



Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group **Terms of Reference, June 2020**

The pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group (RRSG) is a subsidiary group to both the Dorset Criminal Justice Board (DCJB) and the Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). These groups bring together partner organisations and agencies who work in Criminal Justice and community safety within the county of Dorset, to reduce and prevent crime, anti-social behaviour, rehabilitate offenders, reduce reoffending and increase confidence in the criminal justice system.

CSPs have to fulfil a number of statutory duties including developing and implementing strategies for reducing re-offending in their areas. The RRSG is the group through which the CSPs coordinate that task. The RRSG reports to the two CSPs but also to the DCJB where reducing reoffending is a key priority.

All members of the RRSG are committed to improving the local criminal justice and community safety systems in order to reduce re-offending and keep people safe from harm. Group members therefore undertake to;

- participate actively in the working of the group and the delivery of agreed actions both inside and outside of meetings
- develop clarity of purpose and direction
- define clear measures by which we will evaluate success
- share data, information and intelligence so we understand where we need to focus resources

Role of Reducing Reoffending Sub-Group

The RRSG will set annual objectives based on the priorities agreed by the CSPs and DCJB. These priorities will follow an evidence and intelligence-based approach, including use of Partnership Strategic Assessments.

The group will ensure integration with the work of other strategic groups so that there is clarity of responsibilities between groups and all priorities are addressed.

The focus of the group will be cross-cutting, looking at how the criminal justice and community safety system is working locally to reduce offending. The group will consider priority groups of offenders, including inter-generational perspectives. The Group will not focus on specific offence-types.

1. Working in partnership to deliver the objectives set out under the priority in the DCJB Plan – “Promote the rehabilitation of offenders with particular focus on vulnerability, and to reduce crime” (more detail in Appendix 1, pages 6-9)
2. To coordinate activity and provide governance to the agreed work programmes that focus on reducing reoffending.
3. Encourage and develop a whole system approach, fostering shared responsibility to improving the services provided to service users with shared outcomes, working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders in the local CJS to reduce re-offending, and to promote rehabilitation and re-integration
4. Ensure group members are of the appropriate level to enable decision making, action taking and the ability to commit resource to a task
5. Work to create a forum for open and honest discussions about risks and issues between those involved in the delivery of services, enabling a safe place for relationships to develop
6. Learn best practice from other areas and share planning so that opportunities for collaborative working can be identified and access and influence funding and resourcing opportunities
7. Responsible for delivering national policies at a local level as directed by the DCJB
8. Cascade decisions and implement changes agreed by DCJB within group members’ organisations and share with partner agencies where required
9. The RRSB chair is responsible for highlighting to the CSPs and DCJB, areas of risk within their programme of work and challenges that may need escalating for support. Also to provide regular updates on the progress of group’s activity
10. To maintain and review effective links between the CSPs and DCJB

11. It is the expectation that the agency that chairs the DCJB sub-group will provide the secretarial support
12. To identify opportunities for improved multi-agency working as well as barriers to progress in order to reduce re-offending
13. Meeting arrangements will be supported by the Business Manager for the Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset Criminal Justice Boards
14. Terms of reference to be reviewed annually

Task and Finish Working-Groups

RRSG members will appoint an appropriate representative from their organisation to attend appropriate working groups as tasked by the RRSg

Decision making

To make decisions within the remit of the Group

Recording of Decisions

1. Minutes will be taken at each meeting recording details of decisions made and actions assigned to group members. These will be circulated to all members and actions progressed at meetings
2. Administration of meetings shall be the responsibility of the Chair

Membership

- National Probation Service Dorset
- Dorset, Devon & Cornwall Probation Services
- Dorset Police
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service (Current Chair)
- Her Majesty's Prison Service

- Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Community Safety Partnerships
- Housing representation from the local authorities
- Public Health Dorset
- Dorset Healthcare
- NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

Other attendees will be invited to fit with the priorities of the group or the focus of specific meetings

Chair

Reviewed, as directed by the DCJB

Frequency

Board meetings are quarterly

Confidentiality

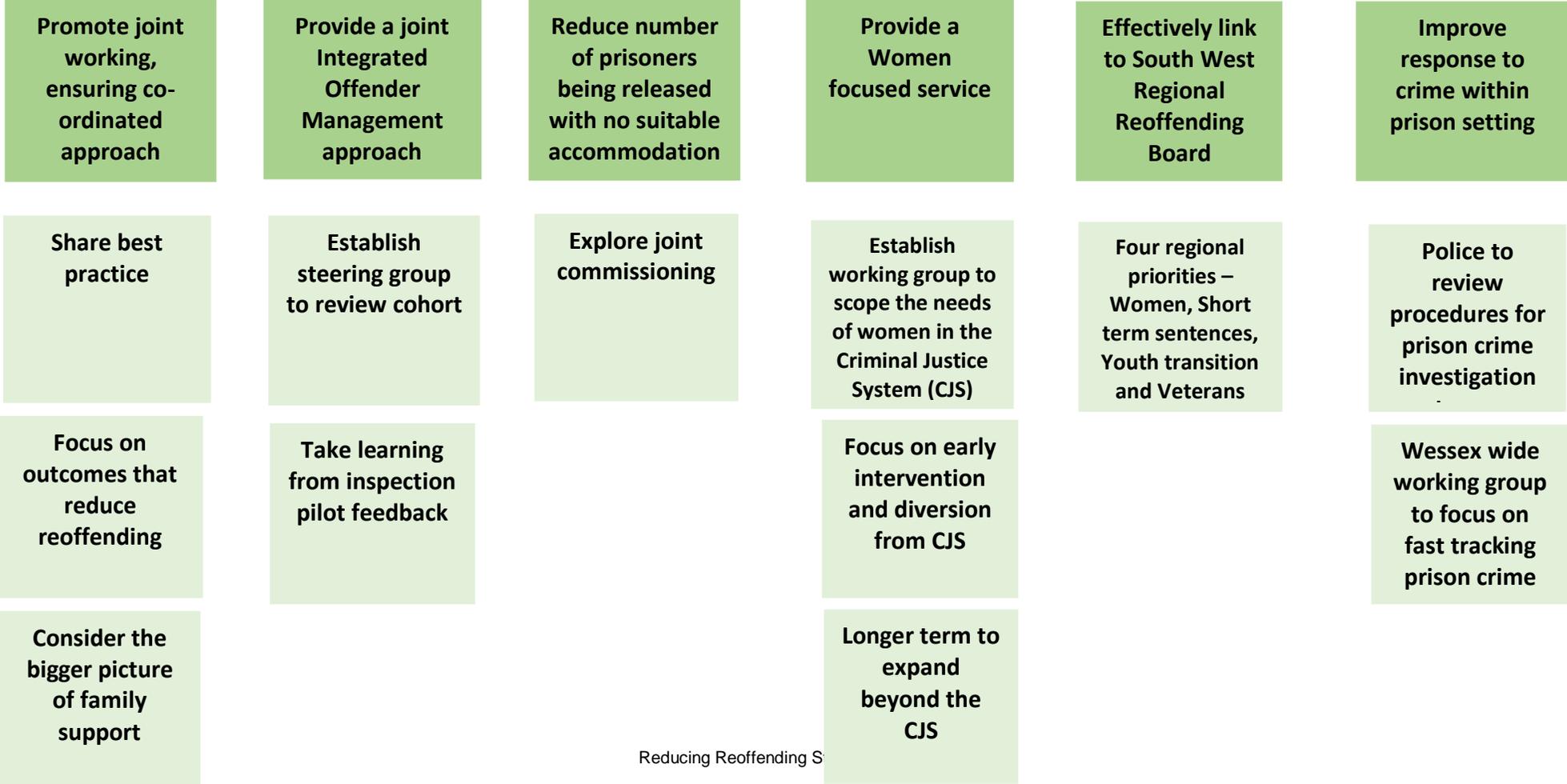
Protecting confidential information is important and RRSB members and attendees may be present when confidential information is disclosed or discussed, or given in written form. This can take the form of offender or victim & witness details, embargoed information, or unpublished performance data, which is necessary to share or monitor as part of performance management.

RRSB members will observe the rules of confidentiality and permission should be sought from the DCJB members and the 'owner' of the confidential information before it is shared more widely or publicised.

APPENDIX 1

Extracted from the DCJB Plan - Reducing Reoffending Priority

PRIORITY – Promote the rehabilitation of offenders with particular focus on vulnerability, and to reduce crime



By preventing offending the Criminal Justice agencies not only prevent victims but also aim to provide the right level of support to enable offenders to address their criminality and better equip them to avoid reoffending in the future. The DCJB wants to have the most effective pathways to prevent and reduce offending and reoffending in both adults and young people through appropriate enforcement, early intervention, diversion and effective rehabilitation. The DCJB will work with partners across the Criminal Justice System to better support those at risk of committing an offence.

To work in alignment with the priority areas identified in the Pan Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2018-2021

1. Promote joint working, ensuring co-ordinated approach by:

- 1.1 Assessing the effectiveness of services for both service users and their families, focusing on outcomes that reduce reoffending
- 1.2 Sharing best practice
- 1.3 Considering the bigger picture of family support

2. Provide a Joint Integrated Offender Management (IOM) approach by:

- 2.1 Establishing a partnership steering group (initially CRC led) under the Reducing Reoffending Sub-Group, to review the current IOM cohort. This will look to explore the opportunities of engaging with a short term custody cohort across both NPS and CRC service users as one of the strands as this cohort has been identified as a challenging, often non-compliant group who are at risk of being drawn into more serious offending and links with the priorities of the SW Regional Reoffending Group
- 2.2 Exploring pooling budgets and wrap around intensive work
- 2.3 Taking the learning from the inspection pilot feedback in particular focusing on more of a partnership/shared approach to cohort selection

3. Reduce number of prisoners being released with no suitable accommodation by:

- 3.1 Exploring joint commissioning in relation to accommodation services

4. Provide a women focused service by:

- 4.1 Initially defining the issues and gaps through a scoping exercise to be undertaken by a partnership working group under the Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group (NPS led). With a view to developing a women’s ‘one-stop shop’ option to focus on the complex needs of women, pulling together services, address mental health needs and be trauma informed, encouraging high engagement of the third sector/voluntary organisations
- 4.2 Being informed by partnership data made available by health and criminal justice partners
- 4.3 Linking in to relevant academic work to support such as the Female Offender Strategy – June 2018
- 4.4 Outcomes focusing on early intervention, diversion from criminal justice and meeting the needs of women when they come into contact with criminal Justice
- 4.5 The longer term proposal is to expand beyond the CJS, following the initial scoping work

5. Effectively link to the South West Regional Reoffending Board by:

- 5.1 Ensuring synergy with SW Regional Reoffending Board priorities – Women, Short term sentences, Youth to Adult transition and Veterans

6. Improve response to crime within the prison setting by:

- 6.1 Police to review their procedures around prison crime investigation, within the prison estate
- 6.2 Scoping a Wessex wide working group to focus on fast-tracking serious prison crime (led by CPS) to reduce the risk of the cohort being led into further crime

Reducing Reoffending Performance Framework
Published reoffending rates
IOM reoffending rates and inspection action plan
Sustaining suitable accommodation on release
Women reoffending rates and successful diversions
Prison crime timeliness and outcome rates

How we will work together

Close and effective collaborative working by criminal justice agencies across the Dorset Criminal Justice Board sub-groups is essential to deliver the shared priorities of the local partnership.

