

THE STAFFORDSHIRE & WEST MIDLANDS COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY LIMITED

WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2016

REPORT OF HEAD OF SOLIHULL COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY

Review of the ministry of justice transforming rehabilitation programme
and its implementation throughout 2015 and beyond.

1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report is to inform the Scrutiny Panel of developments in the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) since the inception of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda.

2. **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments with this report although the CRC's operating model, Our Plan to Change Lives, is available for members of the panel as is a document entitled In Partnership (Changing Lives Together).

3. **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

- A On 9th May 2013, the government announced its aim to "transform the way we manage offenders in the community to achieve a reduction in the rate of re-offending whilst continuing to protect the public". This means that in the near future, the majority of offender services will be delivered by a range of contracted private and voluntary organisations.
- B Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust came to an end on the 31st of May, with staff transferring to either the new public sector National Probation Service (NPS) cluster of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, or the new Staffordshire & West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) cluster of Coventry and Solihull. The SWM CRC remained under contract to the National Offender Management Service until share sale took place on 1st February 2015). From that point on, SWM CRC has been owned by RRP (Reducing Reoffending Partnership), a partnership of Ingeus, CRI and St Giles' Trust.
- C The key aspects of the Coalition's Transforming Rehabilitation reforms are:
- A new public sector National Probation Service has been created.
 - Every offender released from custody will, in due course, receive statutory supervision and rehabilitation in the community.
 - Legislation will extend this statutory supervision and rehabilitation to all 50,000 of the most prolific group of offenders – those sentenced to less than 12 months in custody. Currently, these offenders have no statutory involvement with the probation service.
 - A nationwide 'through the prison gate' resettlement service will be put in place, meaning most offenders are given continuous support by one provider from custody into the community. The prison service is to re-organise the prison system so that most offenders are held in a prison designated to their area for at least three months before release (a resettlement prison).
 - The market will be opened up to a diverse range of rehabilitation providers in

the voluntary and private sectors, at the local as well as national level.

- New payment incentives for market providers will be introduced, giving providers freedom from bureaucracy and flexibility to do what works, but only paying them in full for significant reductions in reoffending.

The National Probation Service

D Sarah Chand is the Deputy Director for the Midlands region, which is one of six regions in England. As I understand it, Deputy Directors will not have any commissioning or contract management responsibilities. Funding for interventions for offenders in the NPS will be held centrally and interventions for that group of offenders will almost certainly be commissioned nationally.

The National Probation Service is responsible for:

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- initial assessment of all cases
 - all court work (including reports and breach work)
 - recalls
 - parole reports
 - cases assessed as presenting a high or very high risk of harm
 - all MAPPA cases
 - Approved Premises
 - victim liaison work

The Community Rehabilitation Company

F The Chief Executive of the SWM Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) is Catherine Holland.

The Community Rehabilitation Company is responsible for:

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- the supervision of all cases assessed to present a low risk of harm or medium risk of harm
 - delivery of Community Payback
 - delivery of accredited programmes (group work with offenders except for sex offenders)
 - delivery of other interventions e.g. Employment, Training and Education support and services; non-accredited groupwork programmes; and a range of interventions addressing issues such as finance, accommodation and substance misuse issues
 - Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
 - From 1st May 2015, the CRC has been responsible for the delivery of new Resettlement Services to all prisoners in the 3 months prior to release and 'through the gate'. This service will supplement the new responsibilities (from 1st February 2015) to supervise offenders on release from sentences of less than 12 months.

H In October 2014, The Reducing Reoffending Partnership was announced as the preferred bidder for the Staffordshire and West Midlands CRC. This partnership between Ingeus, St Giles Trust and Crime Reduction Initiatives was also successful in securing preferred bidder status for the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland CRC.

I Ingeus UK is a leading provider of employment and training, including the government's Work Programme amongst other employability services. The company works alongside one hundred partner organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

J St Giles Trust is a registered charity that aims to break the cycle of prison, crime and disadvantage and create safer communities by supporting people to change their lives. Their services put offenders at the heart of the solution by training them to put their skills and experience to use in providing peer support and mentoring. Interestingly about a third of St Giles Trust's staff are ex-offenders who now support others towards living independent lives, according to the following needs: Somewhere to live; Something to live for; Support from someone who has been there; Positive relationships.

K Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) is a recovery oriented substance misuse service that works with service users to inspire them towards appreciating the benefits of abstinence for their health and wellbeing. CRI works from the basis of respect for user choice and so by being non-judgemental, will work with service users on longer term treatment journeys.

Further information: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/transforming-rehabilitation>

<http://www.rrpartnership.com/>

L The contracts for the sale of the CRCs to RRP were signed on 18th December 2014 and the transition date to new ownership was 1st February 2015. The contract is set to run for 7 years with a possible extension period of a further 3 years.

M February 1st 2015 also coincided with the enactment of the Offender Rehabilitation Act and the implementation of the new provisions for supervision of short sentence prisoners whose offences are committed on or after this date. The CRC then had twelve weeks to put in place its provisions for the Through the Gate resettlement service.

N The work of the CRC under RRP's ownership will be underpinned by a payment by results (PbR) framework which combines a 'fee for service' element with payments for results, increasing potentially over the life of the contract which are payable only if there are demonstrable and incremental reductions in reoffending by the offender cohorts supervised. It was anticipated that the first cohort of offenders subject to the PbR arrangements would commence supervision in October 2015, with the first payments under PbR being made from late 2017.

4, **IMPLEMENTING OUR PLAN TO CHANGE LIVES**

A The documents entitled Our Plan to Change Lives and In Partnership (Reducing Reoffending Together) provide information on the range of work undertaken since the adoption of the CRC into the RRP family. Amongst many other things I would like to draw the panel's attention to the commitment to:

- invest in technology and a working environment that is more conducive to the rehabilitation effort
- put service users at the heart of service delivery through use of peer

mentoring and volunteers

- provide a truly effective resettlement service that provides through the gate services and tackles the so called revolving door of addiction, reoffending and imprisonment
- use data collected through new assessment systems and interventions to contribute to investment decisions on what works

B SWM will retain a presence in the Borough although it will move from its current base behind the magistrate's court during the course of the year. The co-located Integrated Offender Management Unit at Chelmsley Wood police station will continue as now, however in line with our commitment to even closer partnership arrangements, we are seeking opportunities for shared delivery spaces and indeed other opportunities for co-location with partners. This is on the basis that an even more joined up system for working with individuals with complex underlying needs is likely to be even more effective in improving outcomes for people in the Borough.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**Kobina Hall, Asst Chief Officer
Head of Service, Coventry, Solihull and Community Payback
Staffs and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company**