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MINUTES of a meeting of the DERBYSHIRE PROBATION BOARD held on 14 March 2011 at the Gothic Wharf, Cromford

PRESENT

Gillian Wilmot (Chair)

Board Members present were Dennis Gammage, John Burns, Eric Galvin, Isabella Stone, Patricia Coleman, Denise White

Also in attendance were John Allsop (Board Secretary), Alan James (Treasurer), Corry Bond (Board Admin Secretary), Rosemary Plang (Director of Probation) and Janet Hickey (Director of Interventions)

24/11 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting.

25/11 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Adrian Evans (Board Member) and David O'Sullivan (Director of Probation).

26/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from members.

27/11 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 17 JANUARY 2011

The minutes were confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

28/11 MINUTES OF THE APPEAL HEARING HELD 27 JANUARY 2011

The minutes were noted. The complaint was being considered by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

29/11 ORAL REPORTS OF LEAD MEMBERS**Health and Safety**

The Lead Member advised that the Board could be reasonably well assured that all relevant mechanisms were in place and were working well. There had been a fairly lengthy list of accidents and incidents but all had been very low level and none of the accidents were reportable to the Health and Safety Executive. Buildings audits had been completed as had the arising action points. Ligation points remained an issue at the Hostel but the resulting risks were recognised and relevant action had been taken.

Midlands Training Consortium

The Lead Member had had sight of the 2011/12 prospectus, which would form the basis for the Service Level Agreement.

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Approved Premises

Occupancy levels were currently very high. A member of the Operation Redshank team would visit the Hostel to discuss emerging gang related issues.

County and City LDU

The rate of reoffending continued to rise although overall performance was good. Integrated Offender Management was expected to go live in the County from 1 June with 140 offenders. Challenges were being faced to sustain the Community Safety Partnership in the City as a result of severe spending cuts by the City Council. Members noted the potential impact on management of the decision to close the Alfreton office.

30/11 COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON GREEN PAPER – “BREAKING THE CYCLE: EFFECTIVE PUNISHMENT, REHABILITATION AND SENTENCING OF OFFENDERS”

Members confirmed their satisfaction with Derbyshire’s response and would be provided with a copy of the response from the Probation Chief’s Association.

31/11 PERFORMANCE

General Picture

Still good but growing numbers of issues causing concern.

Probation Trust Rating System

Still ‘averaging’ a solid Level 3 performance but Interventions has recently slipped to Level 2.

Areas for concern in Interventions are:

- a) DRR (drug rehabilitation)
- b) ATR (alcohol treatment)
- c) Sustained employment (improved last month but not enough)

Reconviction Rates

Still causing concern and at 10.09% (was 9.76% last report) continues to be statistically significantly higher than predicted levels (Shire area reconviction rates now at 10.32% higher than predicted rate).

This is a Tier 4 cohort that have had statistically higher reconviction rates.

NB: Integrated Offender Management in County due to start in June.

Other Notable Trends

- Staff sickness at 9.02% year to date (8.55 year to date last report) (down this month).
- OASys timeliness still above 90%.

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- Generic Parole Scores now at 100%.
- IDAP completion rates improved and region best at 77.08%.

Caseload and Structure of Workload

- Overall caseload down 5% but shift toward post release work still evident.
- Fast Delivery Reports replacing Standard Delivery Reports.
- SSO commencements have increased by 2.96% over previous year.

32/11 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COURTS

The report on ongoing liaison was noted.

33/11 PROBATION INSTRUCTIONS FROM DECEMBER 2010

Members noted the Probation Instructions issued since December 2010.

34/11 WOMEN OFFENDERS

Funding for the Turnaround Project, which had been commissioned through the Director of Offender Management's office, was to be reduced. Discussions were therefore ongoing to restructure and refocus the Project.

The Focus on Violence programme had been well received by the Courts and had 19 requirements during the first 3 quarters of the year.

35/11 EXTREME WEATHER AND COMMUNITY PAYBACK OPERATION

Members accepted the report which proposed changes to the work breaks provided to offenders when undertaking Community Payback in extreme weather.

36/11 APPROVED PREMISES NATIONAL RULES AND GUIDANCE

The report on the new rules was noted.

37/11 INTERVENTIONS

Accredited Programmes delivery in HMP Foston Hall would go ahead once authorisation had been received from the Governor.

Derbyshire was questioning the recommendations of the Joint Secretaries in relation to the re-grading claim submitted by Derbyshire's Victim Liaison Officers. A letter of complaint had been written to the Probation Association Chief Executive regarding the actions of the Joint Secretaries.

The Intensive Alternative to Custody pilot would end in March 2011. A proposal had been submitted to the Director of Offender Management's office for Derbyshire to receive funding to deliver an Intensive Community Order programme as a replacement.

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Members noted the Community Payback Annual Report which would be e-mailed to Partner Agencies to avoid high printing costs.

38/11 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SEMINAR

Patricia Coleman expressed an interest in attending the Conference on 13th April 2011.

39/11 SONNEX

Members noted the report and were reassured that Probation Service Officers did not manage Tier 4 or High Risk offenders.

40/11 TRUST BUSINESS PLAN 2011/12

A detailed Trust Strategic Plan was being put together and would be reported on in due course.

41/11 BOARD CHAIR – MEETINGS ATTENDED/ACTIVITIES

Isabella Stone would Chair the 17 March LJNCC meeting on behalf of the Board Chair. Dennis Gammage also offered to attend the meeting in place of Adrian Evans.

42/11 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE PRIVATE SESSION OF THE MEETING

Members of the public were excluded from the Private session of the meeting.

43/11 SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Members were updated on the ongoing Serious Further Offence case (AD).

Community Payback Competition – It was the intention that Staffordshire West Midlands would be the lead for the bid. Nottinghamshire's position remained unclear. Prior to being allowed to bid in the competition Trusts were required to go through a 'gateway' process to assure NOMS that their plans were sufficiently robust. Derbyshire's future operating model would need to be signed off by 5 April. Patricia Coleman and Isabella Stone would take a lead role on the bid, with members being required to approve responses as appropriate at short notice.

44/11 SERIOUS FURTHER OFFENCES – MG / RW / RD

The reports were noted.

45/11 BUDGET 2011/12

Subsequently, staffing costs had increased by further staffing pressures amounting to a further £134,000. There was also now the likelihood of not being able to move HQ to Chesterfield, resulting in increased costs of £46,500 and payment of corporation tax on a basis still to be determined

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by NOMS. The potential deficit was up to £200,000. The plan was to change the policy as soon as budget monitoring indicates that a change is needed, so as not to fill vacancies as they arise, and also to re-introduce voluntary redundancy/voluntary early retirement during the course of the year. Authority was given to add to the current provision for re-structuring in the current financial year, particularly also given the non-implementation yet of some restructurings in the original savings plan because the budget settlement for 2011/12 had been slightly better than expected. Further cuts would be necessary in 2011/12 for 2012/13.

46/11 BUDGET MONITORING 2010/11

The report was noted.

47/11 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH NSPCC

Members noted the Service Level Agreement which showed an amendment to the notice period from 6 to 3 months to allow greater flexibility during the withdrawal of NSPCC from delivery.

48/11 DIVERSITY STRATEGY GROUP

There was no immediate plan to replace Chet Trivedi, Diversity Officer, when his post came to an end at the end of March.

24/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 11 April 2011, 9.30am at Siddals Road Probation Office, Derby.

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Board Meeting Actions

14 March 2011

Minute	Agreement/ Action Required	Date Action Required	By Whom

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