

10 RESETTLEMENT PILOT (AN103-2012)

The Government Reducing Re-offending Programme focuses on the 4 key projects of young people who offend, pre-disposal, effective community disposals and community re-integration in order to reduce re-offending rates and short-term imprisonment.

The community re-integration project focuses on improving the re-integration of short-term prisoners, who are more likely to re-offend on release and receive repeat custodial sentences. In Dundee, typically over 300 adult males will receive short-term prison sentences every year with only about a third electing to receive voluntary support on their release.

The Resettlement Pilot will be delivered by Criminal Justice Social Work and HMP Perth to develop a more co-ordinated and pro-active approach. It consists of 6 key stages, from information sharing from the point of sentence; an immediate needs screening on arrival at the prison; a comprehensive needs screening once stabilised; custodial case management; a pre-release review meeting; and community case management. Where necessary, a 7th stage focuses on their return to custody.

The pilot reflects existing work between a dedicated Criminal Justice Female Offenders Team and HMP Cornton Vale. Together, this work will ensure that the needs of male and female short-term prisoners are proactively identified and addressed. As part of this, the Criminal Justice Service is also developing relations with Tayside Police to ensure a more targeted approach towards persistent offenders on release from both prisons.

Criminal Justice Services will receive additional funding of £32,000 to contribute towards delivery of the pilot in 2012-13. The funding will be used to increase capacity within the service; improve information sharing with the prison on offender risks, needs and motivation, enhance engagement with offenders whilst in custody; co-ordinate the involvement of other agencies; and intensify support on release. The pilot will be evaluated and will inform longer-term developments in through care.

The Committee is asked to note the above position.