



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 16 May 2019

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) with background to the new approach to Mental Health Treatment Requirements in Cambridgeshire.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.

3. Background

3.1 The Offenders section of the Police and Crime Plan seeks to ensure offenders are brought to justice and are less likely to reoffend. This includes an objective that all agencies coming into contact with offenders ensure they address the causes of criminality. A priority area for partnership action is to address long-term causes of offending such as health issues, housing, substance misuse and education, employment and training. The Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board Offender Subgroup has also identified female offenders as a priority area for action.

3.2 The Ministry of Justice have signalled a clear direction of travel from custody towards managing and supporting offenders in the community. They have stated that evidence suggests that community sentences are often more effective than prison in reducing reoffending. They want to see them used more often particularly instead of short custodial sentences which can cause disruption to people’s lives without offering

prisoners the dedicated time and support available during longer sentences to address the root causes of their offending.¹

- 3.3 The needs assessment on offending and prevention and management in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough highlighted the scale of complex needs, especially in relation to mental health, housing, employment and skills and drug and alcohol misuse.
- 3.4 Many offenders experience mental health and substance misuse problems, but the use of treatment requirements as part of community sentencing remains low. Improved partnership working can increase the use of treatment requirements. There are three types of treatment requirement:
- Mental Health Treatment Requirement (“MHTR”)
 - Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (“DRR”)
 - Alcohol Treatment Requirement (“ATR”).

All three treatment requirements were introduced as sentencing options in the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

- 3.5 ‘Treatment’ covers a broad range of interventions, talking therapies, a course of medication or inpatient treatment, for example. Offenders in the community should access treatment in the same way as anyone else via mental health and drug and alcohol treatment services. However, it can be challenging for people to access appropriate mental health treatment and care to support these orders. When an individual’s mental health condition reaches the threshold of secondary care services, this provision should be provided through existing frameworks. However, the majority of MHTRs do not reach this threshold and pilot sites have demonstrated the addition of clinically supervised mental health practitioners providing assessment in court and 1:1 short, individualised psychological interventions has been required to deliver primary care MHTRs, which appears to be a current commissioning gap. MHTRs have been identified in the NHS Long Term Plan so some ongoing funding has been identified. NHS England locally are also able to build this in to future commissioning arrangements over the next year.
- 3.6 Evaluation from the pilot sites is expected to be published shortly. Work in these pilot sites has enabled significant increases in the uptake of MHTRs, with high levels of compliance. Positive mental health outcomes have been maintained, with low reoffending.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 There is an appetite amongst local partners to commence work to expand the use of MHTRs in Cambridgeshire in 2019-20, initially with females in Peterborough. Probation services are managing high proportions of service users with mental health issues which are often intrinsically linked to their offending behaviour. The outcome of the Government’s recent consultation on probation reform is awaited.

¹ ‘Strengthening probation, building confidence’, Ministry of Justice Consultation Document, July 2018

- 4.2 The NHS Cambridgeshire Liaison and Diversion Service (provided by CPFT) which identifies people who have mental health or other vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the Criminal Justice System is leading this project, working closely with other partners including BeNCH CRC, the National Probation Service and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“OPCC”). A multi-agency steering group is being established to ensure a holistic approach is taken.
- 4.3 Alongside other partnership funding, £20k funding has been sought from the OPCC in 2019-20. The crime and disorder reduction grant allocation for 2019/20 provides for funding to deliver a countywide offender strategy which allows the OPCC to support this work this year.
- 5. Recommendation**
- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

<p>Source document(s)</p>	<p>‘Approach to Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants’, Business Coordination Board, 28 February 2019</p> <p>https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2019/04/19-02-28-BCB-Agenda-Item-9.0-Approach-to-Crime-and-Disorder-Reduction-Grants.pdf</p> <p>https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2019/04/19-02-28-BCB-Agenda-Item-9.0-Appendix-1-DRAFT-Crime-and-Disorder-Reduction-Grants-2019-20.pdf</p> <p>‘Strengthening probation, building confidence’, Ministry of Justice Consultation Document, July 2018</p> <p>https://consult.justice.gov.uk/hm-prisons-and-probation/strengthening-probation-building-confidence/supporting_documents/strengtheningprobationbuildingconfidence.pdf</p> <p>Strategic Needs Assessment: Managing Offenders; Preventing Offending – 2016</p> <p>http://cambridgeshire.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/OffenderNA-2017_final_FullReport.pdf</p> <p>Community Sentence Treatment Requirement background information.</p>
<p>Contact Officer(s)</p>	<p>Cristina Strood, Head of Policy for Police and Fire, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner</p>

