

RB/ABM

4 October 2013

Mr M Batty  
Head of Community Protection  
Stockton on Tees Borough Council  
Development & Neighbourhood Services  
PO Box 232  
18 Church Road  
STOCKTON ON TEES TS18 1XD

Dear Mike,

## TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION STRATEGY

I have previously written to you to advise of proposals upon which we have all been consulted. I believe, as key partners with whom the Trust works closely and successfully, that an update on developments would be timely.

You will recall consultation on the measures proposed closed on 22 February 2013 and the Secretary of State's response was put before Parliament on 9 May 2013. I hope you found our response to the Consultation of interest. Thank you for all your support during that process and the constructive response I know you submitted.

The Strategy laid before Parliament in May 2013 set out the intention of the Secretary of State to proceed with the measures contained in the consultation document in ways which were largely unaltered. We have therefore moved into the "implementation phase" of these changes. The Secretary of State has confirmed his intention to replace Probation Trusts with a new National Probation Service (NPS) and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs). Each will be responsible for the supervision and management of offenders based on the risk of harm posed. The future right to manage and run CRCs will be determined by a competition process, the Pre Qualification Questionnaire in respect of which was published on 19 September 2013. Transfer of ownership of the CRCs will be undertaken under a Sale and Purchasing Agreement.

Trust staff will transfer to either the new NPS or the CRC. A 31 day period of consultation on the arrangements for transfer between the Trust and our staff and the Trade Unions, opened on 19 September 2013. At the moment, lots of our energy is focused on ensuring the smooth transfer of staff into either the NPS or CRC. I am giving equal attention to ensuring services continue to be delivered appropriately during this period of transition.

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The most obvious implications of the changes now underway for you are:

- Offenders managed and supervised by the new NPS will do so in a North East Region which is made up of the current Northumbria, Durham Tees Valley, York & North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Humberside Trust geographical areas. A Deputy Director for the North East responsible to the newly appointed National Director for England will be appointed in the very near future. Current Trust Local Delivery Units (LDUs) will be clustered to align with Police Force Areas with revised LDU structures put in place to align with Local Authority Areas.
- Offenders managed and supervised by the new NPS will include all those subject to MAPPA arrangements and resident in Approved Premises. The NPS will be responsible for reports to Courts and public interest decisions such as initial risk assessments and breach.
- All other offenders will be managed and supervised by the CRC.
- The nature of the relationship between the new NPS and CRCs in the context of duties and powers continues to evolve. Some details in respect of this critical issue have only just been received. We are working our way through it and I will keep you updated accordingly.
- Arrangements for the recruitment of Chief Executive Officers for CRCs is underway.

The Trust in its current form will cease operation with effect from 1 April 2014. Meanwhile, I will keep you updated on key developments as they emerge. The competition process leading to the contract award and new ownership of the CRC will conclude in October 2014.

Forgive the detailed nature of my letter. I hope the content is of interest and brings you up to speed on these important developments. I will gladly meet to discuss issues of common interest or concerns associated with Transforming Rehabilitation.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Russell Bruce  
Chief Executive