

**Devon County Council and Devon Prisons from a Care Act  
Perspective – Update for People Scrutiny.**

**Recommendation:**

To note the current status of progress and ongoing plans for action in relation to Devon prisons and adult social care post implementation of the Care Act 2014.

**1. Background**

In November 2015 a masterclass was held for People Scrutiny that outlined a range of partnership work between Devon County Council and the Devon Prisons as a result of the implementation of the Care Act. There was also an overview of the work underway to identify and support families of prisoners.

This report is to provide an update on progress in the work resulting from the implementation of the care act. An update on supporting families of prisoners, 'thinking family and protecting children' will be provided at a future Scrutiny meeting.

**2. Progress on Strategic Priorities**

**2.1 Adult Social Care Assessment activity and outcomes**

The dedicated social care team (a social worker and an occupational therapist) has continued to ensure access to timely assessment and support planning as needed for prisoners with potential social care needs. This small team of staff are highly valued by the prison service. The work of the Senior Social worker was also acknowledged in recent National Social Work Awards by winning a Silver Award for her social work role in this setting.

The staff are based in HMP Exeter but outreach to cover Dartmoor and Channings Wood. The social care staff work alongside their colleagues in health care to provide a multi-disciplinary approach, particularly for prisoners with more complex health and care needs.

There have been 157 assessments started for people in prisons in 2016/17 to date. This breaks down across the prisons as 55 (35%, HMP Dartmoor), 68 (43%, HMP Exeter) and 34 (22%, HMP Newton Abbot – Channings Wood). Of these assessments, there are 13 that are underway / active (8.3%).

Assessment Outcome	HMP Dartmoor	HMP Exeter	HMP Channings Wood	Grand Total
<b>Complete</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>144</b>
Abandon Assessment	1	2		3
No service (no eligible social care need)	19	16	2	37
No service (universal/signposting)	20	7	12	39
NHS Continuing Healthcare Only		4		4
Reablement / Community Enabling		1		1
Soc Care Offer (inc. equip, adapt, prof support)	8	35	17	60
<b>Incomplete</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>
	7	3	3	13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>157</b>

There are 93 clients for who assessments were completed. There were 57 (61.3%) who received no services, 18 (19.3%) who received Equipment, 6 (6.5%) who received personal care and 12 (12.9%) who received both equipment and personal care.

Service Type Received	HMP Dartmoor	HMP Exeter	HMP Newton Abbot	Grand Total
No services	31	16	10	57
Dom Care only	0	4	2	6
Equipment Only	6	6	6	18
Dom Care and Equipment	1	9	2	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>93</b>

## 2.2 Development of the 'Devon Buddy' model (Peer support scheme)

At the outset of this work it was important to deliver the social care function into the Devon Prisons in line with the principles and key themes of the Care Act 2014. To promote wellbeing and independence at all stages and reduce the risk of people reaching crisis point. With this in mind a key element of the strategy was to work with the prisons to support the further development and delivery of a peer support scheme.

Devon 'Buddies' are prisoners who have an employment opportunity to work on the wings to provide low level enabling and non personal care based task based support to prisoners below or at the threshold for social care. The competency based learning and development for prisoners trained in this role is overseen by Devon County Council and the training delivered by an organisation called Recoop.

Appendix 1 for a case study.

Currently there are 10 trained Buddies at Dartmoor supporting 25 prisoners, 5 trained Buddies at Exeter supporting 14 prisoners and 5 trained Buddies at Channings Wood supporting 19 prisoners

The below is a summary from those involved in this scheme and the continued positive experience of this role:

**i. Governor at Exeter Prison**

Buddies play a critical role in the Devon Prisons in supporting the delivery of Social Care by:

Providing additional trained eyes within our population. Many referrals by Buddies have been received concerned about their peers, prisoners who would not have or reported their difficulties to staff

- Providing social interaction with prisoners and support
- The role of the Buddies has in no small way helped to prevent cases becoming more complex
- Personal gratification and life changing experiences for the buddies
- A scheme which is very much supported and appreciated by staff and prisoners
- A scheme which has been recognised as good practice by the Chief Inspector of Prisoners in an inspection of HMP Exeter in August
- The importance of this scheme is recognised by the Deputy Director of Custody for the South West by match funding commitment
- The buddies fulfil a critical role with the social care agenda, supporting delivery aiding staff assisting prisoners in need, a role which if lost would see a significant gap in the care we provide.

**ii. Feedback from prisoners who have been supported by a Buddy:**

'One word to describe my Buddy is excellent!'

'He is good at cleaning and as I am blind I've taught him to help guide me and he is good at it. He introduces himself at the door. He listens, we chat, we are good company. He is very careful to put everything back in the right place so I know exactly where it all is'

'I find my Buddy to be attentive, very positive and always helpful and encouraging. He helps me with the tasks I find too difficult to do and also actively encourages me to do what I can for myself. He walks with me to exercise and back and encourages me to go out on exercise. He treats me with respect constantly and is understanding of my health issues and memory problems'

**iii. Feedback from a prisoner who undertakes the role;**

I've done many jobs in the prison but being a Buddy is definitely the most rewarding. I can see that I'm making a really difference to a fellow prisoner. Poor bugger, I wouldn't want to be in his shoes in here. It's a win win situation. He gets the support he needs, I get to show that I'm not all bad, there is still a good side to me".

Appendix 2 for feedback from Buddies undertaking training in 2016.

In order to support the continued development of this function HMP Exeter are going to appoint a stand alone role to support the Buddy programme. They will work Monday to Friday 9-5, not on the usual rota involving nights.

The prisons are considering the 'optimum level of Buddy capacity needed in light of level of need being identified in part through the assessment and support planning activity of the social care staff within a prison setting.

### **2.3 Provision of personal care**

Where a prisoner has been assessed as eligible for a personal care service and there is no opportunity to utilise the 'Buddy' arrangements to support the individual, then Devon County Council have commissioned personal care via an independent provider (Ark nursing and care agency). Ark are a registered personal care provider who have been working in Exeter Prison (originally funded by the Ministry of Justice) since 2014.

In recent months NHS England have completed a full procurement process for the future delivery of health care services into the Devon prisons. It is now timely for Devon County Council to consider an opportunity for joint delivery arrangements with the new provider of health care services. This would provide improved opportunities for delivery of seamless care and operational efficiencies for the deployment of care staff in a regime that creates challenges in terms of inflexibility of visiting hours and operational delivery. This work is underway with NHSE.

### **3. Legal considerations**

There are no specific legal considerations at this time

### **4. Summary**

The partnership working with Devon prisons, NHS England and Recoop continue to support the delivery of an effective model for the requirements in the Care Act 2014 in relation to the new responsibilities for Devon County Council as outlined below:

*'The Care Act, which came into effect in April 2015, makes clear where responsibility lies for assessing the care and support needs of adult prisoners, for providing care and support where those needs meet eligibility criteria, and also for transferring that care back into the community at sentence end.*

*A council is responsible for assessing and meeting the care and support needs of prisoners in any prisons located in their area. The responsibility will no longer rest with the council in the area from where a prisoner came.*

*After the assessment, the council will determine whether the person is eligible for care and support using the same eligibility criteria used for people living in the community. If the person is assessed as having needs which meet those criteria, the council will be required to meet those needs.'*

**Electoral Divisions:** All

**Keri Storey – Head of Care Operations and Health**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Buddy / Client Case Study - HMP Dartmoor 2016**

#### **The Referral**

##### **Occupational Therapist Devon Prison Cluster**

Mr W has been prescribed some exercises by a community physiotherapist and has been given a sheet outlining what these exercises are but on visiting him I was worried that he may need support to do the exercises a). due to being unsteady on his feet, b). being unsure what and how to do them and at risk of giving up, and then as a consequence further losing muscle strength and being at risk of becoming less ambulant/mobile and independent in activities of daily living.

#### **Support Plan**

On speaking with Mr S, the Buddy who supports Mr W, he and the OT formulated a plan where Mr S will work with Mr W, every day going through the exercises with Mr W. Mr S is also going to support Mr W to access the Gym's over 50's sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

#### **Expert Witness Statement**

##### **NHS Dorset Health Care Nurse**

As one of the Nurses in HMP Dartmoor, I have observed how Mr S has assisted one of the gentlemen who he is a Buddy for, he regularly does his physiotherapy exercises with him, he records this on a sheet, when he has done each exercise twice daily with him. The gentleman who he assists states that this has helped him recover greatly, and attributes his speedy recovery to Mr S's help with this, among the other things he does for him.

##### **Senior Officer (Health and Social Care Lead) Witness Statement**

Mr S's work ethic is second to none; he is caring and professional, ensuring that prisoners under his care receive all that is required to ensure decency. I have observed him with one of the prisoners who is terminally ill and he has proven that nothing is too much trouble. As well as caring for his physical needs, he spends time talking and keeping him company. He has shown that he is willing to go the extra mile for others.

#### **Client Witness Statement**

Mr S has acted as a Buddy on my behalf since I was transferred to this health and social care wing. This was due to an injury in my foot for which I had an operation. Although I'm gradually improving, Mr S fetches me and accompanies me to medical appointments. This eases my task considerably. The programme raised for exercises has proved to be very helpful to me in relationship to strengthening my leg muscles. I am now able to get up from a sitting position without supporting myself with my hands which I couldn't do before. My balance is improving and I'm very pleased to date. The walking the wing is giving me some problems. 3 laps is ok but 4 gives me pain in my hip. Mr S has been great at persuading me not to do too much, but to go through the exercises gently but regularly. He will do them with me which is good.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Quotes Regarding Buddy Training 2016**

The best bit was an insight into care and support. It was very refreshing for me to have the facilitator treat me with respect and showing me that I have something of value to offer others

It was an extensive course which leads me to believe in being a better person.

I don't think you can get a better trainer. I have a better understanding of how people should be treated. Keep up the good work!

I enjoyed getting an understanding and a good base knowledge to go and help people out.

Thank you for providing a comprehensive training programme and making the sessions interactive and fun to attend. I found the group was friendly and willing to engage and learn new skills.

The tutor has made the course not only informative and useful, but enjoyable too. It meant that there was no classroom disruption and all students engaged in all sessions.

I found the course very instructive and educational and a great help to myself to learn about others. I now realise how much Buddies are needed and know the role. I enjoyed learning about other people other than myself.

The best bit was the trainer, with her knowledge and interaction with the group. It was a well presented and interactive course covering a wide range appropriate to the job.

Gaining knowledge was very interesting. It was delivered really well, we were made to interact and I enjoyed doing so.

The tutor is one of the best I have worked with, could not have asked for better