



## IPP External Stakeholder Challenge Group

### Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 06 December 2023

Next meeting: 05 March 2023, in person/MS Teams

#### 1. Apologies and Introductions

- External Stakeholders want to see published IPP data include a breakdown of reasons for recall, incidents of self-harm broken down by time served on sentence and a breakdown of time past tariff by individual years after 10 years (currently only published as 10+ years).
  - **Action:** External stakeholders to provide a list of new data they would like to be added in order of priority
  - **Action:** Once list of data has been received, HMPPS to discuss with Analytical Services what might be possible and in what timeframe.
- External Stakeholders will share examples of rejected FOI requests, for Public Protection Group (PPG) to look into.

#### 2. Women serving an IPP sentence

- Due to the small number of women serving an IPP sentence, it is easier to work with them in a more individualised way. There are psychology teams in each prison with a close understanding of individual needs to help with their progression and to provide services.
- Support is offered by Psychology Services 'through the gate', who reach out proactively on a consultancy basis across Probation Regions with the staff who are working with these women.
- Psychology Services are delivering case file reviews for all women and using a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) rating system to identify which women are progressing.
- Psychology Services and the Womens Group are working with prison Governors to ensure they can effectively support those serving IPP sentences, including better understanding of how individual women's complexities are perceived and the reasoning behind behaviours.
  - **Action:** Invite Psychology lead for women to a future meeting to give a further update on progress.
  - **Action:** Invite HMPPS Chief Psychologist to the next meeting to discuss psychology related activity for Male IPP cohort.

### 3. IPP Action Plan

- The Action Plan is current being reviewed, in line with our commitment to do so every six months. The outcomes of this will be shared through the IPP Progress Annual Report due to be published by the end of March 2024.
- The intention is to ensure the refreshed action plan is more focused on operational front-line delivery and outcomes rather than policies and frameworks.
- Focus groups are being held with those serving IPP sentences as part of this review. External Stakeholders also offered to speak to their members for additional input.
  - **Action:** PPG to write to stakeholders to inform them of progress with the IPP Action Plan review.
- Stakeholders raised the importance of ensuring that, alongside Psychology Services activity and accredited programmes, there is an appropriate range and number of places on other interventions for those serving the IPP sentence, to help meet the needs of individuals. This will be considered in the context of the Action Plan review.
- Communications with those in prison serving IPP must be meaningful. External Stakeholders can advise on the best approach to take. As part of this communication, a note of this meeting should be shared with all those serving the sentence.
  - **Action:** HMPPS to identify an approach to share external stakeholder meeting notes to those serving IPP sentences
- Discussion on remittance and suggestion that work in secure hospitals should be reflected in the parole dossier for consideration by Parole Board.
  - **Action:** HMPPS to add an agenda item for the next Stakeholders meeting on the planned remittance strategy for those returning to prison from hospitals.

### 4. Communication with those serving an IPP sentence

- The Stakeholder Group discussed options for what approach HMPPS should take to better engage with those serving IPP sentence. It was agreed that the best approach would be a combination of having identified staff IPP leads with responsibility for enabling two-way communication, as well as a dedicated IPP Bulletin.
- Additionally, HMPPS will try to use National Prison Radio, and other communications messages to ensure the communications approach can meet all needs. The 'Email a Prisoner' service was also recommended for communicating with those serving IPP. In-cell technology will also be used (launchpad (digital channels)) where it is available.
- Stakeholders advised HMPPS/Moj colleagues to ensure the messaging on policy changes, in particular with those serving IPP sentences, are carefully constructed so as not to miscommunicate messages and set possibly inaccurate expectations from the recipients of those messages.

- The Group discussed the benefits of more peer-to-peer communications to promote good news stories, including of people who had their IPP licence terminated, to bring a voice to this cohort. External stakeholders suggested that there may be individuals interested in working with HMPPS to put together a good new piece of communications for those serving IPP sentences.
- HMPPS are putting together a dedicated 'IPP in Focus' week of events to improve staff awareness and skills in working with those serving IPP sentences. External Stakeholders advised that they could help with some events, including contributions from some of their staff who are working for them and whilst being on an IPP licence.
  - **Action:** HMPPS to reach out to stakeholders in January to discuss plans for staff events.

#### 5. MoJ Policy discussion on licence termination legislation change

- MoJ Policy leads shared information on the Lord Chancellor's proposed amendment to the Victims and Prisoners Bill to curtail the minimum licence period for IPP sentences to three years from the current 10.
- External Stakeholders raised concerns around removing the automatic annual referral after the 3-year point, where the Parole Board do not terminate the licence. They suggested a possible self re-referral could be added.
- Concerns were also raised about the prospect of the ability to amend the termination policy without primary legislation could be used to make the policy tougher again in the future.
- HMPPS/MoJ agreed to consider if there was any potential to review the processes following the recall of those serving IPP sentences, which might enable more people to secure an earlier release where they are considered safe to be re-released.
  - **Action:** HMPPS to explore ways to enable swifter re-release following recall
  - **Action:** HMPPS to include an agenda item on the HMIP thematic into IPP recalls at the next External Stakeholder meeting

#### 6. AOB

- None