Integrated Health and Social Care in Prisons – Briefing Note March 2019

1 A Scottish Government Workstream under the Health and Justice Collaboration Board has been set up to address issues around the delivery of social care in Scottish prisons.

My role as Social Care in Prisons Development Manager is to work with stakeholders to develop options for the model/frameworks and then to work with prisons and health and social care services to test these. My role is funded until February 2020.

**2 Phases**

* **Phase 1: Analysis and review of current arrangements**

Dundee University is providing a report containing a literature review and research carried out with people in prison, Prisons Governors and Integrated Joint Boards. Key themes include human rights, equality and diversity issues, the role of social work in prisons and the impact of prison on people with disability and long term conditions. The report will be published on 28 March 2019. Scottish Government will also be publishing a response to the report.

It is anticipated that in the future, integrated community health and social care services will be responsible in their area for assessing the needs of people in prison, delivering or arranging services and supporting the transfer of people with health and social needs across the prison estate or to the area they plan to live in at the end of their sentence.

It is likely that people in prison will be treated as having temporary residence in the prison areas – as they do now for prison health services.

* **Phase 2: Developing models (August 2018 – May 2019)**
* **Phase 3: Testing the models (May 2019 – February 2020)**

On 25 February 2019, the Chief Social Work Adviser sent a letter to Prison Governors, Partnership Chief Officers, Prison Health Leads, Community Justice Coordinators and Chief Social Work Officers in prison areas. The letter asked for notes of interest in being a site for a test of change by 29 March. Scottish Government has identified £300k which should allow for at least two significant six month tests of change.

In April the Workstream team will work with those who have submitted note of interest to flesh out proposals and understand the intended outcomes and the environment in which the tests are proposed. The decision about where the tests will take place will be taken by the Workstream in May based on the nature of the test and the learning we can expect to achieve.

The tests of change might include:

* Bringing community adults services social workers into prison to undertake assessments.
* Delivering functional OT and aids and adaptations services in a way that reflect the service available in the community.
* Creating a small team of social care officers within the prison to deliver personal care directly.
* Health and Social Care Partnerships taking the responsibility for commissioning services into the prison.

I will be working with Scottish Prison Service and the partners in the areas chosen for the tests to ensure that tests can safely start hopefully by autumn 2019.

The Scottish Government team has some support from an economist to help us model a future funding formula for the Health and Social Care Partnerships who have prisons in their areas.

Following evaluation of the tests of change, the model will be put to Ministers for approval in Spring 2020.

I’m delighted to come to talk to senior managers and teams particularly those in prison areas who, I hope, will begin conversations about how integrated health and social care services can be delivered in their local prison regardless of whether they intend to submit a test of change proposal.

Don’t hesitate to contact me – my details are below.

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