

### Reducing re-offending update

1. On 12 September the Board agreed a set of priority areas for the year. One of these was to reduce the rate of re-offending, with the key interventions for this identified as:

- Working with partners, including the IDeA, to refine and promote key recommendations in the LGA report 'Going Straight' at local level.
- Develop, with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) a model for local authority and NOMS engagement and conduct a pilot in one region
- Promote the message in 'Going Straight' to local government and partners

The Board received a further update on 13 March, with the discussion attended by Juliet Lyon, Director of the Prison Reform Trust.

### Action since last update

#### 2. Meeting with Home Office Ministers 22 June

Cllr Bryony Rudkin (Safer Communities Board Chair) and Cllr Richard Kemp (LGA Deputy Chair) met Home Office Ministers Baroness Scotland and Gerry Sutcliffe on 22 June. The meeting was intended as a follow-up to the major seminar held with the Home Secretary and others on 1 March. Members and ministers received an update on progress with the East Midlands Demonstration Project (see below), and discussed ways in which local authorities and NOMS can work more closely together to reduce offending and re-offending.

Members updated ministers on the LGA's vision for local government, recently published in the document 'Closer to People and Places'. The importance of embedding work on reducing re-offending into existing local partnership arrangements was also stressed.

Key outcomes and commitments included:

- Ministers will look at developing fewer and more outcome-focussed targets, in consultation with ministers from other departments including DCLG and Department of Health
- NOMS to work (in consultation with LGA and SOLACE) on developing a formula for calculating the costs of repeat offending and the potential savings to be made through local initiatives to tackle re-offending. This will build on learning from the East Midlands project and will be used to promote to local authorities the business case for investing in reducing re-offending, as well as the positive difference that it can make to the whole community
- LGA to embed reducing re-offending into the proposed demonstration project for 'Closer to People and Places'
- LGA members to raise the profile of this work through their respective political channels

#### 3. Reducing re-offending coalition and publication

The LGA has established a coalition of national organisations with an interest in developing local solutions to reducing re-offending. The coalition consists of the Prison Reform Trust, Howard

*League for Penal Reform, International Centre for Prison Studies, Probation Boards' Association, Clinks, Crime Concern and the LGA.*

*The group is currently developing a document to flesh out some of our ideas on the way in which authorities and partners can work with NOMS to reduce offending, building on the new local delivery landscape emerging around Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships. The primary target audience is the government, MPs, media and LGA member authorities. A draft will be circulated to members shortly.*

#### *4. LGA/NOMS/SOLACE Local Delivery Alliance Board*

*A Local Delivery Alliance Board has been established in order to oversee the development and delivery of the Civic Society Alliance. The Civic Society Alliance aims to improve partnership working between NOMS, the criminal justice system, local authorities, their partners and communities. The Local Delivery Alliance Board includes officers from the LGA, DCLG, NOMS and SOLACE and will oversee a joint work programme, which arose from the LGA/Home Office seminar on 1 March 2006.*

*The first meeting was on 8 May with further meetings planned bi-monthly. The Board aims to facilitate co-operation between different agencies at the national and local level. It has a specific remit to promote the integration of the reducing re-offending agenda into Local Area Agreements. Specific action arising from the first meeting was*

- Development of a joint 12 months local delivery plan*
- Development of a communications strategy*

#### *5. East Midlands demonstration project*

*The East Midlands Demonstration Project aims to explore how best to reduce re-offending at a local level, with a focus on the Leicestershire and Rutland probation area. The key aims of the project are to:*

- explore practical ways of taking forward the local delivery alliance and the recommendations of the LGA's 'Going Straight' report*
- test out local models for engaging service providers, employers and communities in reducing re-offending, for instance through LAAs and LSPs*
- explore how better to join up local criminal justice structures*
- share early learning and good practice regionally and nationally.*

*The project is being led by Local Government East Midlands and the East Midlands Regional Offender Manager, but the LGA has oversight of and engagement in the project through the Local Delivery Alliance Board.*

*A meeting between Home Office and NOMS officials and target local authorities (Leicestershire County, Leicester City, Rutland and Blaby, Charnwood, Melton, Oadby and Wigston, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth and NW Leicestershire districts) was held on 26 May. A draft programme for the demonstration project has now been issued for consultation and further discussions are being held on an individual basis with the authorities concerned. The LGA has stressed the importance of securing local political engagement and support for the project as well as chief executive and senior officer involvement. We are also looking to make links between the demonstration project and good practice elsewhere in the country.*

#### **Future action**

*It is proposed that work now continues on the following key areas:*

- *Agreement and publication of the coalition document and accompanying lobbying activity, including media work and promotion of the document to local authorities as well as central government*
- *Working with NOMS to support the outcomes of the East Midlands demonstration project, and linking this to innovative work in other areas*
- *Building reducing re-offending into the proposed demonstration project for the LGA's 'Closer to People and Places'*
- *Taking action, with the IDeA, to raise the profile of local authorities' work to reduce re-offending*
- *Working with colleagues on the Local Delivery Alliance Board to develop 'key questions' focused on outcomes, and an outline of costs and potential savings around investing in reducing re-offending.*

### **Implications for Wales**

*The NOMS Delivery Plan reflects the work of NOMS and partners in England. The same principles and broad approach are being applied in Wales. NOMS is working in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government to reduce the risk of re-offending in Wales.*

### **Financial/ Resource Implications**

*No additional resource requirements have been identified at present.*

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