

One

Cleveland Safer Communities
VCS Network

Spotlight on HMPPS voluntary sector strategy

I recently attended a market warming event facilitated by Clinks and MOJ as part of the consultation process for the [Probation Services Review](#). The review includes a voluntary sector strategy specifically aimed at increasing voluntary sector involvement in the procurement of offender services. The overall aim of the strategy is to remove barriers to voluntary organisations bidding to deliver probation services as primes in the future and to enable those smaller organisations to be part of the supply chain.



The strategy aims to:

- **Test bidders' past experience** of working with the voluntary sector as part of the pre-qualification phase.
- **Include 'social value' questions** on which bidders will be evaluated; testing their approach to involving and supporting the local voluntary sector.
- Require bidders to provide **details of subcontractors**. They will then **review supply chain partners** during the tender process to ensure real partnerships are in place and to understand any commitments made; **make tender commitments contractually binding**, including named supply chain partners.
- **Increase the level of transparency on supply chains** during contract management through regular detailed reporting of supply chain partners, services provided, spend, contractual arrangements and performance measures. This information should be made public.
- **Require approval for change of subcontractors**. Suppliers will be required to seek approval if it wishes to amend or reduce the use (proportionate to volume) of material members of their supply chain.
- **Replace the ISPA with key market stewardship principles**. The Authority will develop a short set of key principles which maintain the values established in the ISPA of providing protection and assurance, but in a much more proportionate manner which can be scaled by providers in correlation to services. The principles will include mandatory clauses primes will be expected to use with subcontractors.
- **Establish an escalation route** to allow subcontractors to contact the Authority directly. The route is intended to cover matters of market stewardship only and is not intended to remove the primacy of the contract between the prime and subcontractor. In providing this service the Authority and Regional Authorities, will both be acting on a purely voluntary/advisory basis.
- **Circulate information regarding guarantee requirements (such as Parent Company Guarantees) early on**. To enable the sector to bid as a strategic partner (tier 1/prime) or as part of a consortium they will

ensure clear information about what financial guarantee is required be circulated at the earliest possible stage in the competition.

Slides from the market engagement event provide an overview of current proposals and discussions held with voluntary sector providers around the [probation reform programme](#).



National News

Justice Secretary sets out vision for justice system



In a speech on 18 February, Justice Secretary David Gauke set out his vision for the justice system. He said:

"Now is the time for [...] a national debate about what justice, including punishment, should look like for our modern times."

He urged those who shape the system to "take a step back" and ask fundamental questions, such as whether our approach to sentencing reduces crime; if prisons currently maximise the chances of rehabilitation; and if we should look at better alternatives."

After the speech, he responded to Clinks' Jess Mullen's question on the role of the voluntary sector by recognising the huge amount of work by the sector and

crediting it for helping to change views in favour of rehabilitation.

[Read the speech](#)

Strengthening Prisoners Family Ties

The government has published rules and guidance for prison staff on supporting the maintenance and development of prisoners' relationships with family, significant others and friends. The *Strengthening Prisoners Family Ties Policy Framework* sets out duties, rules and general guidance on the actions that staff in all prisons must deliver as part of their local strategy to support prisoners.

[Find out more](#)

How are charities influencing change in the prison system?

A new discussion paper from New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) has been published titled *How are charities influencing change in the prison system?* which looks at how charities are doing this and delivering services in prison, despite a difficult climate, and the role independent funding plays to enable both.

[Find out more](#)

Criminal records disclosure

Unlock has responded to the judgment of the Supreme Court on the criminal records disclosure regime. The court ruled that the criminal records disclosure regime as it applies to multiple convictions and childhood warnings/reprimands is disproportionate. Unlock provided an intervention to the court to highlight the

consequences of the current regime and the alternative, fairer systems available.

Christopher Stacey, co-director of Unlock, said: *“This is an important ruling which stands to affect many thousands of people with old and minor criminal records who have been unnecessarily anchored to their past.... Today is a crucial step towards achieving a fair and proportionate filtering system that takes a more calibrated and targeted approach towards disclosing criminal records.”*

[Read the statement](#)

Guidance on changes to charity rules for people with convictions

Unlock, supported by Clinks, has produced guidance to help charities understand changes to charity rules coming into force.

You can use it to maintain and increase the involvement of people with criminal records within your charity.

[Find out more](#)

Jo Farrar: The new head of prisons & probation



The Ministry of Justice announced Dr Jo Farrar has been appointed as the next Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and will take over from Michael Spurr on 1st April.

Life-Changing & Life-Saving: Funding for the women's sector

This [report](#) highlights the status of funding for the women's sector. It sets out the case for specialist women's organisations, identifies their current sources of funding and explores the challenges they face in terms of financial sustainability.

[More details](#)

[Local News](#)



Visitors to North East prisons invited to have their say on strengthening family ties

Nepacs is inviting friends and families of prisoners in North East prisons to come along to an event in March to have their say on how well local prisons support family ties, and to work with the charity and local prisons to make improvements for the future.

The Visitors' Voice event will take place on **13 March** from 10am to 2pm at Bowburn Community Centre, Bowburn, County Durham, DH6 5AT. Free lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Helen Attewell, chief executive of Nepacs said: *“If you have a loved one in prison in the North East please come along to our Visitors’ Voice event. We want to find out what you think about the help and support you are receiving, and how we can make your visit experience better. There will also be an opportunity to talk to prison staff, hear from the education, learning and skills teams within the prisons and help to shape future services to support prisoners and their families or friends during the early days in custody, which can be the most difficult and distressing time for everyone involved.”*

[Find out more](#)

TSAB - Annual Survey

The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board is consulting on its work with a survey aimed at the general public, service user or family member who has accessed Council and or Police services linked to adult abuse or neglect. The results will be used to help the Board develop its Strategic Business Plan.

[Download Survey](#)

Teeswide Safeguarding All (Adults & Children)

A wide range of safeguarding E-learning online courses are available to staff and volunteers working within the Tees area. You can gain immediate access to a range of e-learning opportunities.

[Find out more](#)

New app for reporting concerns about modern day slavery

Cleveland Police is promoting a new Car Wash app for reporting concerns about modern day slavery and trafficking. In total 30 concerns about the welfare of people working in local car washes have been shared with police thanks to an innovative app.

[More details](#)

Support at Court Newsletter

This latest newsletter from Nepacs is from the Support at Court project, providing a confidential service for families and friends of defendants.

[Download newsletter](#)

Events

People in Emergencies

11 & 12 March, all day

Cleveland Fire Brigade Headquarters, Hartlepool

Natural disasters cannot be prevented, but their impact on people's lives can be reduced to a considerable extent. In a highly interactive and experiential training environment, this course will provide delegates with the knowledge and confidence they need to actively engage with and work with their local community before, during and after an emergency.

[Find out more](#)

Hidden Sentence Training

30 April

Stockton

Hidden Sentence training is for any employees or volunteers whose work brings them into contact with families of prisoners, including health professionals, probation/CRC staff, school staff, child care providers, social workers, youth workers, play workers, local authority staff or community/voluntary workers.

This one-day training course will give you a clear overview of the offender's journey, its impact on the family from arrest to release, and a range of strategies and resources to help you support them in your work.

The cost is £35+vat per person.

[More details](#)

Free access to Safeguarding Adults Training

The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) is hosting a Safeguarding Champions Event on **13 June** 9:30am – 1:30pm at the Centre for Independent Living Havelock Street, Hartlepool.

These events are for organisations delivering services to adults who are experiencing, or at heightened risk of abuse or neglect.

[More details](#)

New Child Bereavement training programme

Child Bereavement UK is the leading provider of bereavement training to professionals, helping them to better understand and meet the needs of grieving families.

To mark 25 years of educating professionals, they are launching a new series of masterclasses for professionals working with bereaved families.

[More details](#)



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