



Summary note of the RR3 Future Regime Design SIG meeting

Friday 2nd September 2022, 10:00 – 13:00 via Zoom

Attendees:

Jessica Mullen, Clinks (Chair)
Olivia Dehnavi, Clinks
Andy Keen-Downs, Pact
Andy Mouncey, Run for your life CIC
Bernie Bowen-Thomson, Safer Wales
Cara Mohan-Carr, Children Heard and Seen
Christina Hall, Lincolnshire Action Trust
David Morgan, Entrepreneurs Unlocked CIC
Francesca Cooney, Prisoners Education Trust (SIG sponsor)
Ian Curnow, Konnect Communities
Joanne Vance, New Beginnings North
Josh Stunell, bthechange CIC
Khatuna Tsintsadze, Zahid Mubarek Trust (SIG sponsor)
Paul Grainge, Recoop
Penny Parker, Standout
Rebecca James, The National Literacy Trust
Thomas Wright, Phoenix Futures
Vicki Markiewicz, Change Grow Live
Philip Mullen, Revolving Doors
Zahbia Yousuf, Maslaha

Officials:

Chris Gunderson, Head of Future Regime Design Team, HMPPS
Paul Archer, Policy Lead, Future Regime Design Team, HMPPS
Ruth Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, HMPPS Communications Team
Bettina Crossick, Head of 3rd Sector Engagement and Grants Programme, HMPPS
Anthony Simkins, Curriculum Design Partner for Education, HMPPS
Victoria Berry, Curriculum Design Partner

Apologies:

Ian Merrill, Shannon Trust
Neil Crutchfield, Synergy Theatre Project
Peter Dawson, Prison Reform Trust
Selina Sasse, The Prison Phoenix Trust
Raheel Mohammed, Maslaha
Zahra Wynne, Revolving Doors

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Jess welcomed the group and explained the purpose of the Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory Group (RR3) Special Interest Group (SIG). The RR3 can convene time-limited SIGs to explore certain topics in more depth. These groups are sponsored by members of the RR3 in response to issues raised by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) or by the sector. The RR3 sponsors of this SIG are Khatuna Tsintsadze, Zahid Mubarek Trust and Francesca Cooney, Prisoners' Education Trust. On behalf of the RR3, Clinks recruits additional members for these groups from the sector with expertise of the topic. SIGs may take the form of a one-off meeting to gather evidence from the sector, or a series of meetings to feed into ongoing work by MoJ or HMPPS officials. SIGs feed information back to the RR3 group but also produce outputs such as briefings and recommendation papers.
- 1.2 This SIG on Future Regime Design will run alongside the HMPPS Future Regime Design programme, setting up meetings where required, to provide advice to officials from Ministry of Justice and HM Prisons and Probation Service on the progress and details of the Future Regime Design programme. It is expected that there will be at least three meetings of this

SIG to run alongside the programme, due to end April 2023. This first meeting focused on design, and future meetings will look at the initial trial and testing, and the review and findings. Introductions

2. Programme refresh

- 2.1 The purpose of this meeting was to gather the views of the voluntary sector in criminal justice. Chris Gunderson noted that this is a unique opportunity to build a new regime of activity in every prison that is run by staff, prisoners and the voluntary sector.
- 2.2 Chris Gunderson gave a presentation on the Future Regime Design programme. He explained that 'regime' in prisons refers to the activities that people in prison do every day. The regime can contribute to rehabilitation and physical and mental health. Following Covid, there is an opportunity to reset the regime model.
- 2.3 HMPPS are generating a new National Regime Model for prisons with the aim of testing the components in early adopter prisons from April 2023, the National Regime Model will be phased.
- 2.4 Chris Gunderson (Chris) explained the current planned components of the National Regime Model, which the Future Regime Design Team at HMPPS plans to structure as a tiered model which will be comprised of: the foundational National Standards and national expectations; the core curriculum including education, health, and work; and voluntary sector services. There are plans for a national regime framework resource for governors, as well as an obligation for each prison to carry out a local needs assessment for their prison. The hope is that each person in prison will have their own personalised regime plan based on the above.
- 2.5 To support the new National Regime Model, there are plans for a new Quality Framework to assure impact, implementation and intent behind the delivered regime. HMPPS are also working on a new definition of Purposeful Activity. In addition, they plan to execute a strengths-based approach, utilise the national population profile, a resettlement model and the National Offender Management Information System (NOMIS) recording infrastructure to enable the new regime model.

3. Q&A and discussion of the voluntary sector offer under the new National Regime Model

- 3.1 The voluntary sector members commended new components of the planned regime, such as the new definition of Purposeful Activity, personalised regime plans, a strengths-based approach, and a focus on basic rights of people in prison. It was noted that the new National Regime Model could be transformative if it works.
- 3.2 The voluntary sector members expressed concern that a tiered model may exacerbate what many already see on the ground in terms of a hierarchy in the prioritising of prison services, particularly given the challenges with commissioning processes. Chris confirmed the current plan is for a minimum set of requirements that should be enhanced to meet the needs of the individual.
- 3.3 The voluntary sector expressed concern that personalisation may be difficult to implement in practice. Chris acknowledged that this is a change but it is something HMPPS want to improve to offer a better fit of regime for individuals.
- 3.4 It was discussed how the plans would affect people on remand. Chris confirmed that the remand population will be a particular focus of the model and that activities tailored to this population will form part of a new regime offer in Reception prisons once the model is fully implemented.
- 3.5 It was discussed what role people with lived experience would play in the development of the new regime plans. Chris Gunderson noted that HMPPS gather the views of those with lived experience via monthly forums and through the HMPPS lived experience network and will continue to do so throughout the life of the project

- 3.6 The voluntary sector asked questions about culture change, the role of prison staff in the new regime model, what training would be offered, and whether prison understaffing would be a blocker to the plans. The limitations of prison room spaces was also raised. It was noted that HMPPS will have to consider this in the design and ensure there is enough flexibility for Governors to deliver the best regime possible within the resources they have.
- 3.7 It asked how the plans would be implemented without specific funding. Chris stated that the model is not unfunded, it is about using the existing resources to deliver differently and better. The model will also be at the centre of future bids for funding and linked into existing funding streams across the organisation, not just the resourcing model for regime delivery.
- 3.8 Some specific thematic issues were discussed, such as families and relationships, education, neurodiversity, older people in prison, substance misuse, and equalities which will all need to be considered in the design. Chris stated he has met with HMPPS Diversity and Inclusion colleagues to discuss how the new National Regime Model supports our work to support peoples diverse needs, including protected characteristics.
- 3.9 The important of connecting prison activity to resettlement in the community was raised by the voluntary sector members. This includes ensuring that roles adopted in prison, such as peer support roles, can be continued in the community. Jessica Mullen noted that Clinks piloted a voluntary sector coordinator model, a key element of which was to provide a bridge between prison needs and the voluntary sector offer. The pilot found that prisons were unaware about gaps or duplication in available activities and services. These points have been noted for further consideration.
- 3.10 Jessica Mullen noted that Clinks now have a quarterly meeting with the commercial team at HMPPS where they discuss existing and future procurement, and the challenges and enablers in commissioning processes for the sector. Clinks will be linking the strands of work and thinking about how those processes might enable voluntary sector involvement in future regime design. Bettina Crossick updated the group on the work that HMPPS are doing now with probation to simplify the grants application process. Over the next few years, HMPPS want to encourage governors to use more grants in the prison setting and will be working closely with the Future Regime Design Team.
- 3.11 The mechanism for how such services will be procured needs to be considered. Contracting doesn't allow for sufficient flexibility of services to adapt in a way that might better meet needs.
- 3.12 Chris Gunderson informed the group that the Future Regime Design Team have had monthly meetings with HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and have presented the plans to HMIP staff as part of wider engagement on the new model.

4. Close