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

**Background**

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 integrated models/frameworks and then to work with prisons and health and social work/care services to test these. My role is funded until February 2020.

**Project Phases**

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

In March we published a [report](https://socialworkscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/A-New-Vision-for-Social-Care-in-Prison-Report-.pdf) by Dundee University 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. Scottish Government published a [response](https://www.gov.scot/publications/a-new-vision-for-social-care-in-prisons-our-response/) to the report. There is an action plan with 5 themes:

* Knowledge and understanding
* Legal frameworks
* Delivering social care
* Working with diversity
* Wellbeing and quality of life

**Phase 2: Developing models (August 2018 – May 2019)**

It is anticipated that in the future, the Integration Joint 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. National and local budgets will be developed formulated on numbers of people in prison and the level of needs.

**Phase 3: Testing the models (May 2019 – February 2020)**

At the end of May the Scottish Government Workstream recommended that tests of change take place in the following areas.

* Glasgow City HSCP in HMP Greenock and Low Moss
* Aberdeenshire HSCP in HMP Grampian
* North Lanarkshire HSCP in HMP Shotts
* East Ayrshire HSCP is reviewing the focus on health and social care in CJSW reports and undertaking a commissioning/contracting test.

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

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

**Preparing for delivering services into prisons**

Any Health and Social Care Partnership with a prison within its area should be starting to think about what integrated services in their prison might look like. Over the next 6-9 months, I hope to support senior managers and practitioners across prison, health and social work disciplines to come together in their local areas to plan and develop local relationships and pathways. If you are able to help to set up a round table meeting in your area, please do so. I am more than happy to come along and explain where the project is and discuss the potential impact.

**Communication across areas**

It is not easy to get existing health and social care information about people arriving at prison or to share it as they are released into communities. The risks around this are recognised and the appropriate response and support is being considered by the Chief Officers. I shall keep you updated.

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

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