

Appendix 4

Evidencing the value of housing related support in **offender services**

National Policy Initiatives

There are a number of national strategies that central government have developed that housing related support services contribute to delivering. The devolution of power to local areas from national government involves an expectation that localities will commission and deliver services that contribute toward attaining these targets. In some cases central government will pass legislation or issue statutory guidance to compel local authorities and Health Authorities/Trusts to perform certain functions. Housing related support providers perform an important function in supporting the local authority and primary and secondary statutory health services in meeting the health, social care and support needs of offenders.

The major legislation is the **Offender Management Act (2007)**. The Act aims to reduce reoffending by improving the way offenders are managed. In order to achieve this, the Act established the provision of probation Trusts as the public body that provides and commissions offender management services. The Act names probation Trusts as the body responsible for commissioning the provision of offender management services by the best providers in the public, private and voluntary sectors with an aim of reducing the current public sector monopoly on this provision.

National Reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan (2004) outlines the government strategy for reducing reoffending. This delivery plan is driven by seven reducing re-offending pathways¹: one of the pathways most pertinent to housing related support services is the accommodation pathway. This aims to get offenders into settled accommodation as quickly as possible and help them maintain independent living, as the foundation for successful rehabilitation. This pathway also states that accommodation needs of the offender are incorporated with other relevant strategies: for example, regional housing and homeless strategies and drug strategies. Pathway initiatives also see partnership working between the **National Offender Management Service (NOMS)** and local, regional and national bodies: such as local housing providers, the South West accommodation Gateway and the **Housing and Returning Prisoners (HARP) protocol**.

In November 2009 the Government also launched a policy initiative (**Reducing reoffending: supporting families, creating better futures**), which outlines a framework for supporting families of offenders.

Further information about these initiatives is available below:

National Reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan (2004): <http://noms.justice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/publications/strategy/reducing-reoffend-delivery-plan/>

Offender Management Act 2007: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/offender-management.htm>
Reducing reoffending: supporting families, creating better futures:
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reducing-reoffending-supporting-families.htm>

HARP: <http://noms.justice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/publications/strategy/harp-protocol>
NOMS: <http://noms.justice.gov.uk/>

¹ These seven pathways are: accommodation; education, training and employment; health; drugs and alcohol; finance, benefit and debt; children and families; attitudes, thinking and behaviour.

National Indicators

There are a number of national indicators that offender management services can contribute to. In particular, **NI 18** aims to predict the re-offending rates for offenders under probation supervision. Similarly, **NI 19** specifically measures the reoffending rate of young offenders who are in the youth justice system; this indicator therefore also measures the performance of the youth justice system and its partners in reducing reoffending. This is complemented by **NI 45** and **NI 46**, which aim to engage young offenders in education, training and employment, as well as in settled accommodation: as key factors against reoffending. Both of these indicators also measure the performance of Youth Offending Teams and their partners.

NI	Definition	Substantial contribution	Partial contribution
15	Serious violent crime		✓
16	Serious acquisitive crime		✓
18	Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision	✓	
19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	✓	
20	Assault with injury crime rate		✓
21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police		✓
30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders	✓	
32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence		✓
33	Arson incidents		✓
38	Drug-related (Class A) offending rate		✓
45	Young offenders' engagement in suitable education, training and employment	✓	
46	Young Offenders' access to suitable accommodation	✓	
111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17		✓
143	Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence		✓
144	Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence		✓

Resources evidencing the value of offenders services

- The **CLG** have commissioned a tool to enable local authorities to evidence the **financial benefits** of housing related support. National research has demonstrated considerable savings as the provision of housing related support services can prevent the use of most intensive costly public services. The national net financial benefit of the Supporting People Programme for offenders (or people at risk of offending, and mentally disordered offenders) is **£40.3 million**. The tool can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/financialbenefitsguide?view=Standard>

- The **Office of the Third Sector** has developed a **Social Return on Investment (SROI)** programme that enables commissioners and providers to calculate the social return that investing in services providers. Information on the programme and tool can be found at: http://www.sroi-uk.org/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,65/
- The **Department of Health** in its **Care Services Efficiency Delivery** programme has produced case studies demonstrating savings made by investing in support related housing services. Case studies are available from: <http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/csed/Solutions/supportRelatedHousing/?parent=5322&child=5324>

Any report utilising the above tools will be more compelling if real life case studies are included, where it has been demonstrated that individual’s outcomes have been enhanced due to their personal receipt of housing related support services.

Public Service Agreements

These are central Government targets to improve the delivery of public services and the outcomes they achieve. Although each PSA is cross departmental responsibility it has a lead department and a single delivery plan. The central government departments work with the regional Government Offices to support local authorities in delivering the targets and monitor progress. There are 30 PSAs in total. Some of the PSAs listed below make a partial contribution to offender management services.

PSA	Description	Significant contribution	Partial Contribution
PSA 2	Improve the skills of the population on the way to ensuring a world-class skills base by 2020		✓
PSA 8	Maximise employment opportunity for all		✓
PSA 10	Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people		✓
PSA 16	Increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and employment, education or training	✓	
PSA 18	Promote better health and wellbeing for all		✓
PSA 19	Ensure better care for all		✓
PSA 21	Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities		✓
PSA 23	Make communities safer		✓

General resources

- The full list of national Indicators and their definitions can be found at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/finalnationalindicators>
- To find out the priority NIs agreed between each Local Authority and the Regional Government Office visit <http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk/default.aspx> and <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/10958567>
- Homeless link have developed a toolkit to support providers in profiling their work against the NI prioritised in their locality with case studies of services for homeless people. <http://www.homeless.org.uk/policyandinfo/issues/laacurrent/laaform>

- ROCC has an on line tool which is a guide to the NIs chosen by local areas in the South East. The tool enables providers to see which Nis specific client group services contribute to
<http://www.rocc.org.uk/static/documents/Local%20Area%20Agreements%20Indicators%20Tool.xls>