

**REDUCING RE-OFFENDING SCRUTINY PANEL  
WEDNESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 2011 AT 6.00PM  
IN THE BOARDROOM, SOUTHFIELDS, LOUGHBOROUGH**

**AGENDA**

1. APOLOGIES

2. SCOPE DOCUMENT

An updated Scope document is attached for the information of the Panel at page 2.

3. LOCAL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE AREA OF REDUCING RE-OFFENDING

The following representatives have agreed to attend the meeting, to give their experiences and views in the area of reducing re-offending:

EXAIREO – Jason Gray and Rachael Bramley

4. DRAFT REPORT

A copy of the draft report is attached at page 5 for the consideration of the Panel. Members will be required to add any further recommendations they wish to add following the evidence they receive earlier in the meeting.

Members are requested to note the timescale for the review in that it be completed by the 22nd February 2011.

Membership of this Panel:

Councillors: Brown, Capleton, J.M. Hunt (Chair), K. Jones, S. Jones, Pacey Ranson and Sutherland



**REVIEW TITLE: REDUCING RE-OFFENDING SCRUTINY PANEL**

**SCOPE OF ITEM / TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.

**REASON FOR SCRUTINY**

Need to ensure that information and knowledge is gathered so that the Borough Council and its partners can help individuals and communities.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP**

Councillor J M Hunt (Chair)  
Councillors Brown, Capleton, K. Jones, S. Jones, Pacey, Ranson and Sutherland

**WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED**

The Panel to consider ways the Council could look to support people rather than looking at numbers and to assist prolific offenders to find opportunities to a more positive lifestyle.

**WHAT WILL BE EXCLUDED**

Consideration of Anti-social Behaviour – as that matter was being scrutinised by a separate Scrutiny Panel.

**KEY TASKS** \*\* including consideration of efficiency savings

To look at Integrated Offender Management and how that joint agency working was supporting prolific offenders, in particular in the Charnwood area.

To involve local agencies and charities involved in the area of reducing re-offending, to seek their views.

To consider Mental Health issues relating to reducing re-offending.

**STAKEHOLDERS, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, OTHER ORGANISATIONS \***

TurnAbout  
Police  
Probation Service  
Futures Unlocked

**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**Is an impact needs assessment required?**

Ongoing throughout the process

**LINKS/OVERLAPS TO OTHER REVIEWS**

None

**RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

Technical support – Tom Kiernan and Allison Fadesco  
 Admin support – Frances Whittington

**REPORT REQUIREMENTS (Officer information)**

**REVIEW COMMENCEMENT DATE**

1st December 2010

**COMPLETION DATE FOR DRAFT REPORT**

23rd February 2011

\* Key tasks and stakeholders may be subject to change as the review progresses.

**PROGRESS OF PANEL WORK**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>PROGRESS TO DATE</b>
1st December 2010	<p>The Chair made reference to the length of sentences for prisoners, stating that the Head of the Prison Officers Association believed that the system could help those prisoners who were sentenced to more than six months in prison, however there was no support for prisoners serving less than a twelve month sentence upon their release. The Chair proposed that the Panel consider ways the Council could look to support people rather than numbers and assist prolific offenders to find opportunities to a more positive lifestyle.</p> <p>The Panel received presentations in respect of an introduction to Reducing Re-offending, from the Strategic Manager for TurnAbout, detailing a new development entitled Integrated Offender Management and the Council's Policy Officer for Community Safety, detailing Reducing Re-offending work in Charnwood, with a particular focus on Offenders serving short sentences.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to invite witnesses from the following organisations to its future meetings:</p> <p>2nd meeting: Police, Probation Service and Futures Unlocked</p>

	3rd meeting: The Bridge Housing Association, Loughborough College and Job Centre Plus
20th December 2010	With the agreement of the Panel, this meeting was cancelled as the invited witnesses were unable to attend on this date.
18th January 2011	<p>The Panel received presentations from Futures Unlocked and Leicestershire Police. The witness from the Probation Service has been deferred to the next meeting of the Panel.</p> <p>The Chair made reference to the County Resettlement Team and tabled information from Lisa Johnson based at The Bridge Housing and Advice Service about the team. Based at the Probation Service the team provided support to those leaving prison who did not have a probation officer or other relevant agency working with them.</p>
2nd February 2011	The Panel received information from Job Centre Plus, the Bridge Housing and Advice Service and the Exaireo Trust. Invitations had been extended to Loughborough College and the Probation Service, but their representatives had been unable to attend.
23rd February 2011	This meeting was re-arranged, to be held on 16th February 2011, at the request of the Chair
16th February 2011	

<b>REPORT SUBMITTED TO SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD</b>

# **REPORT OF THE REDUCING RE-OFFENDING SCRUTINY PANEL FEBRUARY 2011**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **SECTION 1**

The Panel was tasked with considering the role of the Borough Council in helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community, looking at mental health issues and monitoring.

### **SECTION 2**

### **SECTION 3**

### **SECTION 4**

### **SECTION 5**

### **SECTION 6**

### **SECTION 7**

### **SECTION 8**

### **SECTION 9**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **I.1 Background**

At its meeting held on 13th October 2010, the Scrutiny Management Board resolved that the Policy Scrutiny Group include in its Work Programme an item in respect of Reducing Re-offending. At its meeting held on 19th October 2010, the Policy Scrutiny Group agreed that Scrutiny Panels be progressed as set out in the Scrutiny Work Programme, including Reducing Re-offending. The Panel's first meeting took place on 1st December 2010 and concluded its business on 16th February 2011.

### **I.2 Reason for Scrutiny**

To ensure that relevant information and knowledge is gathered, in order that the Borough Council and its Partners can assist individuals and communities to reduce re-offending.

### **I.3 Terms of Reference**

To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.

#### **1.4 Evidence, Stakeholders and Witnesses**

In gathering its evidence, the Panel consulted with members of the Council's Community Safety team, and representatives from TurnAbout, the Police, Futures Unlocked, the Bridge Housing Association, Job Centre, Exaireo and ex-offenders.

#### **1.5 Equality Impact Assessment**

The Panel agreed that an Equality Impact Assessment accompany this report. That Assessment is attached at page \*.

#### **1.6 Panel Membership**

Panel Chair: Councillor J.M. Hunt

Councillors: Brown, Capleton, K. Jones, S. Jones, Pacey, Ranson and Sutherland

The evidence gathered by the Panel and the conclusions and recommendations for the Terms of Reference is set out in the chapters below. A summary of the Panel's recommendations is set out in Section \*.

## **2. INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT**

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a system that provides all agencies engaged in local criminal justice partnerships with a single coherent structure for the management of repeat offenders.

Integrated Offender Management aims, among other things, to help local partners jointly to:

- reduce crime and re-offending, improve public confidence in the criminal justice system and tackle the social exclusion of offenders and their families;
- address potential overlaps between existing approaches and programmes to manage offenders and address gaps ;
- align the work of local criminal justice agencies and their partners more effectively, expanding or improving on partnerships that already exist at the local, area and regional level;
- simplify and strengthen governance to provide greater clarity around respective roles and responsibilities.

Integrated Offender Management builds on the success of other work – including the Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) programme, Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) and Multi-Agency Assessment Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) – to prevent, deter, catch and convict offenders by enhancing efforts to rehabilitate and resettle them.

### **2.1 TurnAbout**

The Strategic Manager for TurnAbout, responsible for the delivery of IOM gave a presentation to the Panel to introduce them to IOM. IOM linked joint agency working, involving Criminal Justice Agencies, Local Authorities and Third Sector Partners, in supporting prolific offenders, in particular in the Charnwood area who pose the highest risk of re-offending. The aim is to stop duplication of work, use available resources in a robust manner and make communities safer. Within the IOM sit the Local Offender

Management Panel (LOMP), a group who consider individual cases that officers are experiencing difficulty in progressing, by addressing such issues as housing, benefits or mental health issues.

## **2.2 Futures Unlocked**

A representative of Futures Unlocked (FU) gave details its work. FU is a Prison Chaplaincy, able to talk to prisoners in their cells and to provide support prior to their release. Its mission is to support ex-offenders to lead crime free lives and to improve their life chances. They work to break down barriers between offenders and wider society and break individual cycles of offending. Representatives of FU to liaise with Council officers on behalf of prisoners, for example, Housing Allocations, Tenancy Services, Housing Income, Benefits and Leisure Services. Such support is available for those who have received sentences of fewer than twelve months. FU are able to understand the chaotic lifestyles of ex-offenders, accompany individuals to appointments to ensure their attendance and give them the confidence to meet those best able to help them. For those who request it, support is available on a longer term basis, to pick up individuals time and again, if necessary. Evidence shows that should an ex-offender not re-offend for a period of two years, there is a significantly increased likelihood that they will not re-offend again.

## **2.3 Leicestershire Constabulary**

The Loughborough LPU Commander gave details of the work of the Police in addressing Reducing Re-offending in Charnwood. In September 2008 a policy of zero tolerance to offenders and their ways had been introduced. 44 PPOs had been identified as living in Charnwood, with student accommodation being identified as vulnerable for opportunist thieves. Prior to being introduced throughout the Borough IOM had successfully been trialled in the Hastings Ward, in Loughborough. The multi-agency approach had been successful, although it had proved difficult to engage with the Primary Care Trust. Initially a cohort of 10 PPOs had been identified, who had drug and alcohol related issues and were involved with serious acquisitive crime to fund their habit initially working to catch and convict offenders, officers had moved forward with partners to rehabilitate and resettle. There had been many successes in the area, with a detection rate of 50%, outstripping targets. The IOM structure had been recognised nationally as good practice and early problems addressed with the introduction of an IOM co-ordinator.

## **2.4 Reducing the Prison Population**

The Justice Secretary is looking to reduce the number of prisoners by 3,000. It is of concern that those prisoners serving sentences of less than 12 months do not receive a supervision order when released, nor any support from the Probation Service. Among that group there are huge problems around literacy.

## **2.5 Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board**

At its meeting held on 26th November 2010, the Leicestershire Safer Communities Board considered a report to produce a strategy to reduce re-offending (a background paper).

## **2.6 Prisoner Release Dates**

Many prisoners have accumulated debts, often because Housing Benefit continue to be paid after they were arrested, the debt is carried forward to release – this debt also limits their chance of securing accommodation. When released from prison, fourteen days benefit is paid and in Leicester prisoners are released on a Friday morning. Often they will have no home to go to and return to the area where they have ‘friends’. The risk of their continuing involvement with drugs and alcohol is high and often results in a chaotic lifestyle which might lead them to not ‘signing on’ at the appropriate time to continue to receive benefits.

It was reported to the Panel that not all prisons released prisoners on a Friday, for example Lincoln prison released prisoners earlier in the week.

## **2.7 Recommendations**

1. that Charnwood Borough Council Housing Department Officers be encouraged to be involved in the Integrated Offender Management Programme;
2. that as a national issue, the Panel makes representations to the local MPs, in respect of the day of the week prisoners are released from prison and highlighting the issues surrounding Friday release;
3. that the work of Futures Unlocked be commended and the following points be actioned/noted:
  - Information in respect of volunteering as a mentor at Futures Unlocked be included in the next edition of Charnwood News;
  - The excellent support offered to Futures Unlocked in respect of arrears by the Council’s Housing Officers;
  - Details of the Carpenters Arms and the support it could offer to Futures unlocked be forwarded to Futures Unlocked;
4. that there is a need to market the successes of the Community Safety partnership and the work in Charnwood to reduce re-offending.

### Reasons

1. In respect of housing allocations, there are sometimes legitimate tensions between IOM officers and Council Housing Officers. The IOM Officers could offer a ‘wrap around’ support to those offenders who were housed.
2. Support for offenders was not readily available on a Friday or over the weekend. Therefore, a release earlier in the week provides officers with greater opportunities to divert offenders away from previous habits and friends towards services to provide support in respect of housing, benefits and health related issues.
3. Futures Unlocked is working in a positive manner to support prisoners on their release from prison, in particular those that are not supported by other agencies. Their work and the funding provided by the Charnwood Community Safety Partnership is commendable.
4. A tremendous amount of successful multi-agency work is taking place within Charnwood to address issues relating to Reducing Re-offending and should be publicised more widely across the Borough.

### **3. The Bridge Housing and Advice Service**

The Chief Officer and a Housing Manager gave details of the Bridge Housing and Advice Service, a key Housing Partner with Charnwood Borough Council and with the Charnwood Community Safety Partnership, it provided services in the following areas, where 25% of the clients were offenders, had a history of offending or were part of justice proceedings:

- A Housing Law Centre;
- A Mediation Service, working with people up to the age of 19 at risk of homelessness or on the cusp of offending;
- Single Access Point, working with 16/17 year olds who experienced housing problems, which might lead to homelessness.

The Bridge also provided a Tenancy Support Service.

#### **3.1 Choice Based Lettings Policy**

Within the Choice Based Allocations Letting Policy, the inclusion of support for prisoners whereby they relinquished their tenancy of accommodation within a month of being sentenced and given priority when released from prison, would support offenders and assist the Council. Such action would prevent prisoners from accruing significant rent arrears while in prison.

#### **3.2 Recommendation**

That Charnwood Borough Council consider including within its Choice Based Lettings Allocation Policy provision to allow prisoners to relinquish their tenancy within a month of being sentenced and given priority for re-housing when released;

#### Reason

While in prison, prisoners often accrue significant rent arrears and a policy whereby they relinquish their tenancy within a month of being sentenced and given priority when released would support offenders and assist the Council.

#### **3.3 Fair Debt Policy**

The introduction of a Fair Debt Policy would allow prisoners to pay their debts in a flexible manner that would be acceptable to social landlords.

#### **3.4 Recommendation**

That Charnwood Borough Council investigate the possibility of introducing a Fair Debt policy, to allow prisoners to repay debts in a flexible manner, that is acceptable to social landlords.

#### Reason

Prisoners earn a maximum of £12 a week once sentenced and if they receive sanctions, no money at all. There is a need for local landlords to be flexible with repayments.

### **3.5 Managing Prisoner Debt**

The introduction of a scheme in prison to make it easier for prisoners to pay their debts, possibly through a BACS type system, would assist prisoners with managing their debts.

### **3.6 Recommendation**

That as an Authority, Charnwood Borough Council liaise with Leicester prison to introduce a scheme to make it easier for prisoners to pay their debts.

#### Reason

In Leicester prison there was no BACS type system and prisoners find it difficult to pay debts.

### **3.7 Social Housing Accommodation**

The lack of Social Housing accommodation available for prisoners on their release from prison increases the likelihood of many ex-prisoners re-offending.

### **3.8 Recommendation**

That it be recorded that a lack of social housing accommodation is a major issue, resulting in many ex-prisoners re-offending.

#### Reason

Statistics and research has found that one of the three key elements to support ex-offenders in not re-offending was decent accommodation/housing. The other two being employment and education.

## **4. The Exaireo Trust**

Two officers gave details of the Exaireo Trust. It is a charity to help homeless people to rehabilitate themselves, by providing accommodation, education and skills training, advice and support, plus some practical work experience. The charity operates in the East Midlands, and is based in Loughborough. G & S Services work with residents in the Trust's accommodation on schemes such as the Community Payback and housing maintenance work. The work allows ex-prisoners to gain skills, build confidence and gain normality back in their lives. ASDA provides support for education and training for ex-offenders.

### **4.1 Support for Prisoners on their Release from Prison**

Exaireo staff confirmed the view of Futures Unlocked that when the most vulnerable offenders are met at the gates as they are released from prison, there is a greater chance that they would not revert to offending.

### **4.2 Recommendations**

1. that as a key Council partner and within the Council's procurement procedures, officers look into what opportunities exist for EXAIREO and G & S Services to work in partnerships with SERCO or a sub-contractor;
2. that within the Council's procurement procedures, the Council officers look into what opportunities exist for G & S Services for work in partnership with the Council or as a contractor in such areas as Grounds Maintenance;

3. that the Council's Grants Officer be requested to advise EXAIREO and G & S Services of possible funding streams available to them;
4. that consideration be given to providing work experience for ex-offenders within Council Services.

#### Reasons

1. G & S Services currently have a contract with Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing to clear vacant properties. That contract is being re-tendered in September 2011 and, if successful in the tendering process, G&S Services could support SERCO.
2. G & S Services could support the work of Grounds Maintenance.
3. There is a possibility that grants were available that EXAIREO could apply for that they were currently unaware of.
4. There may be opportunities the Council could offer ex-offenders through work experience.

#### **5. Job Centre Plus**

An adviser gave details of the work that Job Centre Plus undertook with prisoners and ex-offenders. It has advisers at Leicester, Glen Parva and Peterborough prisons to prepare prisoners for work and the 'Fresh Start' process and worked with Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

##### **5.1 Fresh Start**

The Fresh Start initiative is intended to narrow the gap between someone leaving prison and accessing the benefits to which they are entitled to. Jobcentre Plus Employment and Benefit Surgery advisors working in prisons conduct job searches on behalf of prisoners and discuss training and education opportunities with them, they also identify appropriate benefits and inform prisoners about making a benefit claim.

Under Fresh Start, the intention is that an interview between the prisoner and Jobcentre Plus be arranged with minimum delay upon release so that the ex-prisoner could sign on for Jobseekers Allowance. It is important that ex-prisoners speak to Jobcentre Plus as soon as possible after their release in order to access any benefits to which they were entitled, assuming they had not already got things underway before release. Job Centre Plus supports ex-offenders with self employment and volunteering opportunities while they searched for paid employments.

##### **5.2 Job Day**

To encourage employers to employ ex-offenders, a Job Day is being organised at Leicester prison on 14th February 2011. A number of large employers had committed themselves to attend.

##### **5.3 Mapping Offenders**

Officers believe that by mapping the ex-offenders journey in a holistic approach across agencies, there is an opportunity to identify gaps and look at further opportunities.

#### **5.4 Recommendation**

That the mapping of the ex-offenders journey in a holistic approach across agencies be considered.

##### Reason

To identify gaps and look at further opportunities.

#### **5.5 Storing Valued Possessions**

Reference was made to 'shoeboxes' Dr Barnardos used to keep with personal possessions in and the possibility of CNH doing the same for important documents found in properties it was clearing. It was acknowledged however, that there could be data protection implications with the proposal.

#### **5.6 Recommendation**

That officers explore the possibility of storing valued possessions in a small box when clearing properties for offenders to collect on their release.

##### Reason

Loosing documents such as birth certificates and National Insurance details provide additional problems for ex-offenders to return to normality after their release from prison.

### **6. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**

Statistics show that a large number of Priority Prolific Offenders (PPOs) have been identified as having mental health or educational development issues. A majority with these symptoms do not attend out-patient appointments, because of alcohol or drug related issues or a lack of literacy skills, therefore not able to read appointment cards or had moved home without informing the out patients department. In order to address these issues the LOMP had established a clinic with its own Community Psychiatric Nurse to provide a gateway to services. Chhaya McDonald, based at North West Leicestershire District Council would be working one day a week, in the first instance, on these significant mental health issues.

The support provided to ex-offenders through a multi-agency approach and by individual agencies described elsewhere in the report is acknowledged and commended.

#### **6.1 Recommendations**

That the work undertaken in a multi-agency approach to support ex-offenders with mental health issues be commended.

##### Reason

The Panel acknowledges the mental health issues that many ex-offenders are living with (some suffering with extreme mental health conditions) and commend the work being undertaken by agencies to support them.

### **7. Ex-offenders**

Two ex-offenders in contact with Exaireo gave their views on reducing re-offending to the Panel.

## 7.2 Recommendation

### Reason

## 8. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Following its deliberations, the Panel makes the following recommendations:

Terms of Reference	Recommendation	Reason
To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.	Charnwood Borough Council Housing Department Officers be encouraged to be involved in the Integrated Offender Management Programme.	In respect of housing allocations, there are sometimes legitimate tensions between IOM officers and Council Housing Officers. The IOM officers could offer 'wrap around' support to those offenders that were housed.
To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.	As a national issue, the Panel makes representations to the local MPs, in respect of the day of the week prisoners are released from prison and highlight the issues surrounding Friday release.	Support for offenders is not readily available on a Friday or over the weekend. Therefore a release earlier in the week provides officers with greater opportunities to divert offenders away from previous habits and 'friends' towards services to provide support in respect of housing, benefits and health related issues.
To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.	There is a need to market the successes of the Community Safety Partnership and the work in Charnwood to reduce re-offending.	A tremendous amount of successful multi-agency work is taking place within Charnwood to address issues relating to Reducing Re-offending and should be publicised more widely across the Borough.

<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>The work of Futures Unlocked be commended and the following points be actioned/noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information in respect of volunteering as a mentor at Futures Unlocked be included in the next edition of Charnwood News;</li> <li>• The excellent support offered to Futures Unlocked in respect of arrears by the Council's Housing Officers;</li> <li>• Details of the Carpenters Arms and the support it could offer to Futures Unlocked be forwarded to Futures Unlocked.</li> </ul>	<p>Futures Unlocked is working in a positive manner to support prisoners on their release from prison, in particular those that are not supported by other agencies. Their work and the funding provided by the Charnwood Community Safety Partnership is commendable.</p>
<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>Charnwood Borough Council consider including within its Choice Based Lettings Allocation Policy provision to allow prisoners to relinquish their tenancy within a month of being sentenced and be given priority for re-housing when released.</p>	<p>While in prison, prisoners accrue significant rent arrears and a policy whereby they relinquish their tenancy within a month of being sentenced and given priority when released would support offenders and assist the Council.</p>
<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>Charnwood Borough Council investigate the possibility of introducing a Fair Debt policy, to allow prisoners to repay debts in a flexible manner, which is acceptable to social landlords.</p>	<p>Prisoners earn a maximum of £12 a week once sentenced and if they receive sanctions, no money at all, therefore there was a need to encourage local landlords to be flexible with repayments.</p>

<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>As an Authority, liaise with Leicester prison to introduce a scheme to make it easier for prisoners to pay their debts.</p>	<p>In Leicester prison there was no BACS type system and prisoners found it difficult to pay debts.</p>
<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>It be recorded that a lack of social housing accommodation is a major issue, resulting in many ex-prisoners re-offending.</p>	<p>Statistics and research has found that one of the three key elements to support ex-offenders in not re-offending was decent accommodation/housing. The other two being employment and education.</p>
<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>As a key Council partner and within the Council's procurement procedures, officers look into what opportunities exist for EXAIREO and G &amp; S Services to work in partnerships with SERCO or as a sub-contractor</p>	<p>G &amp; S Services currently have a contract with Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing to clear vacant properties. That contract is being re-tendered in September 2011 and, if successful in the tendering process, G&amp;S Services could support SERCO.</p>
<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>Within the Council's procurement procedures, the Council officers look into what opportunities exist for G &amp; S Services to work in partnership with the Council or as a contractor in areas such as Grounds Maintenance.</p>	<p>G &amp; S Services could support the work of Grounds Maintenance.</p>

<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>The Council's Grants Officer be requested to advise EXAIREO and G &amp; S Services of possible funding streams available to them.</p>	<p>There is a possibility that grants are available that EXAIREO could apply for that they were currently unaware of.</p>
<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>Consideration be given to providing work experience for ex-offenders within Council Services.</p>	<p>There may be opportunities the Council could offer ex-offenders through work experience.</p>
<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>That the mapping of the ex-offenders journey in a holistic approach across agencies be considered.</p>	<p>A multi-agency mapping process would allow officers from partner agencies to identify gaps and look to fill those gaps.</p>
<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>Officers explore the possibility of storing valued possessions in a small box when clearing properties for offenders to collect on their release.</p>	<p>Loosing documents such as birth certificates and National Insurance details provide additional problems for ex-offenders to return to normality after their release from prison.</p>

<p>To consider the role of the Borough Council: helping the community to reduce re-offending, ensuring there is a positive impact on the community; look at mental health issues and mentoring.</p>	<p>The work undertaken in a multi-agency approach to support ex-offenders with mental health issues be commended.</p>	<p>The Panel acknowledges the mental health issues that many ex-offenders are living with (some suffering with extreme mental health conditions) and commend the work being undertaken by agencies to support them.</p>
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## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following papers and presentations were used in the preparation of this report:

ADSAN – Awards and Qualifications

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION – Tim Scotson

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD – Report submitted 26th November 2010 – ‘Ideas for Taking Forward the Responsibility to Produce a Strategy to Reduce Re-offending’.

NOTES OF MEETINGS:

1st December 2010

18th January 2011

2nd February 2011

16th February 2011

REDUCING RE-OFFENDING PRESENTATION – Alison Fadesco

SCOPE DOCUMENT