

Meeting date: 29th November 2022

Report to: Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board

Report title: Reducing Reoffending Update

Report from: Community Safety Partnership

Report author/lead contact officer: Neil Appleby – Head of Probation

Wards affected:

All Wards

Public/private report: Public

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility under the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to develop a strategic approach to reducing adult reoffending. This report outlines the current approach within Solihull to meet this responsibility.
- 1.2 Reoffending, the commission of further offences by the relatively small number of individuals convicted by courts, contributes hugely to overall reoffending rates. Most recent statistics show 24% of adults convicted by the courts will reoffend within 12 months. Of those released from prison or commencing a community sentence, the figure is 30%. For the 'revolving door' cohort of those receiving a custodial sentence of less than 12 months, the figure rises to 58%.
- 1.3 The focus of this report, and indeed the Solihull Reducing Reoffending Strategy, is adult offenders aged 18 or over. The challenge to reduce youth reoffending continues to sit primarily with the borough's Youth Justice Service albeit that many agencies are involved in both youth and adult work and there are strong links between the two.
- 1.4 The key aspect is the Reducing Reoffending Pathways Plan, which maps the practical approaches to tackling issues that are known to impact upon continuation of offending. These issues will include accommodation, employability and substance misuse. The initial plan, presented today, has been formulated over the last six months by the multi-agency Reducing Reoffending / Integrated Offender Management Governance Board which reports to Safer Solihull Partnership.

2. Recommended

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and comment on further development.

3. Matters for Consideration

- 3.1 A statutory responsibility sits with all community safety partnerships to formulate a strategy for reducing reoffending. Solihull's previous strategy has expired, hence the development of a new document. This is presented to Scrutiny Committee today. Whilst it is a new document, many of the initiatives are already well established as they sit within core responsibilities both of policing and probation work.
- 3.2 There are current challenges linked to measuring reoffending rates. National data continues to be produced on a quarterly basis but is not published by the Ministry of Justice at a local level. The Probation Service is refining a model to measure reoffending of individuals under statutory supervision with data becoming available at a local level within the next three months. This will not replicate the national methodology but should nonetheless provide a measure of the impact of Solihull's strategy.
- 3.3 The attached plan clusters actions and initiatives around the seven established 'reducing reoffending pathways' around which the national probation Offender Assessment System (OASys) has been constructed over the last two decades.
- 3.4 Running alongside initiatives to assist individuals to exit from offending lifestyles is an explicit understanding that failing to engage with interventions, in the case of those subject to court-mandated orders or post-prison release licence, carries the jeopardy of formal enforcement action.

4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?

- 4.1 Typically, around 320 Solihull residents will be subject to statutory probation supervision in the community at any one point, with others managed by the police, often on a non-statutory basis. While this is a relatively small percentage of the borough's population, their potential to do harm or create disruption is disproportionately high. Many have a range of complex needs and decades of evidence have made it clear that punishment alone will not address this.
- 4.2 The pathways represented in this plan are well evidenced as means of tackling the complex needs of the offenders, and investment in the pathways also benefits the population as a whole when reoffending reduces.

5. Reasons for recommending preferred option

- 5.1 At this stage a range of alternatives are not presented. It is a statutory requirement to have a reducing reoffending strategy.
- 5.2 Much of the content of the plan is funded by central government, including probation

resource funded by Ministry of Justice and additional substance misuse interventions, supported by monies attached to the Government’s 10 year ‘From Harm to Hope’ drugs strategy. Other services, relating for instance to accommodation, employability and the core substance misuse offer, are local authority-funded, as they are for all citizens of Solihull, but offer positive social and economic returns if they encourage departure from a pattern of reoffending.

6. Implications and Considerations

6.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the [Council Plan](#):

Priority:	Contribution:
<p>People and Communities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving outcomes for children and young people in Solihull. 2. Good quality, responsive, and dignified care and support for Adults in Solihull when they need it. 3. Take action to improve life chances and health outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities. 4. Enable communities to thrive. 	<p>Offenders have significantly worse outcomes than the general population. Assisting an exit from an offending lifestyle can have long-term benefits for the public purse.</p>
<p>Economy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Develop and promote the borough’s economy, with a focus on revitalising our town and local centres. 6. Maximising the opportunities of UK Central and HS2. 7. Increase the supply of affordable and social housing that is environmentally sustainable. 	<p>Offenders, if properly channelled, can fill labour gaps and make valuable contributions to the workforce.</p>
<p>Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Enhance our natural environment, improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions. 	<p>There is a positive environmental impact from unpaid work projects completed by offenders positively engaged in supervision.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Promote employee wellbeing 	<p>Enter text.</p>

6.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.2.1 The Committee are asked to support the plan and to receive periodic updates

6.3 Financial implications:

6.3.1 There are no immediate additional financial implications

6.4 Legal implications:

6.4.1 The plan satisfies a statutory responsibility

6.5 Risk implications, including Risk Appetite:

6.5.1 No immediate additional risks to the council are envisaged. The services outlined in the plan already, for the most part, exist and many are externally staffed and funded. A range of existing risks are inherent in having a proportion of the population who regularly offend. The aim of the report is to reduce that level of offending.

6.6 Equality implications:

6.6.1 Actions within the reducing reoffending action plan are intended to address the needs of all groups. In particular, there are range of services bespoke to the needs of women who have been committing offences. They typically represent around 10% of the offending population, frequently exhibit histories of significant trauma, and may respond to different approaches than the dominant male population.

6.7 Linkages to our work with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Local Enterprise Partnership or the Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System (ICS):

6.7.1 The Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System is an active partner in this initiative. As the WMCA explores an agenda of increased devolution in criminal justice, we will look to explore opportunities to participate in this.

7. List of appendices referred to

7.1 The Solihull Reducing Reoffending delivery plan 2022-2024 is attached.

8. Background papers used to compile this report

8.1 N/A

9. List of Other Relevant Documents

9.1 N/A