

National Probation Service Bulletin



014/06 NPS PERFORMANCE REPORT 19

Performance Report 19 has been published containing information on the performance of the NPS for the first three quarters of 2005/06. The report shows a record level of performance with virtually all targets achieved.

Enforcement

91% of relevant cases monitored between April and December 2005 were enforced within 10 days in accordance with National Standards. Monthly performance has been a little erratic since the high of 93% achieved in July but it has not dropped below the 90% target since January 2005.

Compliance

Compliance measures those cases where there was no second unacceptable failure to comply (third for licences) and includes orders that have been allowed to continue by the court following breach action. Performance appears to have stalled at 81% this year – just 4% short of the target. Details of a new, fairer and more meaningful measure of compliance for 2006-07 will be issued shortly.

Offending Behaviour Programmes

There were 11,502 completions of offending behaviour programmes between April and December 2005. That is 6% above target and 736 (7%) more than were completed over the same period last year.

Unpaid Work

36,472 completions have been achieved between April and December 2005. That is 3% below the profiled target but there were 8,342 (or 30%) more completions than at the same stage in 2004-05.

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Drug Treatment and Testing Orders / Drug Rehabilitation Requirements

10,086 DTTOs and DRRs commenced between April and December 2005 meaning that 84% of the profiled target was met. This is against a target that increased by 23% since last year's. There were 2,522 (33%) more starts between April and December 2005 than during the same period the previous year.

There were 2,749 completions of DTTOs and DRRs between April and December 2005, 92% of the profiled target. It will require a colossal effort of over 400 completions per month to meet the 4,000 annual target.

Basic Skills

33,006 offenders commenced basic skills courses between April and December 2005, 29% above the profiled target. There were 10,596 more starts than at the same stage last year, an increase of 47%.

11,114 basic skills awards were delivered between April and December 2005, 65% above the profiled target and almost double the awards achieved over the same period in 2005-05.

Sickness Absence

There were 12.2 days on average lost due to sickness per employee between April and December 2005. That is 0.2 days more than the same period in 2004-05.

Victims

Performance on victims remained at the level achieved last year when 93% of victims were contacted within the 8-week standard. This exceeds the 85% target.

High / Very High Risk of harm cases

The target is to complete 90% of risk of harm analyses, risk management plans and OASys sentence plans on high risk offenders within five working days of the commencement of the order or release into the community. There have been incremental monthly improvements in performance rising from 66% in August to 88% in December 2005, giving a cumulative total of 76%.

Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs)

The target is to complete 90% of risk of harm screenings / full analyses (as appropriate) and OASys sentence plans on Prolific and other Priority Offenders within five working days of commencement of the order or release into the community. Performance started at 64% when monitoring began in August and has risen steadily to 90% (i.e. meeting the target) in December 2005. Cumulatively over the year performance is at 76%.

Court report timeliness

The proportion of court reports completed between April and December 2005 within the timescale set by the court was 98%. Details of a new target for 2006-07 that will better reflect our service to the courts will be issued shortly.

Accurate and timely ethnicity data

96% of data on offenders starting community orders was accurate and timely with respect to ethnicity, as was 94% of data on offenders starting supervision under licence. In addition, 92% of staffing records were returned on time with a valid ethnicity code, giving an overall average of 94% against a target of 95%.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For enquires relating about any issues relating to this report please contact:

Email: Roger.McGarva2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

For enquires about the data please contact:

Email: Paris.Mikkides@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

015/06 NOMIS UPDATE

Probation Circular 84/2005 advised areas of their positions in the National Offender Management Information System (C-NOMIS) and the procedures for Change Control.

Following a review of scheduling the 'early adopters' of the system, and taking account of plans to re-organise the IT infrastructure of NPS under the OMNI contract with Steria, the Project Board has decided to make some amendments to the roll out schedule, whilst maintaining the same start and end dates for the implementation programme. Full details will be issued later but the revised proposal involves the following steps.

July 2006 – Introduce version 1.0 of C-NOMIS into one HMPS establishment (Albany)

October 2006 – Introduce version 1.1 of C-NOMIS into NPS (Northants)

October – December 2006 – Introduce version 1.1 to remaining early adopter candidates.

January 2007 – Major rollout commences.

This means that the data migration week has been put back for each area by a few weeks to allow alignment with OMNI as this avoids a host of problems for the early adopters. In addition it will enable areas to have a longer period to test and remove glitches before regional

roll out, enabling them to receive version 1.1 which includes the programmes functionality.

As stated, this reschedule will not affect the end date of the project (July 2008 - covering parole functionality and interfaces to other criminal justices organisations) nor the date at which an area begins to prepare for C-NOMIS implementation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

If you have any questions relating to the deployment of the system please contact the team on:

Tel: 020 7217 0104

016/06 UPDATE ON OASys CONNECTIVITY

Deployment of OASys inter-area and inter-service connectivity to Greater Manchester Probation Area, which had to be postponed from November due to some technical problems, went ahead as planned over the weekend of 7/8 January. The OASys Connectivity Board met on 20 January to review the progress of roll out to Greater Manchester and decided that, after some initial teething problems, the roll out had been successful and that we could confidently proceed to include other areas. Inter-area and inter-service connectivity has now been extended to 24 areas, including London. Roll out will proceed to areas in the South East on 25 February, East Midlands on 4 March and, finally, West Midlands and Wales on 11 March.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Email: Janet.Corcoran@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

017/06 SERIOUS FURTHER OFFENCES

The Public Protection Unit / casework team is currently redrafting the Serious Further Offence probation circular, due to be implemented 1 April 2006.

On 2 May 2006, a 'launch' and briefing on the new circular will take place in London at the Victoria Plaza. Chief Officers have been sent a letter giving details.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Email: Andrew.wills5@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7217 8121

018/06 LAUNCH OF DRUG COURT PILOTS

In December 2005 the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, joined by the Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales, launched the pilot of a dedicated drug court that will provide an end-to-end process for the management of drug treatment orders.

The courts currently review all drug treatment orders (DTTOs or the Community Orders with DRRs) on a regular cycle. However, looking at international experience of drug court the issues of continuity and earlier intervention will now be considered within the context of a pilot study.

Under existing drug treatment reviews the magistrates, who are often drawn from the Bench as a whole, only review the treatment order. The new model being evaluated at West London and Leeds Magistrates' Courts will link offenders on the orders to the bench, magistrates or a district judge, from the point of conviction, through their regular reviews until completion. Violent offenders or identified drug dealers will not be eligible and the court will re-sentence all offenders who breach the requirements of their drug treatment order to reinforce that this sentence is far from a soft option.

Guidance has recently been produced PC57/2005, which outlines what local teams need to be aware of when working with drug treatment orders and the review of them, for more information please refer to the circular.

It is believed that the dedicated drug court model will not only strengthen inter-agency working but may also reduce drug-related crime, drug abuse and add benefit to the administration of court business. An evaluation team has been appointed to measure these objectives and will report back in six and 18 months time.

There are already some initial lessons on inter-agency working emerging from the establishment of the DDC

pilot and these will be shared as the project evolves. One aspect readily adopted is the creation of local steering groups that bring all the local agencies together for regular meetings and the opportunity to resolve issues relating to the drug court.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Email: Simon.Thacker@dca.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7210 2803

019/06 MESSAGE TO STAFF

Statement from:

Roger Hill – Director, National Probation Service for England and Wales.

David Scott – Chief Officer, London Probation

Investigation by the HM Chief Inspector of Probation on the case of Hanson and White

We entirely accept the findings of this report and deeply regret this tragedy for the Monckton family.

There are valuable lessons about improving the way we protect the public and these will doubtless re-shape many aspects of probation practice. We believe they will help to strengthen our ability to deliver the highest possible standards of supervision and vigilance.

London Probation has improved its performance considerably since this case and has recruited over 500 new members of staff. The report's findings and recommendations will strengthen and support London Probation in the root and branch overhaul of its work already underway.

Nationally, we are continuing to raise standards as part of our improvement programme and we will continue to work closely with other criminal justice agencies and with HM Inspectorate of Probation.

020/06 EPIC STAFF DIRECTORY

Can all staff check that their work details, especially their phone numbers, are correct on the staff directory on Epic. Staff can edit their own details by clicking the edit details button under their name on the homepage, make amends where required and click submit. The changes will appear on the site the following day.

The process takes a few moments to do and guarantees that you can be contacted by colleagues anywhere in the Service.

021/06 APPOINTMENTS

John Colvill has been appointed as the Board Chair of West Yorkshire Probation.

Michael Barwood, Emily Lam and Michael Hyman have been appointed by Greater Manchester Probation Board as members.

022/06 EVENTS

The London Drug Policy Forum is holding an 'Overcoming the barriers to work for former drug users' Conference.

This event is designed to bring together practitioners and those responsible for organising services to help former drug users into employment. It will highlight and help disseminate emerging good practice in this field and also consider how to tackle some of the most commonly identified barriers to effective intervention namely housing and welfare benefits issues

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Venue: The Old Library, Guildhall, London

Date: 27th March

Booking this event can be done online at: www.cesi.org.uk or alternatively contact the events department on:

Tel: 020 7582 7221

Nacro's 16th Annual Youth Crime Conference – Working with children and young people - early intervention to custody

The conference will be an opportunity to consider the role of YOTs within children's trusts in the provision of services to children, and the issues surrounding the use of custody and ways to reduce the seemingly ever increasing reliance upon it.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Venue: University of Nottingham

Date: 29-31 March

For further information or to request a booking form please contact:

Email: anne.richardson@nacro.org.uk

Tel: 020 7840 6466

North West Consortium is holding a mentoring conference.

This purpose of the conference is to look at the issues involved in mentoring offenders with a high risk of re-offending or of causing significant harm, firstly by examining existing practice, and secondly by developing an understanding of the principles behind it.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Venue: Conference Centre, Cheshire

Date: 4th April

For further information or to request a booking form please contact:

Email: 2006conference@offendermentoring.org.uk

Tel: 0151 526 1346

The NPS takes no responsibility for the content or possible cost of external conferences.

1 st	Staff Training for Yorkshire Probation Area Staff, South Yorkshire Probation Area HQ, Sheffield
2 nd	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, University of Leicester
3 rd	NPS Domestic Abuse Reference Group, Horseferry House, London
3 rd	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, venue tbc
6 th	Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment: Consultation Event, Royal Lancaster Hotel, London
6 th	Kent Probation Area Staff Conference, Leas Cliff Hill, Folkestone
6 th – 7 th	PR Conference, Royal York hotel, York
6 th – 7 th	NOMS IT Roadshow Event 2006
7 th	NOMS IT/IS Conference, Newbold Revel, venue tbc
8 th	The Change Control Workshop for Northumbria Sex Offender Groupwork Programme, venue tbc
8 th	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, Leeds Town Hall, Leeds
9 th	Staff Training for Humberside Probation Area Staff, Humberside Probation Area HQ
10 th	Staff Training for Humberside Probation Area Staff, Humberside Probation Area HQ
13 th	NPS Accelerate Programme Information Day, Civil Service Recreation Centre, Chadwick Street, London
13 th	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, Durham County Cricket Club, County Durham
13 th – 14 th	NOMS IT Roadshow Event 2006
14 th	NE/NW Chief Officers Regional Challenge/Dialogue, Malmaison Hotel, Manchester
14 th	NOMS IT/IS Conference, venue tbc
15 th	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, Leeds Town Hall, Leeds
16 th	NPS Disability Equality Scheme Information Day, The Palace Hotel, Manchester

023/06 NPD DIARY

March

17 th	YH/EM Chief Officers Regional Challenge/Dialogue, Royal York Hotel, York	30 th	NOMS IT/IS Conference, Winchester, venue tbc
17 th	NPS Accelerate Programme Information Day, Greater Manchester Probation Area HQ	30 th	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nottingham
20 th	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, venue tbc	30 th	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, Leeds Town Hall, Leeds
21 st	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, venue tbc	024/06 ISSUED RECENTLY	
21 st	South (or North) Assembly, One Great George street, London	Probation Circulars 2006:	
21 st	NPS Disability Equality Scheme Information Day, The Jury's Inn Hotel, Birmingham	PC03	Expedited Listing & Notification of Hearing in Community Penalty Breaches
22 nd	Staff Training for Wales Probation Areas, Thistle Hotel, Cardiff	PC04	Temporary Travel Abroad While on Licence
22 nd	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, venue tbc	PC05	Approved Premises: Drug Testing of Residents
22 nd – 23 rd	NOMS IT Roadshow Event 2006	Other Publications:	
22 nd – 23 rd	National Consortia Directors' Forum, Horseferry House, London	HMIP Report on Hanson and White	
23 rd	North (or South) Assembly, Royal York Hotel, York	NPS Performance Report 19	
23 rd	NOMS IT/IS Conference, Bristol, venue tbc	A Five Year Strategy for Protecting the Public and Reducing Reoffending	
23 rd	Staff Training for Dyfed-Powys Probation Areas, Hotel Commodore, Llandrindod Wells	HMI Probation Newsletter Issue 7	
24 th	Staff Training for North Wales Probation Areas, Imperial Hotel, North Wales	The Sentence – Sentencing Guidelines Newsletter	
24 th	Risk of Harm Middle Manager Workshops, venue tbc	Joint Inspection of Calderdale Youth Offending Team	
28 th	HMPS/NPS Treatment Managers Conference, Warwick Conference Centre	HMIP Effective Supervision Inspection – Report on Surrey	
28 th	Warwickshire Probation Area 'Working Together' Conference, Dunchurch Conference Centre, Warwickshire	HMIP Effective Supervision Inspection – Cumbria Follow up Report	
29 th	SE/EE Chief Officers Regional Challenge/Dialogue, One Great George Street, London	Sentencing Advisory Panel – Allocation Guidelines	
29 th	NPS Disability Equality Scheme Information Day, Civil Service Recreation Centre, Chadwick Street, London	Home Office Statistics of Mentally Ordered Offenders 2004	
29 th – 30 th	NOMS IT Roadshow Event 2006	HM Court Service Business Strategy	
		Home Office Findings 270: An Evaluation of the Use of Special Measures for Vulnerable and Intimidated Witnesses	
		Victim Support's Research Report 'In The Aftermath'	

TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE NPS BULLETIN, OR TO BE ADDED TO THE DISTRIBUTION LIST CONTACT:
NPSBULLETIN@HOMEOFFICE.GSI.GOV.UK