

# PROBATION SERVICE: REDUCING REOFFENDING BY ADULT OFFENDERS

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## REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to comment on the impact of the work being undertaken locally to reduce reoffending by adult offenders.

## OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and ask questions of the officers of the Probation Service in order to clarify any matters of concern in the Borough, particularly in relation to how the new arrangements will impact on the reduction of reoffending.

## INFORMATION

Ownership of the London Community Rehabilitation Company (LCRC), which was formerly known as the London Probation Trust, was transferred to MTCnovo on 1 February 2015. LCRC is the largest of the 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies across England and Wales, employing nearly 1,200 staff across London.

LCRC's role is to manage the majority of offenders under probation supervision and staff work alongside the National Probation Service, which manages offenders who have been assessed as presenting high risk of harm to others. These staff supervise around 25,000 offenders at any one time, across 620 square miles of the capital's 33 boroughs covering a population of 8.6 million people.

The role of the LCRC is to reduce reoffending and make London safer. Together with other criminal justice agencies, such as the Police, Prisons and Courts, the LCRC protects the public. Its skilled and experienced staff work directly with offenders to:

- tackle the causes of their offending behaviour;
- enable them to turn their lives around; and
- rehabilitate them back into the community.

The LCRC works with offenders aged 18 and over who have been either sentenced by the courts to a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order, or released on licence from prison to serve the rest of their sentence in the community. Under the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014, we continue to supervise ex-offenders for a 12 month period after their release from prison.

From 1 February 2015, LCRC introduced "Through the Gate" services for those sentenced to less than 12 months in prison – those who are at greatest risk of reoffending. These services include housing, employment, finance and debt advice.

It should be noted that LCRC is a key partner in Integrated Offender Management, which brings together local agencies to target offenders causing most concern to communities. LCRC staff work with offenders to turn their lives around and protect the public and believe that the

organisation has a particular expertise in working with gang members and women offenders. The organisation also works closely with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

LCRC delivers Restorative Justice which gives victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions, and an apology. The organisation aims to:

- Reduce reoffending and protect the public;
- Enforce community sentences which punish and rehabilitate offenders;
- Provide innovative services; and
- Manage risk and influence positive change in offenders' behaviour.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL.