



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

# PROBATION POST



Issue 1 | 2026

## Welcome to the 1st edition of the South West Probation Post

Our new quarterly newsletter aims to strengthen collaboration between probation and our partner agencies. The justice system continues to evolve at pace, and it is our intention to provide partners with clear information on how these changes are being implemented across the South West. While the landscape may shift, our overarching mission remains the same: preventing victims by changing lives

### Training: The Probation Service & How we Work

These regular sessions offer an introduction to the Probation Service, our core responsibilities, and how we work with partners across the South West. Held once a quarter, they're designed for partner agencies to build understanding, share best practice, and strengthen collaboration. If you'd like to attend or recommend a colleague, please get in touch with the Commissioning and Partnerships team for the next session date, (email below).

### South West Probation Leadership

We are pleased to introduce Becky Hart as The Regional Probation Director for the South West. Becky provides overall leadership for probation across the region and is responsible for setting direction, overseeing delivery, and supporting our senior leadership teams.

Working alongside Becky is Paul Millett Head of Community Integration. Paul leads our work with partners and communities, focusing on collaboration, commissioning, and strengthening the services that support people on probation to rehabilitate and resettle.

The South West region is organised into nine Probation Delivery Units (PDUs). Each PDU is led by a Head of Operations who is responsible for day to day service delivery, performance, and staff support within their local area. This structure helps ensure strong local leadership while maintaining consistency and clear accountability across the region.

Together, this leadership and PDU model supports effective delivery, partnership working, and a clear line of sight from regional priorities to local practice.

### Community Integration

We're the team connecting probation with partner agencies across the South West. Our focus is making sure people on probation get the right support, collaboration with communities and service providers and **facilitating ethical and legal information sharing**. If you need advice, want to work together, or have a question, we're here to help.

Contact us:

- **Commissioning & Partnerships:**  
SWCommissioningPartnerships@justice.gov.uk
- **Contract Management:**  
swps.contractmanagement@justice.gov.uk
- **Homelessness Prevention Team:**  
swps.hpt@justice.gov.uk
- **Health & Justice Partnerships:**  
SWhealthandjustice@justice.gov.uk

Not sure who to contact? Email any mailbox and we'll direct your enquiry to the right place.

## Introducing the Senior Operational Support Manager Role

The SOSM role is critical for stakeholders because it acts as the strategic link between operational delivery and effective multi-agency collaboration, which helps the service maintain strong partnerships and deliver our overarching aim of protecting the public. The role is committed to representing the PDU in multi-agency forums and supporting collaborative initiatives that benefit people on probation and our wider community.

If you have a service that is open to people on probation and people leaving prison, please get in touch with your local manager.

**Bath & North East Somerset** – Tom Wellman – Tom.Wellman@justice.gov.uk

**Bristol & South Glos.** – Rebecca Wilson – Rebecca.Wilson1@justice.gov.uk

**Cornwall** – Lisa Sherwin – Lisa.Sherwin@justice.gov.uk

**Devon & Torbay** – Matt Kehily – Matthew.Kehily@justice.gov.uk

**Dorset** – Joe Ennis – Joe.Ennis@justice.gov.uk

**Gloucestershire** – Tanya Marie Martin – TanyaMarie.Martin@justice.gov.uk

**Plymouth** – Sarah Clarke – Sarah.Clarke@justice.gov.uk

**Somerset** – Richard Churchill – Richard.Churchill@justice.gov.uk

**Swindon & Wiltshire** – Liam Jenkinson – Liam.Jenkinson@justice.gov.uk

### Partnership Spotlight: Somerset Learning and Skills

One example of positive partnership working in the South West Region is connecting community learning partners with Community Payback, Janet, who delivers the career transition offer within explains her approach:



“I’ve created a flexible career transition course for people completing Community Payback. It recognises the mix of backgrounds in each group and focuses on identifying goals and building transferable skills, not just job-seeking. Many participants are already working, so the course reflects their wider ambitions.. Group work helps people build confidence, social skills, and behaviours that translate into real-life situations.

Close partnership with Probation Teams, especially the Unpaid Work Co-ordinator and Supervisors, means sessions run smoothly and provide a positive experience during and beyond someone’s sentence. Holding sessions in probation offices gives people a safe, structured space to engage, including those who may feel unsure about using IT.

These sessions fit naturally alongside Community Payback rather than feeling separate, offering a joined-up way to build skills, explore employment and life choices, and take practical steps forward.”

### Resources & Useful Links

#### Bromley Briefings (Prison Reform Trust)

*Essential factfile on prisons and probation, published twice a year.*  
[Winter 2024/25 Bromley Briefing\\_\(PDF\)](#).

#### Sentencing Review

*Government’s Independent Sentencing Review.*  
[Independent Sentencing Review – GOV.UK](#)

#### HM Inspectorate of Probation – Effective Practice Guide Library

*Policy and practice frameworks for partnership working in probation.*  
[Effective Practice Guide Library](#).

### Feedback Form



**We would love to hear from you. Please use this form to tell us more about your service and how we can further develop this newsletter**