

**Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel**  
**Reducing Reoffending: Policy Review recommendations 2012/13**

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	That the Council identifies ways in which existing housing related support can be better utilised, and that the intelligence currently being gathered through the Council's Gateway informs housing related support commissioning intentions in 2014, specifically taking account of accommodation issues for offenders and particularly women offender.	Ongoing monitoring of the Gateway outcomes to inform the commissioning intentions of the Council for the re – commissioning of Housing Related Support services in 2014.	<b>HHAS Head of Strategic Housing / HHAS Lead Commissioner</b>	<b>April 2014</b>	Since April 2012 the introduction of the Gateway process for accessing Supported Accommodation has resulted in an improvement in the quality of need information being gathered. This continues on a quarterly basis and is assisting the development of clear commissioning intentions. Quarter 3 figures are currently being reviewed.
(b)	That key policies in relation to housing, including the Housing Strategy, the Strategic Tenancy Policy and the Hostel Strategy have a specific focus on the accommodation needs of offenders informed by intelligence.	The accommodation needs of offenders have been included within the Hostel Strategy action plan informed by intelligence gathered from the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment (PSIA). This work will continue to be overseen by the Hostel Strategy Working Group with particular focus on Camrex House and the Norfolk Hotel.	P&N, Safer Communities Officer	On-going	A multi-agency group is meeting on the 17 <sup>th</sup> of January 2013 to develop a closure strategy for managing down Camrex House and finding alternative accommodation for vulnerable residents including offenders. It is anticipated the hostel will close in early 2014.
		The City Housing Strategy will capture the needs of vulnerable groups including offenders.	P&N, Safer Communities Officer	July 2013	A meeting has been convened for the end of January to progress the vulnerable people section of the Housing Strategy.



<b>(e)</b>	That the Safer Sunderland Partnership improves the transition from custody to the community by:-				
	(i) Ensuring effective relationships with all prisons in the NE.	The SSP will continue to work with ANEC & NOMS on improving the relationship between the local authority and NE prisons identifying gaps in delivery.	P&N, Safer Communities Officer	June 2013	The SSP and HMP Durham are currently working together on a joint venture to improve the employment, education and training transition for offenders on release.  The Family Focus Project has developed links with NE Prisons.
	(ii) Utilising the IOM Prison Officer roles of Durham and HMP Northumberland, to improve information sharing and links with community provision.	Meeting to be arranged with both IOM Prison Officer Links to develop an improved information sharing pathway.	P&N, Safer Communities Officer, HMP Durham, HMP Northumberland	February 2013	
	(iii) Improving accommodation outcomes for offenders through the 'Through the Gate' project.	<b>Sunderland to nominate a rep for the Through the Gate steering group to ensure the needs &amp; views of Sunderland are fully represented.</b>  <b>To establish clear operational procedures between Through the Gate and the Access to Housing Team to enable the most successful outcomes for offenders returning to Sunderland.</b>	<b>HHAS Access to Housing Manager / Offender Accommodation Officer</b>	July 2013	<b>Meetings have taken place in early January with Through the Gate to agree the procedures for working with the Access to Housing Team. These will be embedded in the coming month by liaison between Through the Gate and the Access to Housing Offender Accommodation Officer.</b>  <b>The offer of a Sunderland representative becoming a part of the Through the Gate Steering group has been made and is currently being considered.</b>

<b>(f)</b>	That the Safer Sunderland Partnership and the Council seek to improve outcomes for women offenders, in particular accommodation and accommodation related support.	The needs of women Offenders will continue to be addressed as part of the Women Offenders Sub-group Led by Probation and overseen by the Reducing Re-Offending Delivery Network.	Probation, Director of Offender Management	July 2013	
<b>(g)</b>	That the Safer Sunderland Partnership and the Council ensures it fully understands the needs of current and future veteran offenders by engaging with relevant bodies and organisations.	SSP to strengthen links with the HHAS Veterans Champion to identify any issues regarding offenders.	P&N, Safer Communities Officer, HHAS Head of Strategic Housing	August 2013	