
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR PRISON HEALTH IN WALES

This document outlines agreed priorities between Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in Wales the Welsh Government, Local Health Boards and Public Health Wales to drive improvements in the health and wellbeing of those held in Welsh prisons. The document recognises the unique statutory obligations of each partner organisation and builds on the shared objective of ensuring those in prison can live in environments that promote health and well-being and where health services can be accessed to an equivalent standard of those within the community. This supports the overarching aim that prison should be a place where an individual can reform their lives.

To achieve this all parties have agreed to work toward the three objectives of the Welsh Government 'Prosperity for All: The National Strategy for Wales', ensuring that prisons and health services in prisons:

1. Deliver quality health and care services fit for the future
2. Promote good health and well-being for everyone
3. Build healthier communities and better environments

Partner organisations signed up to this agreement:

- **HMPPS in Wales** is responsible for the delivery of offender management services in Wales. HMPPS in Wales is responsible for Public Sector Prisons (PSPs), the National Probation Service (NPS) in Wales and has contract management responsibilities for the privately contracted prison HMP & YOI Parc and the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). The focus of these services is to protect the public, support the rehabilitation of offenders and reduce their risk of re-offending.
- **Welsh Government** has responsibility for health services in public sector prisons
- **Local Health Boards** are responsible for commissioning and delivering plan health services in public sector prisons in Wales
- **Public Health Wales** is an NHS organisation providing professionally independent public health advice and services to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Wales, of which prisons are included.

Our shared statement on health and wellbeing for those in prison

All parties recognise those in prison as a vulnerable population who frequently present with complex needs and high levels of ill health often as a result of health inequalities (WHO, 2016; Anders, 2017). Together we want to ensure prisons are health promoting environments, delivering quality person-centred services.

We want to maximise the opportunity we have while an individual is in prison to return them to the community with an improved health status. This partnership agreement acknowledges the joint role of health and justice services in achieving this.

All parties agree that service delivery must be supported through integration with community services as those in prison come from communities and the majority will return to their local area. We recognise the many benefits that improving the health and wellbeing of those in prison can bring, not only for the individual, their families and wider community but also by contributing to rehabilitation, reducing reoffending and maintaining a safe prison environment.

As a commitment to deliver improved health and wellbeing for those held in prisons in Wales, all parties have agreed to focus on the following four priority areas. Each priority will be developed into a work stream with separate terms of reference and outcome indicators. By signing up to this agreement, all parties are committed to supporting and delivering the following priorities:

1. Ensuring prison environments in Wales promote health and well-being for all

“When I’m in prison I want to be able to sleep well, eat healthily, speak with my family and get help to get a job so that I am less likely to come into prison again”

This group will consider environmental impacts on the health and wellbeing in prison such as nutrition, sleep, activity, employment, education, environmental needs of older people in prison, social support and access to local and national health promotion schemes that are available in the community. It will drive improvements in enabling men in prison to live in a health promoting environment with equivalent access to health promotion services as those in the community.

2. Developing consistent mental health, mental well-being and learning disability services across all prisons that are tailored to need

“I want to be able to access quality mental health services in prison that support me as I move between prisons, to develop strategies that will help me cope with being in prison, and stay with me when I am released”

This group will consider mental health legislation and agreed standards for mental health services in Wales and how this applies in prison settings. The aim is to develop an agreed set of standards and indicators for mental health services in prison. This will include dementia, crisis care, learning disability, brain injury and autism spectrum disorder.

3. Producing a standardised clinical pathway for the management of substance misuse in prisons in Wales

“I want to be able to access safe substance misuse treatment equivalent to the community and to have psychosocial support alongside my treatment. I want a pathway that follows me back into the community on release”

The group will develop a substance misuse pathway that addresses both clinical and psychosocial provision in Welsh prisons. The group will drive forward an integrated approach between health and justice roles that runs from reception through to release regardless of sentence length.

4. Developing standards for medicines management in prisons in Wales

“I want to receive the right medications safely and to have a medication plan that follows me between prison and back home”

This group will strive towards a consistent approach to prescribing in Welsh prisons through development of standards for medicines management and an all Wales formulary.

Consideration will be given to medicine delivery, storage and preventing diversion. Access to alternative therapies offered in the community will be reflected.

Governance

To deliver against these agreed priorities a prison health oversight group will be established to which each of the work streams will report.

This partnership agreement will be supported by a Memorandum of Understanding setting out ways of working and information sharing protocols.

References

Anders (2017) Rebalancing Act: A resource for directors of public health, police and crime commissioners, the police service, and other health and justice commissioners, service providers and users, Revolving Doors Agency, London. Available from: <http://www.revolving-doors.org.uk/file/2049/download?token=4WZPsE8I> [Accessed 30 May 2018]

WHO (2016) Prisons and Health, World Health Organisation, Copenhagen. Available from: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/prisons-and-health/publications/2014/prisons-and-health>

TIMELINE FOR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Year 1: 2018-2019

Sign off national shared priorities and delivery plan between Welsh Government and HMPPS

Implement structure to oversee implementation of delivery plan

Embed priorities in existing mechanism or establish working groups where necessary

Working groups to agree work programme for their area



Year 2: 2019-2020

Implementation of workplan for each priority

Development of indicators for each priority area

Progress review against deliverables at end of year 2

Review progress of governance structure

Publish plan for years 3, 4, and 5



Year 3: 2020-2021

Review priorities and introduce additional areas if necessary

Year 4: 2021-2022

Year 5: 2022-2023