

## REDUCING RE-OFFENDING ACTION PLAN

1. Attached to this report is a full set of Action Plans, for each of the eight 'pathways', as previously agreed, as follows:-

	<u>Number of key actions</u>
i. Accommodation	4
ii. Alcohol	3
iii. Drugs	3
iv. Employment	4
v. Family Support	3
vi. Finance, Benefits & Debt	4
vii. Health	5
viii. Life Skills & Offending Behaviour	<u>4</u>
	total 30

In a number of cases, baselines cannot yet be established, until the 2008/09 year is complete (including targets 2.2, 3.1b, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 7.2 and 7.4)

2. We have also previously discussed the option of setting an overall target for reducing the rate of adult re-offending in our Borough. On 12 February 2009, the Ministry of Justice published a report setting out a series of baseline figures, at national (England & Wales), regional, probation service and local authority levels. This document includes a 'health warning' to the effect that inter- area comparison of the raw re-offending rates" does not ensure a like for like comparison as the mix of offenders being dealt with may vary across areas and over time." For this reason, each geographical area is also given a predicted rate of re-offending, which does take into account the known characteristics of the offenders in the sample, and a "% difference from baseline" is quoted for each set of results – these figures are supposed to show comparative performance, with negative figures showing better than predicted figures and positive figures showing worse than predicted performance.

3. Based on the 12 month period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008, some of the key figures are shown below:-

	<u>Actual rate of re-offending</u>	<u>Predicted rate of re-offending</u>	<u>% difference from baseline</u>
England & Wales	9.88%	9.83%	0.56%
North East	14.63%	14.91%	-1.85%
Northumberland	15.26%	15.74%	-3.01%
Durham	12.16%	12.35%	-1.59%
Teesside	15.44%	15.41%	0.19%
Hartlepool	19.68%	18.57%	5.95%
Middlesbrough	15.35%	15.81%	-2.95%
Redcar & Cleveland	14.59%	13.69%	6.54%
Stockton-on-Tees	13.25%	14.04%	-5.64%

4. From the table above it can be seen that

- a) Stockton has a 'raw' rate of re-offending which is considerably higher than the England & Wales average, lower than the regional average, and the lowest of the four Teesside Boroughs.
- b) In relation to the end column, Stockton has the best score of those shown in the table, although it is not necessarily statistically significant, and we are out-performed in the region by Gateshead (-9.27%) and South Tyneside (-17.22%), which appears to be the fifth best result in England & Wales).

5. The improvements are based on the proportion of offenders who re-offend in a three month period (plus a further three months for offences to be proved by court convictions on cautions), based on recordable offences, as entered on the Police National Computer (PNC). At the local authority level it is said that "actual re-offending rates are 0.1 to 0.2 percentage points higher than they should be", due to a slight time lapse on checking the PNC – this issue will 'drop out' of future reports.
6. In view of the complexity of the system and the fact that it is its infancy, care should be taken in using these first 12 months of figures as a basis for target-setting. However, the desirable direction of travel is

clear, i.e. a reduction in the 'raw' rate of re-offending from our 13.25% baseline, and an improvement in the '% difference from baseline' from our local baseline of -5.64% to an even larger negative figure.

7. It is also likely that we will get better in subsequent years at understanding which factors have a bearing on re-offending and their relative importance, and therefore also at planning for reductions and implementing time plans.

8. It is therefore RECOMMENDED that

- a) the 8 Action Plans are approved;
- b) the Partnership commits itself to improving the local rate of re-offending, as outlined at paragraph 6 above; and
- c) that a quarterly monitoring report is produced ranging across the 8 Action Plans and the overall rate of offending.

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