

RR3 Special Interest Group on Community Provision Terms of Reference

Background

The Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory Group (RR3) has established a 2024-25 Special Interest Group (SIG) on Community Provision.

The Group will explore the resourcing and modelling of community provision for people in contact with the criminal justice system, within the context of an increase in demand for community services. The Group will focus on (but will not be restricted to) the following areas:

- Mapping the landscape of existing commissioned services
- Understanding current treatment capacity – incorporating both substance misuse and physical and mental health support services
- Community sentences, including the usage and uptake of Community Service Treatment Requirements (CSTRs)
- Out of Court Disposals (OOCs)
- Modelling the community provision ‘offer’ – best practice

This group terms of reference sits alongside [the terms of reference for the main RR3](#).

Membership

The chair of the SIG is Sam Julius (Clinks Head of Influence & Communications), and the sponsors of the SIG are:

- Vicky Markiewicz (Change Grow Live), in her role as the RR3 seat-holder for Substance Misuse
- Matina Marougka (Together for Mental Wellbeing) in her role as the seat-holder for Mental Health
- Richard Knibbs (Nacro), in his role as the seat-holder for Resettlement.

The secretariat is provided by Clinks.

Meetings will be attended by relevant permanent members of the RR3, which will be confirmed through direct expressions of interest from RR3 seat holders. These will be confirmed in due course.

The chair and secretariat will also co-opt additional members from the wider voluntary sector for their specific expertise, as per the RR3 term of reference. These will be recruited through Clinks’ communications channels, supported by the SIG’s sponsors.

Purpose:

To advise the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and His Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) officials on the future of community provision, including through the consideration of potential

new legislative measures, such as the presumption against custodial sentences of 12 months or less, as contained in any future legislation. The Group will draw on the input of a wide range of voluntary organisations – with a focus on platforming and representing the voices of smaller, specialist organisations.

The SIG will seek to:

- Map existing provision in the community, while highlighting effective best practice and building a wide-ranging evidence base supporting effective best practice
- Highlight the current challenges to existing service provision in the community, particularly within the context of increase demand for services as well as the increase complexity of need of people accessing services
- Explore and set out practical recommendations designed to ensure effective community provision, regardless of locality
- Provide the Ministry of Justice with a range of realistic and pragmatic recommendations to boost the effectiveness of services in the community for people in contact with the criminal justice system
- Leverage the voices and expertise of smaller, specialist organisations delivering services in the community.

The final output will bring together all of the evidence and information gathered throughout the duration of the SIG, into a report/s to be shared with the relevant stakeholders.

Officials

The Group will include input from a range of officials from the MoJ/HMPPS that will liaise with the group on an ad-hoc basis, which will be subject to change based on the future direction of the SIG, with additional officials to be invited depending on the topics being discussed. The named official involved in the ongoing work of the SIG is Angela Hawley (Probation Policy – Projects).

Frequency

Meetings to be convened when required (with the first session held on Monday 22 July. Given the breadth of topics being considered, the Group will be divided into themes and then met accordingly. RR3 chair, sponsors and secretariat to agree to a programme of meetings as early as possible.

Communication

Officials will be open with information when they can, with the caveat that some information shared with the group may not be in the public domain yet and must not be shared publicly. Products discussed will be subject to further development and senior official approval through the relevant HMPPS governance structures.

All SIG outputs will be published on the Clinks website, with comments from participants not attributed. Both SIG members and officials will have the opportunity to review outputs prior to them being published.