



HM Prison &
Probation Service

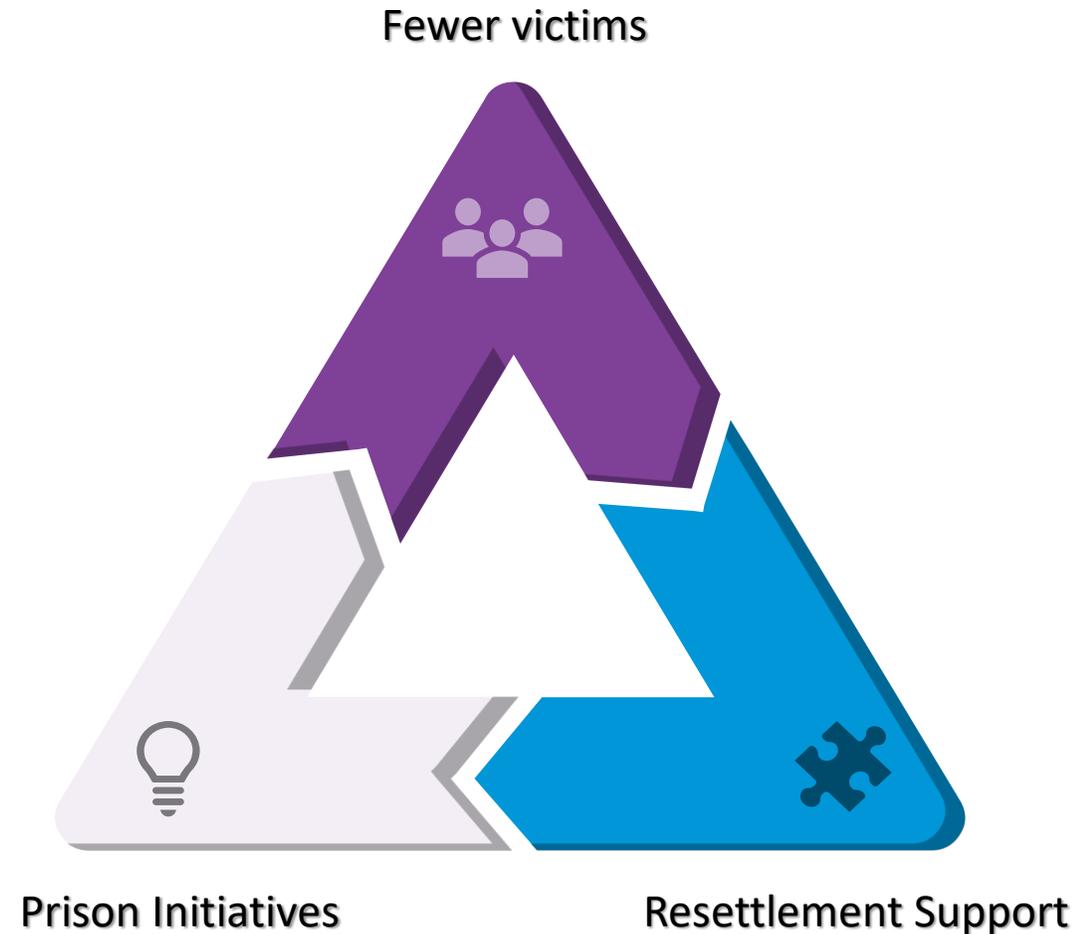
Reducing Reoffending Accelerator Project Accommodation theme overview

Presentation to the LGA: Sept 2021



HMPPS & Reducing Reoffending Priorities

- The Reducing Reoffending Accelerator Project seeks to accelerate rollout of the 3 priority areas of delivery to support the Prime Ministers Crime and Justice Taskforce Targets.
- This project is part of the January 2021 Government announcement of a £220m plan to prevent future victims of crime, including £50m to get more prison leavers into stable accommodation and £80m to give more support to offenders with addiction problems.
- This investment will help to provide prison leavers with increased support to find a home, a job and treatment for substance misuse.
- Prisons have been invited to work on the Accelerator Project to test various initiatives and trial new specialist roles. This project forms a key element of the Reducing Reoffending Delivery Programme.



What is the Reducing Reoffending Accelerator Project?

- The project seeks to design, implement and test new ways of improving the support provided to people in prison, helping them to desist from crime on release and to rebuild their lives.
- 16 prisons will help to design new approaches that will be evaluated. HMPPS will then be in a strong position to roll out the most successful initiatives more broadly.
- Each RRA prison will focus on at least one of the three following themes:
 - Education
 - Health and Substance Misuse
 - Employment and Accommodation*
- Whole prison culture - The project also seeks to address some of the perennial reducing reoffending barriers

* We have grouped Employment with Accommodation rather as the combined focus of activity is centred on resettlement with a vision to provide prison leavers with stable accommodation and employment on release.



Testing new roles

We will also be testing a number of new, specialist Accelerator Roles, to improve delivery across the key Accelerator themes, and supporting work to address the perennial reducing reoffending barriers. A test and learn approach is being taken for these roles, with job descriptions refined as the project progresses.

Accommodation & Employment

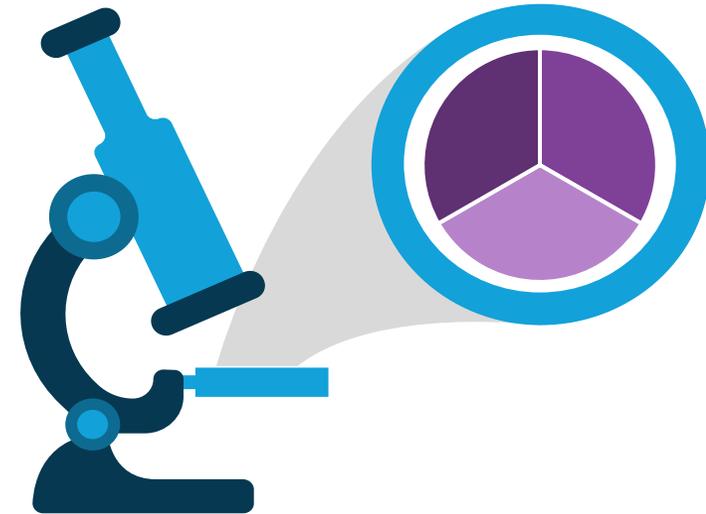
- Reduce number of prison leavers released with no fixed abode by introducing a housing specialist, strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders.
- Trial an Employment Lead role in each prison who will provide greater strategic direction ensuring prison leavers are matched to appropriate job vacancies. Where appropriate set up an Employment Hub, which mirrors community-based job centres.

Education

- Review and improve the prison education offer and expand learning beyond the classroom into workshops and digital platforms.
- Strengthen the assessment process and related follow up support for those with neurodiversity needs, within the classroom and across the prison more broadly.

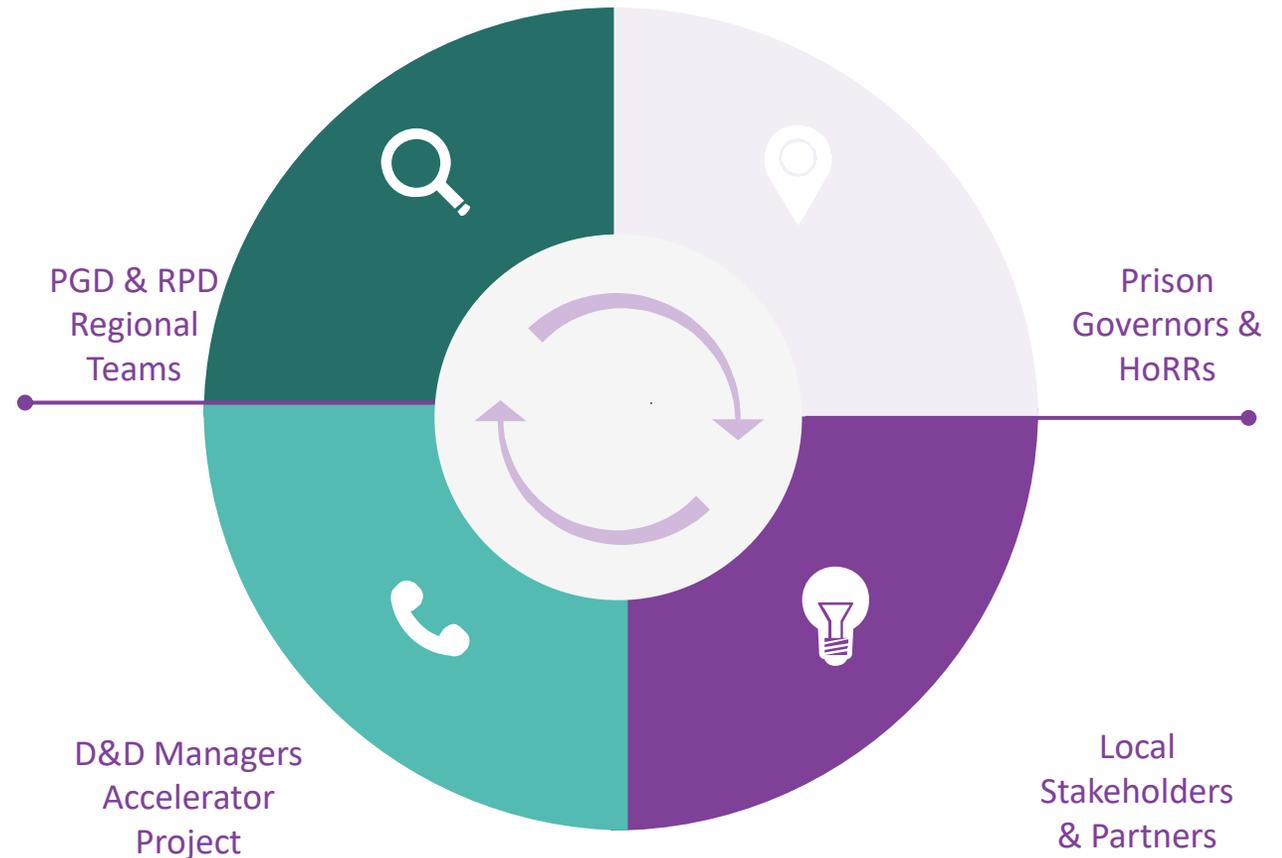
Substance Misuse

- Strengthen continuity of care by improving local pathways into substance misuse and health services through partnership working.
- A specific role to drive forward delivery of the prisons Drug Strategy, with specific focus on reducing demand and supporting recovery across the prison.



Perennial Reducing Reoffending Barriers

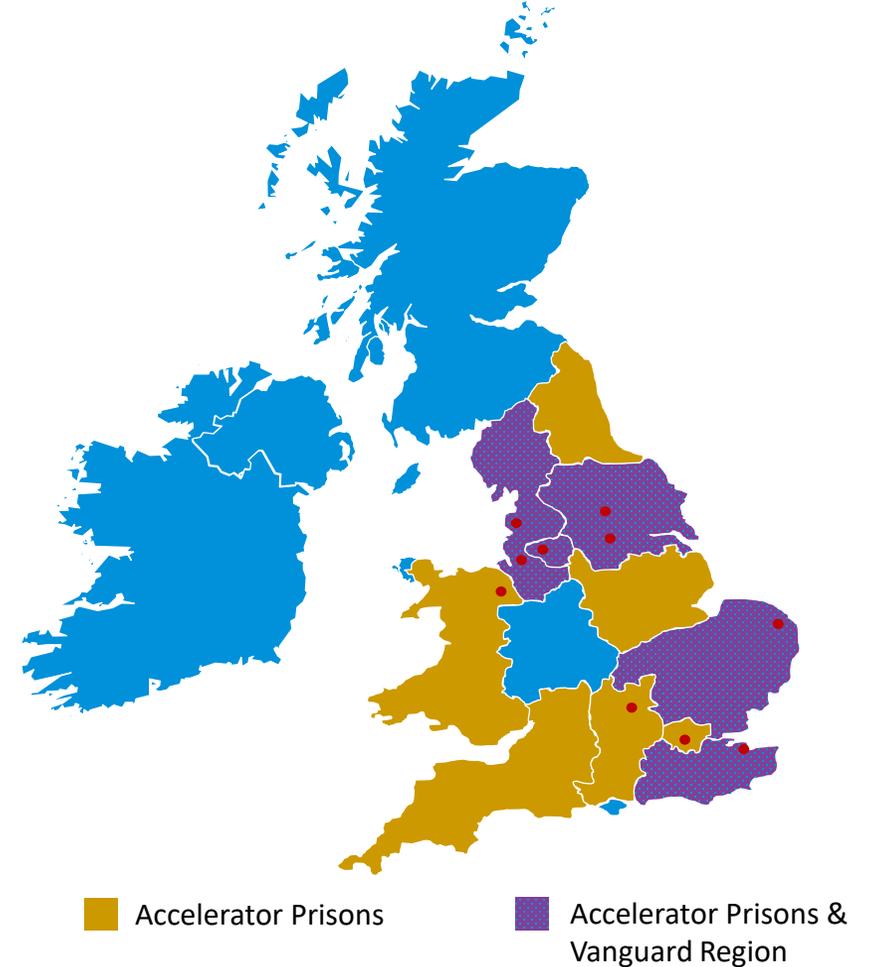
- We have recruited a team of subject matter experts to work closely with prisons, staff and service users to identify barriers to reducing reoffending, drawing upon local needs analyses and HMIP reports.
- Local Prison Groups, regional probation teams, commissioners and other external stakeholders also have a key role to play in this. Subject matter experts will seek to involve them in the process to ensure solutions reflect delivery and support the transition into community.
- Once key issues have been identified, subject matter experts will work with all the partners above to develop action plans and toolkits.
- Subject matter experts will also work to identify pockets of good practice and test these approaches with other accelerator sites. Learning and best practice will then be shared more broadly across the estate.



Housing Specialist

Work stream	Prisons
Housing	Accelerator
	Berwyn
	Bullington
	Norwich
	Elmley
	Risley
	Leeds
	Forest Bank
	Kirkham
	New Hall
Wandsworth	

Prisons mapped to RPD Regions



Housing Specialist role – outline and key activities

- To act as a subject matter expert on housing and homelessness; strategic support, not case level;
- To support the prison Governor, Heads of Reducing Reoffending, Senior Management Team, and other housing stakeholders to deliver a coordinated approach to improving accommodation outcomes for prison leavers;
- To work with housing stakeholders to identify current strengths and areas for improvement with respect to accommodation on release from prison;
- In so doing, identify under-utilised housing routes, maximise existing provision, and establish new opportunities;
- This might involve:
 - Working with local authorities to improve access in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA)
 - Work to remove practical or logistical barriers to housing
 - Delivering training on housing rights and legal obligations

Ultimately, the Housing Specialist will work in partnership with the probation commissioned services and other housing stakeholders to **improve access to accommodation for prison leavers.**

Housing Specialists: work to date

- 9/10 Accelerator Housing Specialists in post
- Mapping local housing landscape at each prison - including consulting local authorities (LAs)
- Bespoke Action Plan for each prison
- Engagement with regional Homelessness Prevention Taskforces to coordinate/streamline activity – including LA engagement
- Act as SPOC for prison within local/regional homelessness forums, often coordinated by LAs
- Facilitating visits from LA housing departments to carry out Homeless Reduction Act work pre-release
- Identifying and overcoming logistical barriers in prisons e.g. lack of ID
- Improve HMP staff engagement and knowledge on prisoner housing issues, rights & responsibilities
- Improve prisoner engagement and knowledge on housing rights and tenancy readiness

Housing Specialist: future work

- Tailored to each prison but will include:
 - Continue to develop relationships with LAs & facilitate pre-release work > this is an area we need 'buy-in' from LAs at senior and frontline levels
 - Provide engagement and shadowing opportunities for LA staff within prisons
 - Develop a national directory of homelessness services for prison resettlement staff
 - Develop and facilitate access to housing training for prisoners & staff
 - Continue to develop housing awareness training for staff and prisoners
- Roles currently funded until 31 March 2022. We will make a case to HM Treasury for further funding as part of SR21.
- Learning and good practice from the project will also be disseminated across the estate via toolkits.
- The Accelerator Prisons Project is subject to robust evaluation plans – both a process and impact evaluation will be undertaken.



Thank you for listening
Any questions?

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