

Interventions News

Issue 23 - April 2006



Contents

- | | |
|--|--|
| 23/01: NPD on the Move | 23/08: Offender Management and Care Planning for Offenders with Mental Health Problems |
| 23/02: Guide to Interventions – A Reminder | 23/09: Ongoing Developments for Aggression Replacement Training |
| 23/03: Changing Lives – Project to Market Interventions | 23/10: Prolific and other Priority Offenders |
| 23/04: A New PIM | 23/11: Retention Data for DTTOs |
| 23/05: Custody Plus Update | 23/12: Conditional Cautions/Unpaid Work Pilots |
| 23/06: A New Screening Process for the NPS | 23/13: NPS Alcohol Strategy |
| 23/07: Implementing Block 6 of the Cognitive Self Change Programme | |

NEW LOOK TO INTERVENTIONS NEWS

I hope you like this new style. Thanks to all contributors to this edition of Interventions News.

If you have a story to tell about implementation of what works/ interventions, why not write an article, preferably with a photograph, and send to:

JohnA.MacGregor@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

23/01: NPD ON THE MOVE

Please note that NPD will be moving offices at the end of April, relocating to Abell House near by.

Our last day in Horseferry House will be **Friday 28 April** and we take up residence in our new accommodation on Tuesday 2 May.

Email addresses and telephone numbers for staff, as well as fax numbers, will remain unchanged. But please bear in mind that there is bound to be some disruption during the first few days following the move. Our new address will be:

(Name)

(Unit)

National Probation Directorate

1st Floor

Abell House

John Islip Street

London, SW1P 4LH

FURTHER INFORMATION:

John MacGregor, NPD Interventions Unit

Email: JohnA.MacGregor@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 8520

23/02: GUIDE TO INTERVENTIONS IN THE NPS - A REMINDER

In the last issue, we notified you of the publication of this booklet which brings together a summary of information about interventions, for use by commissioners and others with an interest in probation. Copies were distributed to all Areas. However, if you would like more copies or have any queries about the booklet, please contact:

John MacGregor, NPD Interventions Unit

Email: JohnA.MacGregor@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 8520

23/03: CHANGING LIVES - PROJECT TO MARKET INTERVENTIONS

Background

Through the recently published "Guide to Interventions in the National Probation Service", NPD Interventions Unit has made a strong public statement about what it does. It provides a summary of information about interventions which can be used by commissioners and others with an interest in probation. Our agreed aim is to continue to provide quality interventions, improve front line delivery and provide value for money.

The business of interventions is about providing rehabilitative services that are proven to have an impact on those needs associated with re-offending. It is about direct face to face contact through a variety of different approaches that are responsive to the needs of offenders while balancing the protection of the public. All of our interventions are delivered by trained, qualified staff.

The successful re-branding of unpaid work under the banner of "Community Payback" has shown what can be achieved. The idea now is to look at

ways of marketing our other “products” in a way that is readily comprehensible.

Proposal

The proposal is two fold:

- To look at marketing offending behaviour programmes (as part of the cohesive package of interventions which we deliver within the wider context of the reducing reoffending national delivery plan).
- To look at how we can bring together the evidence of what we know works for offending behaviour programmes (“what works”) in a readily accessible way.

Next steps

We are working on these proposals with two consultants who have experience in marketing and gathering together information, but we would welcome your views on how you think we could take this work forward. Please contact:

John MacGregor, NPD Interventions Unit
Email: JohnA.MacGregor@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 0207 217 8520

23/04: A NEW PIM

Phil Mackin joins NPD as one of the Programme Implementation Managers

I recently joined NPD Interventions Unit, Offending Behaviour Programmes Team, as one of their Programme Implementation Managers and wanted to use this opportunity to introduce myself.

My first job in the Probation Service was as a Sessional Supervisor delivering non-accredited group work programmes in a Day Centre in South

Shields Tyne and Wear in March 1992. I also gained experience as a Probation Hostel Assistant and Community Service Supervisor, prior to attending Northumbria University to qualify as a Probation Officer.

My first post as a Probation Officer was in September 1994 at the South Shields Office where I was able to develop my group work experience with sex offenders and I remained in this post until May 1999. I left in order to further develop my group work skills in a prison setting as at the time only prisons were delivering accredited programmes. At HMP Acklington I trained as a facilitator in the Core and Rolling sex offending programmes. By September 2001 I was the Treatment Manager for the Rolling Programme and in March 2003 I was tasked to treatment manage the pilot Canadian Family Violence Programme known in prisons as the Healthy Relationship Programme and in the community as the Community Domestic Violence Programme. Following a spell as the Programme Resettlement Manager I successfully applied for this current post and started in NPD on 27 February.

I hope to apply my knowledge of accredited offending behaviour programmes in the wider arena. I have been asked to lead on the General Offending Behaviour Programmes ie ETS, Think First, Cognitive Skills Booster and the One to One Programme. I also have been asked to review the change control strategy and I will be reporting back through Intervention News on the progress of the review.

I am pleased to be working in a probation setting alongside probation and prison service colleagues to ensure we maintain the excellent record of quality and delivery of programmes. I hope to meet as many colleagues as I can and I would appreciate contact from anyone involved with accredited programmes to hear of examples of

good practice or to answer any queries or concerns.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Phil Mackin, NPD Interventions Unit

Email: Philip.Mackin3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 8044

Mob: 07768 803241

23/05: CUSTODY PLUS UPDATE

The Probation Service is preparing for implementation of Custody Plus on Monday 6 November. Custody Plus, the new under 12 months custodial sentence which will replace existing provisions for adults, combines a short period in prison, followed by a licence period of at least 26 weeks.

Courts will sentence offenders to undertake one or more of eight community Requirements during the licence period, for example Unpaid Work, Curfew, Programme or an Activity Requirement. The expectation is that Custody Plus will only be available for offences committed on or after the implementation date but this will be confirmed nearer the time. Regions are establishing joint implementation groups with the Prison Service to oversee preparation of Custody Plus and Offender Management.

Briefing materials on Custody Plus will be issued to Areas in the next month. Train the trainer events are being held in May, with Areas being asked to roll-out training for all offender managers and report writers from mid June onwards.

A helpline will be available from May onwards, to provide support to trainers and implementation leads.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Email: cja.sip@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

23/06: A NEW SCREENING PROCESS FOR THE NPS

A new screening process will be in place in readiness for the implementation of the full Offender Learning and Skills Service from August 2006. There has been a considerable amount of consultation and development time involved in getting the process right and the final trials are still taking place, but it is anticipated that the end result will answer all the concerns about the continued use of 'Fast Track'. As part of the new arrangements with the Learning and Skills Council, it is the responsibility of the NPS to ensure that high quality screening and referral procedures are in place, and of course good information about offenders' skills development needs is required to inform sentencing and effective sentence planning.

The new tool, called 'Smart Move', is the one developed by the DfES as part of their new suite of post-16 assessment materials. It has undergone rigorous piloting and found to meet the needs of a range of organisations including Jobcentre Plus. It will be available free of charge and can be used either on paper or as an 'e-version' on screen.

Despite the fact that the new tool will only take around 10 minutes to administer, there was awareness that it would not always be possible to use it in any meaningful way in the context of Fast Delivery reports. Therefore alongside the new tool we have developed a 'skills checker', designated 'First Move', which is not a validated screening tool but will give some indication of a potential skills development need.

A Probation Circular will be issued shortly giving full details of these new tools and how they are to be used. Guidance materials have been developed and a programme of staff training will be rolled out across all areas. This will be

delivered on a 'train the trainer' basis to allow each area to cascade the information to all appropriate staff at a convenient time.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Roger Stevens, NPD Interventions Unit

Email: Roger.Stevens@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 8283

23/07: IMPLEMENTING BLOCK 6 OF THE COGNITIVE SELF CHANGE PROGRAMME

Zac (not his real name), a 'lifer', was released in the autumn of last year, following a period in open conditions. With a history of violent crimes spanning some 22 years, Zac completed the Cognitive Self Change Programme (CSCP) in prison and is now set to be the first offender to complete Block 6 (the community based components of CSCP that specifically focuses support on skills and learning achieved during the core programme). When asked about his experience on CSCP, Zac replied, "I highly recommend the programme and Block 6. I used the interventions during my time in cat 'D' and now that I am out on licence, I find myself using the strategies in everyday situations."

The CSCP is currently the only accredited programme with an integrated community element. Although this may become more common with the establishment of NOMS, currently accredited integral community based follow up is very new. Inevitably, there has been challenges in setting this up. The organising of the accompanying training programme for the delivery of Block 6 is in its developmental stages. With the pilot areas being as far apart as London and Devon and Cornwall Probation Areas, flexibility and commitment from all those involved has been needed to make it happen. It is hoped that the pilot can be extended to include a NPS region in the course of the coming months to ensure the

efficacy of the training programme before it is rolled out nationally.

Zac's offender manager, Alex Babudoh, was one of the first in the country to be trained to deliver Block 6. Since attending a briefing event at the London Probation Headquarters in September last year, Alex has gone on to deliver some 20 CSCP Block 6 sessions. Alex's feedback has been invaluable in helping to shape the design of the training programme and materials. While Alex acknowledges the significant time he has put in to learning the key tools and techniques, which are unique to the programme, he considers the time he has invested to be worthwhile. This investment is not only of benefit in helping those who complete the CSCP, Alex has also been able to transfer his new found skills and knowledge to enhance the quality of his public protection and risk management work generally.

The programme

The CSCP has been running for over 5 years in a carefully selected number of adult male prison establishments in England and Wales. Although life sentenced prisoners, especially those sentenced under section 2 of the Crime Sentences Act 1997, have accounted for the majority of referrals, those who have completed the first 5 Blocks of the programme, that are delivered during the custodial element, have also included determinate prisoners. All those successfully referred must meet the inclusion criteria, most significant of which is a history of violence, including violence that has been used instrumentally. In the future it is expected that referrals will be drawn predominantly from the sentences for public protection introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

The treatment programme aims to reduce violent recidivism by facilitating the offenders to change their distorted thinking processes and individual

patterns of anti-social thinking. It also focuses on reducing the impact of contributory violence risk factors specific to each individual, for example, making irresponsibility aversive and making responsibility rewarding. Prior to going onto the programme, thorough assessment of static and more importantly dynamic violence risk factors (that are amenable to change) is undertaken in addition to consideration of potential barriers to treatment eg risk of a return to associating with criminal peers on release, and identification of protective factors that could help an individual maintain a violence-free lifestyle e.g. skills to gain employment, are also made.

A unique feature of the programme is its flexibility in being able to tailor treatment specific to the needs of the individual offender both identified during assessment or during participation on the programme. Offenders move at their own pace through a series of Blocks, each block is a series of sessions that provide them with the skills and motivation to self monitor, identify and change their high risk internal behaviours (thoughts, feelings, attitudes and beliefs) and address other factors associated with their risk for future violence such as poor support networks.

This assessment prior to participation forms the basis of the offender's treatment plan. It is regularly updated and reviewed throughout their time on the CSCP. The amended plan ensures that as offenders progress through the structured body of the programme, their individual treatment needs are continuously reassessed and addressed. Individually designed practice exercises delivered through group sessions (during the custodial element) as well as individual sessions and journal (out of session) work based on these treatment plans help ensure the work is specific and relevant to each individual.

Progress is carefully monitored and documented, culminating in a final report towards the end of the

structured Block 5 sessions. This progress review record summarises the work the offender has completed and outlines the offender's understanding of their risk within the wider context of potentially protective factors and support systems. The record also identifies further work objectives and risk management issues for the community block and provides the Block 6 facilitators (offender managers) with comprehensive information and a baseline for their work with the individual during the community element of the programme. Most importantly, it helps offender managers to know how to monitor the individual's progress and assess whether he is applying skills learnt effectively and seeing them as personally relevant to his life on release.

Following the structured Block 5 sessions, offenders practise and generalise their skills while still in custody and their progress on this can be drawn upon when compiling reports to inform decisions regarding release. After release from prison, Block 6 provides a clear link between the work undertaken in prison and the transition into the community because the offender manager is able to support the offender in implementing and reviewing his CSCP relapse prevention plan and generalising the skills learnt within the context of life in the community. Arguably, the most crucial time as the offender is practising when it really counts. Training for offender managers supervising offenders in Block 6 by offending behaviour programmes staff is fundamental to ensuring this support is effective.

Implementation of Block 6

The implementation of Block 6 was launched through Probation Circular 36/2005 issued by Public Protection Unit, NOMS in May 2005. Chris Bull, a seconded SPO whose halftime post is jointly funded by NPD and HMPS, is tasked with ensuring the implementation of Block 6. A steering

group led by Trish Wincote, Head of the Offending Behaviour Programmes Unit in HMPS and Danny Clark, Head of Offending Behaviour Programmes Team in NPD, is overseeing the developments. A key contributor to the steering group is Jo Thompson in the Public Protection Unit. The steering group consists of people with key strategic responsibility for implementation of accredited programmes and end-to-end offender management. This is in recognition that the dissemination of new skills to offender managers through the implementation of Block 6 of the CSCP, is one of the benefits that is derived through an increase in joined up working across the correctional services.

The Block 6 sessions provide a structure for supervision by the offender manager, which ensures a public protection emphasis whilst motivating the offender to manage his own risk. The programme is ideally suited to the national offender management model that is currently being implemented across the prison and probation services and by its very design promotes joined up, end-to-end offender management. Completion of Block 6, which comprises of a minimum of 8 sessions, plus administration of the post programme psychometrics test battery, contributes to the probation Areas' completion of accredited programmes target.

Overcoming the challenges

Lynda Rowlands, Devon and Cornwall Probation Area, is the most recent offender manager to commence delivery of Block 6. She has just completed delivery of her second session and acknowledges that the time investment is significant during the early stages of delivery; an hour's preparation and a further hour following the session is not unusual at this stage. However, Lynda is making good use of the support and supervision that is available to her from the CSCP

team at Prison Service Headquarters so hopefully it will not be too much longer before this heavy initial time investment pays off. As she says: "The realisation that it does get easier with practise really helps!"

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Chris Bull, HMPS

Email: Christine.Bull@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

23/08: OFFENDER MANAGEMENT AND CARE PLANNING FOR OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

An offender manager will have overall responsibility for an offender throughout their sentence but it is acknowledged that a number of other agencies may be involved in delivering the sentence plan. NOMS/NPD and DH are planning to issue brief guidance regarding the interface between the Care Programme Approach (CPA), used in the National Health Service (NHS) to manage support to those with mental health problems and Offender Management (OM), introduced by NOMS to manage offenders. It represents a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Health and Home Office.

Offenders as a group are known to have high levels of mental health difficulties. The interface between CPA and OM is therefore a key one for both the NHS and NOMS.

CPA is divided into two levels (enhanced and standard) based on the level and complexity of clinical need a patient has. OM is divided into four tiers (1 to 4) based on the level of risk presented by the offender. The guidance is due to be issued in Summer 2006 and is currently out for consultation. We are arranging for a copy of the draft guidance to be placed on the NPS Intranet.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Claire Wiggins, NPD Interventions Unit

Email: Claire.Wiggins3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 8646

23/9: ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS FOR AGGRESSION REPLACEMENT TRAINING

Aggression Replacement Training (ART) continues to receive high priority in terms of programme development and training.

Recent concerns expressed by probation areas regarding the delivery of the Moral Reasoning (MR) component of the programme were supported by analysis of the evaluation data obtained from offenders undertaking treatment. Therefore NPD embarked on an investigation and consultation exercise, designed to identify key issues and potential remedies. Treatment Managers from almost all the areas currently delivering ART attended a practice development event in London in December 2005 which established the full extent of the difficulties as well as a way forward. The principal issues that emerged were the wide variation in how MR was delivered across different areas; lack of clarity regarding some aspects of the delivery; the particular challenges of working with aggressive and/or violent offenders; and the problems encountered by some tutors in facilitating what can be a challenging and fairly complex therapeutic process in the face of strong resistance from group members.

Following robust discussion one particularly positive outcome was a unanimous agreement among Treatment Managers regarding the model and style for the delivery of MR. This both maintained the integrity of the programme by respecting its underlying theory of change but also effectively clarified areas where tutors could be

more responsive. In addition there was a commitment from NPD to address the need for further, specifically focused MR training in the immediate future.

A similar initiative for ART trainers in January 2005 was successful in developing these themes further as well as allowing time for some practical planning for a series of regional tutor training events, to be delivered locally but financed and supported by NPD.

At the time of writing a successful training event has been undertaken and delivered by the East of England consortium and during Spring 2006 further training is planned for London, the South East and South West regions. But that's not all. As a response to a clear need for a definitive training product a contract to produce an ART DVD has been signed, and a number of prominent figures from the ART community in the UK and USA have already agreed to be part of the project. In addition it is intended that other work designed to review and clarify suggested ambiguities in some of the literature will occur later in the year.

The last few months have been a time of significant change and movement for all those involved in delivering Aggression Replacement Training. NPD would like to express its thanks to the many people who have supported this initiative, often at short notice, and acted so swiftly to insure its success.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Karl Williams, NPD Interventions Unit

Email: Karl.Williams45@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 8991

23/10: PROLIFIC AND OTHER PRIORITY OFFENDERS

Do you have something to shout about?

Early results from the research programme indicate that working intensively with PPOs can reduce re-offending by 10 per cent. NPD Interventions Unit is intending to arrange a national conference on PPOs in central London on 6 July to celebrate excellent practice. This event is aimed at Chief Officers, Area leads on PPOs, and PPO team managers. Following keynote speakers, it is hoped that the conference will be largely workshop-based and will aim to:

- Spread good practice in PPO work.
- Contribute themes and ideas to the proposed PPO Probation 'toolkit'.
- Underpin the NPS contribution to the proposed amendments to the national PPO guidance.

Areas are invited to submit bids to run workshops at the conference. These should be practice-based, with a view to demonstrating how problems can be overcome, and should be as innovative and participatory as possible. It is likely that each workshop will be run two or three times during the day. Please send a synopsis of your proposal to Robin Brennan by 15 May – details below.

J-track: a second string to your bow

We are working on plans to have a J-track list sent regularly to Areas. Only about a third receive this at the moment. Where police and probation are working collaboratively to identify PPOs, Areas will be confident that they have an up-to-date list of who these are. Where these arrangements are less well developed, J-track will be a means of double-checking. We also hope that routine access to the list will be a means of

improving performance on the five-day assessment target.

Drug-testing of PPOs on licence – cautious optimism

Early results from NSMART are indicating that, where offenders are testing positive in a way which could give rise to recall, the majority are being involved in treatment options and not being returned to prison. Numbers so far are small so to publish percentages would be misleading. The cases looked at so far (starts for April – July 2005) are outside the minimum requirement set out in PC34/05 (ie offences committed on or after 4 April) and will largely be PPOs with a condition to participate in a PPO scheme, rather than having a straight licence condition.

Sharing premises – don't sign on the dotted line!

Some Areas with co-located teams are being asked to sign tenancy agreements. The divisional property managers in NOMS (formerly NPD estates team) are keen to develop a memorandum of understanding to cover instances of probation staff working in police premises (and vice versa) to avoid an over-legalistic approach. Please contact the relevant manager if your Area is in this position.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

East: Ken Venables

Ken.Venables@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

North: John Richards

John.Richards6@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

West: Robert Evans

Robert.Evans@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

NPD: (and to suggest a workshop)

Robin Brennan, NPD Interventions Unit

Robin.Brennan@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 0916

23/11: RETENTION DATA FOR DTTOs

The most recent data available about retention relates to offenders who commenced DTTOs in the second quarter of 2004 (April- June) and had orders of 12 months imposed. One of the most significant outcomes was that 89% of offenders are still in treatment on a DTTO at 12 weeks. 12 weeks is the minimum treatment period reported by the NTA and DIP as having some positive impact on drug use and offending.

Those 35 years and over were most likely to still be in treatment at the 12 week stage (93%). The least likely were those aged 21-24, although 87% of this age group were also still in treatment which is a significant amount.

Females were more likely to still be in treatment on a DTTO at 12 weeks although the difference between females and men is small. (91% of females and 89% of males)

1238 DTTOs (of 12 month length) commenced orders during this period. Of these 28% ended successfully at normal termination, 5% were revoked early for good progress, 36% were terminated due to conviction of a further offence and 23% were terminated due to failure to comply.

Of those orders which terminated for positive reasons, 85% was as a result of the DTTO terminating at the end of the order and 15% were revoked early for good progress.

Males were more likely to be terminated for positive reasons than females (males: 35% and females: 30%). However this is a change from the previous quarter which showed that females had a higher rate of positive terminations.

Those aged 30-34 were more likely to have a positive termination (41%), with those aged 35+ being the next likely at (38%). Those aged 24 and

under were the least likely to have a positive termination (26%).

Those under 24 were more likely to have their DTTO terminated for negative reasons (under 21:68% and 21-24:66%). This compares to 54% and 58% for those aged 30-34 and 35+ respectively.

The majority of DTTOs terminated for negative reasons at between 4-7 months. Areas may wish to look at their local retention data regarding when the majority of DTTOs/DRRs terminated, to assist them in developing strategies to retain offenders in treatment, particularly at specific vulnerable points in the order. It needs to be noted however that this is a measure of when the matter was finalised in court not when the offender dropped out of treatment or ceased contact with their supervising officer.

Much of this data may reflect what we already suspected. That is that younger offenders are more vulnerable to non compliance with orders than older offenders. This information can help inform local retention guidance/strategies. These findings in relation to age are similar to those in previous DTTO retention data.

The data regarding gender is not so conclusive. Previous DTTO retention data indicates that females have more positive terminations than males. Three previous DTTO retention data sets indicate that the difference in actual numbers of positive and negative DTTO terminations of females and males was never more than 6%.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Fiona Bauermeister, NPD Interventions Unit

Email:

Fiona.Bauermeister@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 0768

23/12: CONDITIONAL CAUTIONS/ UNPAID WORK PILOTS

Part 3 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 provided for the introduction of conditional cautions.

Conditional cautioning has been running under an “early implementation” scheme in seven police force areas for the past year. This has been led by the Police and CPS and the policy has been run by a dedicated team in the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). Initial results have been positive and the OCJR Conditional Cautions Team is now working with NPD to pilot the use of unpaid work as a condition attached to a caution – to be known as **reparative work**. The pilot and evaluation is being funded by the Respect Task Force. This was announced in [PC 94/2005](#).

Under the CJ Act 2003, conditions must be rehabilitative or reparative which would limit the available range of unpaid work. However, Part 2 of the Police and Justice Bill (currently in Parliament) aims to provide for punitive conditions.

Six Probation Areas, all already running conditional cautions, have agreed to participate in this pilot. These are: Lancashire, Thames Valley, South Yorkshire, West Mercia, West Midlands and Merseyside. It is anticipated that the numbers receiving conditional cautions would be extremely low, particularly while punitive conditions remain inadmissible.

Offenders receiving conditional cautions will be asked to perform 10 hours of unpaid work. The timescale and numbers involved mean that this is likely to take place in pre-existing group projects, although some offenders may do individual placements if beneficiaries do not find the short duration disruptive.

We have been working on guidance for the preparatory work, and will shortly visit Areas to assess readiness. The pilots are expected to begin in June/July 2006 and will last for one year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Seb Falk, NPD Interventions Unit

Email: Sebastian.Falk@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 217 8448

23/13: NPS ALCOHOL DELIVERY STRATEGY

Working with Alcohol Misusing Offenders - A strategy for delivery will be published shortly. The Strategy fits within the Government’s over-arching Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for Englandⁱ and complements the Prison Service Alcohol Strategyⁱⁱ, in order to create a coherent NOMS strategy. It is also consistent with the National Treatment Agency (NTA)’s soon to be published Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers (MoCAM) and related work under the Department of Health’s Programme of Improvement for Alcohol Misuseⁱⁱⁱ.

OASys data indicates that there are a significant number of offenders under statutory supervision who have problems with alcohol misuse, often linked to their offending. The Strategy aims to reduce alcohol related offending and harm to health by providing NPS with a coherent framework for tackling alcohol misuse that is evidence based and develop greater consistency and co-ordination of delivery. It contains a number of actions for NPD and recommendations for Areas to improve provision. In the absence of dedicated funding to support implementation, the emphasis is on consolidating the work already being done across NPS and building on best practice.

The key elements of the Strategy cover the main stages of an offender's contact with the service, from screening, referral and assessment via treatment to resettlement, and important related issues such as addressing diversity, partnership working and staff training and development. It also reflects relatively recent developments such as the implementation of the Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) of the community order and the piloting of the Lower Intensity Alcohol Module (LIAM).

The Strategy has been informed by the results of research undertaken by Home Office Research Development & Statistics (RDS) and feedback from an extensive consultation process, involving NPS managers and practitioners, NOMS, NTA, alcohol treatment services and other key stakeholders such as Alcohol Concern.

Hard copy versions of the strategy will be sent to all probation Areas. An electronic version will be made available on EPIC.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Robert Stanbury, NPD Interventions Unit

Email: Robert.Stanbury@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7217 0767

i http://www.strategy.gov.uk/work_areas/alcohol_misuse/index.asp

ii Copies of the strategy, "Addressing Alcohol Misuse", and the accompanying "Alcohol Treatment/Interventions Good Practice Guide" and "Alcohol Testing for Prisoners Manual of Policy and Procedures" are available at

<http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/news/index.asp?id=2173,22,6,22,0,0>

iii The Programme of Improvement is a commitment from the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and the Choosing Health White Paper (2004). It is comprised of a number of related projects that will have an impact on the planning of alcohol services by commissioners and providers. These include:

- Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP), published on 1 November 2005, which provided the first detailed national picture of trends of alcohol misuse and the availability of alcohol treatment services throughout the country;

- Alcohol Misuse Interventions: Guidance on developing a local programme of improvement, published on 14 November 2005, designed to help Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) improve the services for problem drinkers;

- Review of the Effectiveness of Treatment for Alcohol Problems, which will be published with MoCAM; and

- Research into screening and brief interventions in primary health care and criminal justice settings, which will launch in Spring 2006.