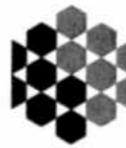


FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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8 February 2013

Dear Christine

SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE PRISON REFORM OVERSIGHT GROUP

Please find attached a summary report from the Prison Reform Oversight Group following their meeting held on 19 December 2012.

This written paper has been forwarded from the Oversight Group for the information of the Committee members.

B. Graham

RP
BARBARA McATAMNEY
DALO

Enc.

**PRISON REVIEW OVERSIGHT GROUP
JUSTICE COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT
JANUARY 2013**

The purpose of this summary report is to provide the Committee with an update following the fourth meeting of the Prison Review Oversight Group (the Group), which took place on 19 December 2012.

2. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Justice and was attended by Group members:

- Nick Perry (Permanent Secretary, DOJ);
- Andrew McCormick (Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS);
- Patricia Gordon (Independent Member);
- Dr Michael Maguire (Independent Member);
- Duncan McCausland (Independent Member)
- Brendan McGuigan (Independent Member, CJINI); and
- Professor Monica McWilliams (Independent Member)

3. Department of Justice officials Peter May (Safer Communities), Sue McAllister (NIPS Director General), Mark Adam (Strategic Change Manager) and Gareth Johnston (Access to Justice) attended to give supporting evidence to the group. CJINI inspectors Dr Ian Cameron and Tom McGonigle were also in attendance.

Programme structure

4. The PRT Programme has been structured to consist of eight key workstreams, providing clear lines of accountability and identifying the six workstreams which fall under the current SEE Programme led by NIPS. In addition, a Partner Provision workstream has been added that deals with the PRT recommendations being led by healthcare and a Strategy workstream has been added that deals with the PRT recommendations being led by DOJ and PBNI. Appendix A shows a diagrammatic representation of the new structure.

Progress Update

5. NIPS Director General provided an update on progress across the Reform Programme since the Group last met in September, highlighting:

- ongoing working sessions on engagement with stakeholders and the development of the benefits management approach;
- work on Supervised Activity Orders (SAO) in the context of the development of programme structures for dealing more widely with fine default;
- the implementation of the new staff profiles and shift patterns developed from the concept Target Operating Model (TOM) and the upcoming evaluation;
- an update on the Voluntary Early Retirement scheme and the appointment of new recruits;
- developments around offender engagement;
- an update on the alternative search technology pilots and the reviews of the pilots to be undertaken in the New Year; and
- the role of RQIA, who will complete the independent assessment of the healthcare recommendations

6. On the SAO pilots, the independent members of the Oversight Group questioned if the Judicial Studies Board had been involved and were advised that the judiciary had been consulted at the beginning of the pilot and the Board would be involved if the decision was taken to roll out the scheme more widely. With regard to the search technology pilots, the independent members reported their experience of examining the technology currently subject to pilot and discussed the mechanics of future pilots. The independent members also explored the provision of training within the establishments and raised concerns around the rotation of new recruits; NIPS Director General was able to provide assurances around these points.

Approved recommendations

7. The Oversight Group agreed that the outputs for the following four recommendations have been completed:

- PRT Recommendation 4 – Maintain & publish detailed routine data;
- PRT Recommendation 22 – Change management team;
- PRT Recommendation 23 – Set-up Ministerial group; and
- PRT Recommendation 38 – Under 18s to be moved from Hydebank Wood.

8. These recommendations have now been passed to Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) for monitoring of the recommendation outcomes. When the outcomes have been monitored to a sufficient level to allow the Inspectorate to make an assessment, CJINI will provide a report to the Oversight Group detailing its independent assessment on whether or not it considers the recommendations to be complete.

Independent members' update

9. The independent members continue to engage proactively with key stakeholders related to the reform programme to gain an understanding of the impact the programme is having on the ground and in the community. The members informed the Group of a range of meetings they had held during the previous quarter with stakeholders, including with the PRT Programme Team; CJINI; Independent Monitoring Boards; Human Rights Commissioner; Equality Commissioner; Children's Commissioner; Older People's Commissioner; the Prison Chaplains; Committee on the Administration of Justice; and the Prince's Trust. The independent members also informed that they had visited all three prison establishments.

Priorities for the next quarter

10. Programme priorities for the next quarter (Jan '13 – Mar '13), grouped under the driving themes of the Programme, are detailed below:

Governance

- Joint Healthcare/Justice strategy:

- Approval of direction for scoping of joint strategy;
- First meeting of DHSSPS/DOJ Project Group on development of joint strategy; and
- Progress report on the draft strategy following the first meeting of the Project Group.
- Development of programme Benefits Realisation Plan and full implementation of benefits realisation process across all projects; and
- Project Initiation Documents to be signed off by relevant Project Boards under revised programme structure.

Strategy

- Preparation of instructions for legislative draftsman on Faster, Fairer, Justice Bill, to include SAOs;
- Assessment of Youth Engagement pilot; and
- Completion of Case Management pilot.

Enabling Change

- Completion and approval of Business Case to extend the VER scheme;
- Workshop on offender engagement involving voluntary and community sector representatives and other relevant external stakeholders;
- Development of Offender Management Delivery Model final options paper;
- Complete Prisoner Quality of Life Surveys at all prisons;
- Further development of secure college concept, including ongoing liaison with Learning & Skills colleagues and education provider; and
- Delivery of Custody Office guidelines training.

Partner Provision

- Clarify what will be delivered under Recommendation 20;
- Continuation of LEAN process, which looks at how to streamline processes to make them more effective and efficient, for mental health committals;

- Set up regional discharge planning team; and
- Develop joint working arrangements in relation to substance misuse.

11. Progress against these priorities will be explored, challenged and scrutinised at the next meeting of the Oversight Group.

Oversight Group annual report

12. The inaugural meeting of the Oversight Group was held on 15 February 2012. As part of its terms of reference, the Group is required at the end of each 12 month period to produce a report summarising progress made and setting the objectives for the following 12 months. The Oversight Group will publish its first annual report after its next meeting and a copy will be issued to the Committee in due course.

Next Meeting

13. The Oversight Group will meet again on 13 March 2013.

**PRT OVERSIGHT GROUP
JANUARY 2013**

PRT Programme Structure

