

Durham Tees Valley
Probation Trust



RB/ABM

2 February 2011

COPY OF LETTER SENT TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

As you know, the Green Paper (Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders) has now been published. I am writing to you as a key stakeholder and partner of Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust. I am certain your organisation will be engaging in the Green Paper consultation process. It is in that context that I am writing to you.

We all support the goals of ensuring more effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders. Included in the broad range of issues raised in the Green Paper, the one exercising Probation Trusts perhaps more than any other is that concerning future contracting arrangements for delivery of sentence objectives (the 12 Requirements of the CJ Act 2003, Para 131 of the Green Paper). The nearest the direct consultation questions come to addressing this is Question 22. That is linked to payment by results.

Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust agrees strongly that the Secretary of State should contract for the delivery of these objectives with a single provider. We believe, a strategic position shared with the Probation Association and Probation Chiefs Association, that delivery of these objectives would be best achieved through contracts between the Secretary of State and Probation Trusts. This should be supported by robust arrangements which ensure Trusts acting as local commissioners, demonstrably commission services from the best providers.

There are compelling reasons which support this position. These fall under the categories of:

- Probation experience and capability
- Risk/threat of system fragmentation and with that, increased costs
- Continuity and development of existing partnership arrangements (and with it mutual interest)
- Maintenance and development of the 'localism' agenda

My Board therefore hope that, as part of your submission to HMG, you might consider this critical issue. Any support for the position set out here would be greatly welcomed by Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust.

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If there are any issues raised by my letter you would like to discuss with me personally, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell".

Russell Bruce
Chief Executive