

For info.

RS



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

County Durham
Teesside

Russell Bruce, Chief Officer
Elaine Lumley, Chief Officer
EL/MC

25 March 2009

Mr N Schneider
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
PO Box 11
Municipal Buildings
Church Road
STOCKTON ON TEES TS18 1LD



Dear Mr Schneider

TRUST APPLICATION BY TEESSIDE AND COUNTY DURHAM PROBATION BOARDS

You may recall that we wrote to you on 12 December 2008, including a copy press release about our respective Board plans to make a single application to become a Probation Trust. In that context we thought it may be helpful to provide you with an update on our plans.

The Chairman of County Durham Probation Board and the Chief Officer of Teesside Probation Area have had a very positive meeting with the Chief Operating Officer of the National Offender Management Service in January 2009 and we have been given strong encouragement to progress our plans to become a single Trust.

The key dates as we go forward with our plans are as follows:

- 23 April 2009 – the deadline to give formal notice of our intention to submit a single Trust application in May 2009 (we have already submitted this letter)
- 21 May 2009 – the deadline date for the submission of our Trust application
- 19 June 2009 – interview panel for Trust application if successful at sift stage
- 3 July 2009 – decision regarding Trust application



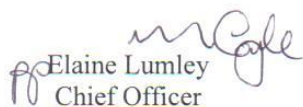
If we are unsuccessful at this first application stage then we have another opportunity in either late July or September 2009 in which to make a further application.

At present the two Senior Management teams and Probation Boards are progressing with our Trust application. Within this process we are very clear that we must ensure we at least maintain our existing high levels of performance and also that our future organisation must retain its strong track record of service delivery in local communities. The Trust application must evidence how we intend to ensure a 'local delivery unit' structure and we are clear that this is a key driver for us going forward.

Clearly should our application be successful we would want to enter into dialogue with you about how we will continue to work with you to deliver Probation services across Teesside so that you are reassured that, whatever our overall governance and management structure, we will remain responsive to the needs of our local stakeholders and communities.

The people who will assess our application will look for evidence of support by key local stakeholders and partners. If you feel able to provide an 'in principle' letter of support for our plans that would be very helpful as we progress our application. This can be addressed to the Board Chairman at either of the addresses set out below. If you want to speak with either of us about that, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01642 230533.

Yours sincerely


Elaine Lumley
Chief Officer



Paul Harford
Chair