

Accelerator Prisons Project – Health and Justice Partnership Coordinator – Additional Information

The reoffending rate has remained broadly static at around 29% since 2010. Reoffending is costing society approximately £18bn per year and almost half of all prisoners reoffend within 12 months of release.

The Prisons Strategy White Paper was published in December 2021. As part of the paper, MOJ and HMPPS committed to:

"Introduce Health and Justice Partnership Coordinators in every probation region in England by 2024/25"

We know that many offenders with a substance misuse need also have a mental health problem. These staff will build connections between commissioners and providers across substance misuse and mental health services in the community to ensure that clear pathways into treatment are in place for all offenders leaving prison, including those with coexisting needs.

The Health and Justice Partnership Coordinator role will work strategically to support people to access appropriate support and treatment once someone is released, known as 'continuity of care.' It is incredibly important, because of increased health risks including relapse and death as well as an increased risk of reoffending. The post holder will work to ensure that people released from prison into the community have the right access to local health services to address their health needs during their resettlement period and beyond. For example, working with stakeholders to improve successful engagement in community-based treatment within 21 days of release from prison.

This role will work at system level to improve the lives of people in contact with the criminal justice system (CJS), specifically around improving and maintaining their health and wellbeing.

The Health and Justice Partnership Coordinator will take a key role in driving forward local work on behalf of the probation service to improve continuity of care and work with probation colleagues and local partners to raise awareness of Probation's role, build and influence local partnerships; as well as lead and contribute to development activity which supports national plans.

Working as a Health and Justice Partnership Coordinator is a unique and rewarding role, with a focus on operational delivery. They will work in tandem with relevant local partners and HMPPS operational policy leads to develop practice related to substance misuse and health-related release planning, designing and consulting on process to enable information sharing, the use of substance misuse and health-related licence conditions and understanding of health and substance misuse resettlement pathways.