs, Dinnington Allotments and Brampton.

Performance

Last year offenders in Rotherham completed 37 Drug rehabilitation requirements (in partnership with clearways), 58 alcohol requirements (in partnership with lifelines), 11 sex offender programmes, 19 Domestic abuse programmes and 77 other offending behaviour programmes.

This work clearly contributes to the Rotherham Community Safety Partnership.

4 years ago South Yorkshire was 38th of 42 probation areas in a league table of performance. Since then we have improved significantly such that for two of the past 3 years we have been assessed at green star (the highest of 4 ratings) in terms of our performance. Our last national inspection (Offender management inspection (OMI) Jan 2009) also rated us as green star/exceptional with a score of 79%

Many of our targets are about compliance with performance issues –such as initial assessments being done within 15days or within 5 days if assessed as high risk of harm and we have undertaken significant work on our processes to ensure most of these are well met.

However for the public of Rotherham the more important news has been the contribution we have made to reduce the re-offending of those under our supervision. Approximately half of crime is committed by those who have offended before.

Over the past year we have reduced reoffending by those on our caseloads by an average of 11% against their expected levels. South Yorkshire has been the strongest performer in the country on this measure over the last 6 quarters.

We are the only area to have achieved a statistically significant reduction for all 6 quarters. We are one of only 3 areas with a current double figure reduction. For the most recent quarter reported we have reduced reoffending in SYPT by 13.75%. The national average is a reduction of under 2%. In Rotherham for the last quarter reported this was approx -7%

This is one of the measures (NI 18) that is reported regularly to the JAG and the CSP. Other measures include NI 30 (re-offending by approx 30 prolific offenders jointly managed between probation and the police) - this is currently showing a reduction in Rotherham of approx 12% from baseline. (Both MoJ data – published May 2010.)

We also contribute with DIP and police to NI38- which measures drug misusing offenders- where we are measured at 93% of expected offending. For this we are one of 99 DAT/CSPs showing a positive impact (as against 72 DATs/CSPs where the level of proven offending was greater than anticipated). (Home Office national data published March 2010)

8. Finance

Along with most of the public sector SYPT faces an uncertain financial future. Our budget has reduced by approx 5 % in each of the past 2 years, this includes a cut of approx 3% last month (£ 600,000 across SYPT) and clearly there will also be effects from the recently announced 25% cut over the next 4-5 years announced in the budget. Resources will continue to be focussed on public protection including working on reducing reoffending.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

SYPT have a target to ensure 35 % of offenders are in employment by the end of their order- given the local economy this is an area we anticipate we will struggle with – at year end last year we only achieved 27%. So far this year this is measuring at 31% but given current employment opportunities this will be hard to maintain.

This year funding for offenders to access skills training has been funded through OLASS (offender learning and skills sector) - this funding is ceasing so we are urgently exploring alternatives and considering any barriers there may be to offenders attending generic education and training opportunities.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- Rotherham LAA
- SRP partnership plan 09-10 and 10-11

11 Background Papers and Consultation

- Reducing reoffending explanation
- Rotherham reducing re-offending
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