

Agreement for areas to explore via a Memorandum of Understanding on Probation Services in Wales

Purpose

1. The anticipated purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to build and strengthen existing flexibility and partnerships across Wales to support the delivery of probation services.
2. This document commits the signatories to work together on the completion of the MoU as a matter of priority.

Signatories

3. The signatories to this agreement are His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), Welsh Ministers and the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).
4. The signatories each agree to act as representatives of members and partner organisations as follows, consulting with them as appropriate to deliver the objectives of the MoU:
 - HMPPS to represent the UK Government, the Probation Service and other reserved criminal justice agencies in Wales;
 - Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs); and
 - Welsh Ministers in respect of devolved services such as healthcare, housing and education delivered to people supervised by the Probation Service.
5. The intention of the signatories is that the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) will also be a key signatory to the MoU.
6. These signatories have been selected because together they can represent or have responsibility for all the main organisations involved in maintaining the safety, health and wellbeing of people in Wales.

Commitment

7. The signatories will work together to produce an MoU for agreement by the end of December 2026.
8. The signatories will:
 - Explore how to enhance local partnership working, local accountability and locally driven service provision;
 - Explore piloting or pursuing Wales wide approaches, where relevant, for the delivery of services.
 - Explore mechanisms to simplify co-commissioning of services across multiple agencies;

- In particular, consider opportunities and options for addressing the challenges of pooling of resources between services; and
- Consider adopting a statement of key principles for partnership working across the organisations to be adopted across all relevant organisations.

9. In taking forward this work, signatories agree wherever possible and appropriate to work in collaboration with:

- operational staff in the Probation Service and other relevant public services (such as health services) working with people under probation supervision,
- people with lived experience of being on probation,
- third sector organisations,
- trade union representatives and
- academics and other experts

10. The work will include consultation with local areas across Wales on priority cohorts and/or cross cutting themes which might be addressed initially through the mechanisms to be devised under the MoU.

11. Examples of cohorts or themes to be considered for initial focus may include (but are not limited to):

- building on existing arrangements for 18–25-year-olds, on the basis that brain development is now known to typically continue up to around the age of 25. A possible particular focus might be the experience of transitioning from the youth justice system to the adult system;
- building on existing arrangements for women under probation supervision, on the basis that the needs and the drivers of offending and reoffending of women in the criminal justice system are known to be distinct;
- exploration of how to encourage greater use of community hubs such as the Grand Avenues project based in Cardiff, on the basis that similar community hubs have also been perceived to be successful in other areas such as the Greater Manchester Probation area. These can allow for greater use of local community-based services to support victims, communities and people on probation;
- housing, on the basis that prison leavers and people on probation, for a number of reasons, struggle to access and maintain appropriate accommodation. This creates a myriad of problems in terms of community safety and aiding rehabilitation;
- Exploring referral pathways into employability and skills provision, on the basis that the transition from custody to the community is a critical point of risk.

12. The MoU is expected to explore mechanisms which could be applied to allow focus at local levels on one theme or cohort at a time but developed iteratively to allow flexibility to change when needed.

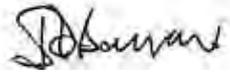
Governance

13. The key signatories will explore governance arrangements for the MoU. The governance arrangements will be reflective of other relevant changes within the justice system in relation to Policing and Youth Justice.

Signed for and behalf of
Welsh Government

Signed for and behalf of
HMPPS

Signed for and behalf of PCCs



Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet
Secretary for Social
Justice

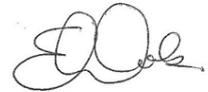
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