# Integrated Health and Social Care in Prisons

# Tests of Change Update June 2020

**1 Background**

Last summer, the Scottish Government’s Integrated Health and Social Care in Prisons Workstream approved tests of change in six prisons in four Health and Social Care Partnership areas which had a range of start and projected end dates,

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Prison | HSCP | Start date | End date |
| HMP Perth | Perth and Kinross | 1/10/19 | Completed 31/3/20 |
| HMP Castle Huntly |
| HMP Shotts | North Lanarkshire | 1/11/19 | Due 30/4/20 |
| HMP Grampian | Aberdeenshire  | 1/12/19 | Due 31/5/20 |
| HMP Greenock | Hosted by Glasgow City | 1/3/20 | Due 31/8/20 |
| HMP Low Moss |

Each test of change was to deliver a data set and an evaluation report which would be used:

* To deliver a report to the workstream making organisational and practice recommendations regarding the future delivery of health, adults social work and social care in prison
* As supporting evidence in the national strategic needs assessment commissioned by Scottish Government from Alma Economics
* To inform the financial modelling due to be undertaken by Scottish Government analysts.

The original timeline was that the data and evaluations from all the tests of change (interim form Glasgow) would be available for analysis from mid-June 2020.

As a result of the pandemic and lockdown measure coming into force from March 2020, local test of change teams were effectively disbanded, returning to original community based posts or moving to areas of work deemed urgent. The tests of change effectively closed as movement into and out of the prisons for assessment reduced and the technology to enable interactions and assessment was not yet available.

Personal care delivered by agencies that was already arranged by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) where purchased under the tests of change or not is understood to have continued without interruption during COVID.

Data sharing agreements between the partners in each area have been developed but not yet signed off. This is in process.

**2 Updates from the tests of change**

**2.1 Perth and Kinross HSCP**

Perth and Kinross completed their tests of change in HMPS Perth and Castle Huntly. The data sharing agreement, once signed off, will enable the test of change to deliver their data set and evaluation report. This should be available by the end of June.

**2.2 North Lanarkshire HSCP**

The team involved in his test of change included social work, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. The focus appears to have been mainly on people affected by physical disability, exploring the potential to assess for and deliver services that people in the community have access to. Shotts’ population is comparatively young and only a small number of personal care packages were arranged with an independent care provider during the test. Mental health needs were noted as being high but the test of change had decided to focus on physical needs with the aim of improving mobility through a rehabilitation service. The key challenges emerging from this test include access to the various IT systems, the limited resource that the team were able to access in the prison compared to the community, lack of clarity about funding for types of equipment and the reticence of people in the prison to disclosing vulnerabilities.

Where this test felt it succeeded best was in areas including joint working with SPS, satisfaction levels of people who used the service, the improvements seen in mobility which enabled people to take a greater part in the life of the prison.

Once the data sharing agreement is signed, the data set and full evaluation will be delivered.

**2.3 Aberdeenshire HSCP**

The multidisciplinary team set up around HMP Grampian had assessed around 19 of the referrals made by the time the pandemic impacted their work. Care plans were being put in place and a variety of methods of personal care delivered had been considered:

During the test, two methods of personal care delivery were tried out:

1. The local HSCP in house care at home team and
2. The healthcare support team already in the prison.

For a variety of reasons, the local HSCP in-house team was not able to deliver the care easily so the health care support workers who were already working within the prison took on a social care role (duel role). This is something that has already proved challenging to implement in community based teams but the test of change has enabled some of the issues to be explored and has been supported by local Care Inspectorate officers.

The Occupational Therapist team, which already had mental health expertise, was expanded to include a day a week from an OT focusing on physical functioning.

The test has noted significant issues arising from the care management team from the older people’s service finding it difficult to use their community criteria for older people in relation to people in prison. The local team recognises that training and support will be needed to support assessment of people who may have a wider range of health and social care needs and fewer support systems in the prison environment than those usually found in the community. The test had not yet been able to identify full pathways for people who need support with mental health, substance misuse, learning difficulties etc. although lessons were being learned.

This test of change has finished. Once the data sharing agreement is signed, Aberdeenshire will be able to deliver the data set and the evaluation report based on the almost four months the test ran by the end of June 2020.

**2.4 Glasgow HSCP**

From a governance perspective, this was the most challenging test to navigate as whilst Glasgow City HSCP hosts the prison health provision across HMPs, Low Moss, Barlinnie and Greenock (Barlinnie was not included in the tests of change) there needed to be local discussion with Inverclyde and East Dunbartonshire HSCPs about the model. This resulted in the test not starting until March 2020 when it was swiftly affected by COVID-19 and test of change staff members were returned to substantive posts or deployed in the community.

The team had managed to complete the personal protective training, get suitable IT access arranged and had been having discussions with the Third Sector about the shape of the services that might need to be delivered. Information about the referral and assessment process was delivered to prison staff and some priority referrals had arrived by the time lockdown started but there had not been the opportunity to assess.

The test of change lead manager plans to restart the test of change although this may be o n a reduced staffing basis. This requires negotiating the possibility of some redeployed staff returning for the beginning of July. Once the data sharing agreement is signed, an interim data set and evaluation report will be sent by 31 July 2020.

The proposal to restart this test of change is important. Not only does it offer the opportunity to look at a complex governance arrangement, it will also test the ability of the partners around the prison to deliver and support referral, assessment and delivery of adult social work and social care within the COVID 19 recovery phases. Given it is possible that we may move between lockdown and recovery phases for the foreseeable future, it will be very helpful for the wider implementation of integrated health and social care in prisons to have tested provision.

**3 Implications**

Only Glasgow intends to restart the test of change on a limited basis. To support this, it will be important to:

* Get information to partners and people in prison (HSCP and SPS)
* Ensure clear pathways for seeing people for assessment ideally through technology at each prison (and considering this beyond the tests of change) (SPS)

In addition the project plan is being reviewed by SG and SWS so that the impact of COVID 19 on dependencies across the work can be clarified.

**3 Remote access**

3.1 SPS has issued a list of ways that justice social workers can access people in prison remotely for interview. This will be explored to establish whether and how these might also apply to adults’ services workers.

3.2 The national telehealth project is exploring how locating PCs in halls or using mobile devices can support communication within and outwith the prison to increase the capacity to deliver a wide range of services whilst reducing face to face contact. Next steps on this should be known by the end of June 2020 but initially it is anticipated that the main use of the technology will be to support health functions.

**4 Information Technology**

National Shared Services undertook a piece of work for the Workstream in 19-20 looking at the need for adults’ services social work staff to be able to access the range of local authority IT systems from within the prison. The project manager will shortly deliver a summary of the learning to date and a proposal about next steps to support future implementation of integrated health and social care in prisons.

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