

Appendix 1

Policy positions in *Going Straight*

Education and employment:

1. Local authorities can produce adult educational programmes as well as providing cultural and recreational facilities.
2. Local authorities are themselves significant employers and should provide training, work experience, or employment opportunities to ex-offenders; they can also encourage other employers to do so through development and regeneration programmes.
3. Councils are well placed to support partners to provide employment and training due to their knowledge of local labour markets.
4. Those on community sentences and certain types of custodial sentence could be brought into regeneration programmes as part of local restorative justice/reparation strategies.
5. Councils should review existing patterns of adult and vocational training courses- namely moving away from courses running primarily from September to June to rolling entries to reflect varying release dates.

Accommodation:

1. Conduct 'housing with offender rehabilitation support' pilots (housing schemes with built in rehabilitation programmes which if completed result in assistance getting social housing tenancy).
2. Housing authorities need to 'think positively about the priority to be attached to ex-offenders housing needs' - i.e. consider housing re-offenders as a housing strategic priority, in addition to being part of authorities' considerations under Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
3. Housing authorities should work 'proactively' with prisons to provide housing support to prisoners in advance of release.
4. Scrap the 13-week housing benefit rule- that you cease to be eligible for housing benefit if you are absent from your home for over 13-weeks – to ensure that tenancies can be sustained for short-term prison sentences.
5. Prisoners are often incarcerated far from their local community, which can present obstacles to their rehabilitation and re-integration. Principally, prisoners should not be unnecessarily moved far away from their communities, and there should be greater communication from the Prison and Probation services to local agencies about prisoners' impending release.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment

1. AHRs and drug strategies need to be better integrated as well as stronger linkages with wider public health bodies.
2. Local authorities, by virtue of the adult social services community care purchasing arrangements, can fund a major part of residential drug and alcohol treatment where the NHS and probation service won't.

Supporting families

1. Tailored services to children of offenders.
2. Authorities use their health scrutiny function to ensure families of prisoners are effectively supported.
3. Authorities should provide parenting, and anger management programmes within families that compliment those in prison.