

## Annex 2

### Updated policy positions from *Going Straight* on reducing re-offending, and supporting councils' community safety teams in these areas

#### General

1. That it would assist to have greater clarity from government on strategic ownership of reducing re-offending. The government should issue guidance which clearly delineates, in practice, where accountabilities and responsibilities lie within Community Safety Partnerships; and
2. Further guidance should be provided on the data that is required to be shared under the serious violence duty.
3. Police and probation should be leading on reoffending strategies, with consistent government involvement.
4. Local authorities should be viewed as partners and providers of services, with a fully funded and clearly delineated leadership role in coordinating the work of local partners in providing support to offenders returning to their communities, ensuring that issues of recruitment and retention are addressed.
5. Government involvement needs to be consistent. There needs to be stronger and clearer communication between partners working in the prisoner and probation system – particularly regarding the release of offenders into local authority areas. There needs to be greater alignment, communication, and data sharing, particularly with probation services.
6. Government should conduct research into what models work internationally in countries with lower levels of re-offending.

#### Education and employment

1. Local authorities should consider how educational programmes and councils' role as employers can contribute to efforts to reduce re-offending, specifically:
2. As employers, local authorities may consider providing 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. Support the continued and expanding inclusion of restorative and reparative justice programmes in Regional Reducing Reoffending Plans, which are an important part of the criminal justice system, providing agencies with a low-cost, and moderately effective means of reducing re-offending.
5. 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. Social housing provision is essential to ensure ex-offenders have access to the accommodation they require. The LGA is calling for a long-term sustainable funding framework for social housing to ensure that councils have the ability to invest in and regenerate their housing stock, and to fulfil local and national ambitions of ensuring that everyone has access to a safe, secure and high-quality home.
2. The Department of Work and Pensions, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and prisons should work more closely with local authorities and release dates need to be set in a manner that enables local authorities and partners to provide better support to ex-offenders.
3. It was also raised that the [Local Housing Allowance shared accommodation rate \(SAR\)](#) is problematic for prison leavers and people on probation for whom shared accommodation might be unsuitable because of the risks that they present or the vulnerabilities that they have. There is a need to consider flexibilities that would allow exemptions from SAR in specified circumstances.
4. A new statutory 'Duty to Collaborate' to named public bodies to collaborate to prevent homelessness would place less of a burden on homelessness services alone and widen access to preventative support while encouraging partnership working across multi-disciplinary teams. This could include a requirement to collect and publish data of those who are at risk of homelessness and the action taken to prevent it.
5. Central Government needs to reflect on and utilise the drivers and levers across Whitehall to prevent and reduce easily preventable homelessness –

for example, the recent restrictions on Friday releases. This will ease the burden on local authorities and allow them to more proactively and effectively meet the housing needs of ex-offenders and those in the probation system.

### **Individual support**

1. Mental health, drug and alcohol reduction strategies and gambling addiction strategies need to be better integrated as well as stronger linkages with wider public health bodies.
2. There needs to be clearly outlined expectations regarding the support that the Probation Service expect from commissioned substance misuse services to deliver community treatment orders.
3. There should be recognition of and support for the neurodivergent conditions that impact ex-offenders' ability to engage in rehabilitation programmes, comply with their licence conditions and maintain employment.
4. The role of finance, benefits and debt in reoffending needs to be better recognised in particular in preparing for the day of release, to ensure that prisoners are not released into an impossible financial position.

### **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 complement those in prison.