

## **Social Care Services Board**

### **9 December 2016**

## **Prison Social Care Report Update**

**Purpose of report:** This report provides an update regarding the following recommendations made by the Board:

- That officers engage with the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board to ensure that those identified as Looked After, or in mother and baby units, are supported
- That a future update is brought about the progress of the peer support programmes.

#### **Introduction:**

1. Surrey County Council's (SCC) duties and responsibilities to provide social care in prisons were introduced under the Care Act (2014) from April 2015. In relation to social care, as far as possible, people in prisons should be treated consistently and on the basis of equivalence to those in the rest of the population and this is a key principle enshrined in the Act. Local Authority responsibilities include assessing social care/occupational therapy needs, provision to meet eligible care and support needs, to signpost and advise people in prison, and to promote wellbeing and prevention.
2. Recent national data has shown that Surrey PSCT to be in the higher levels of activity across all prisons for referrals, assessments and intervention which evidence's our presence and positive impact of the service to Surrey prison establishments.

#### **Update**

3. We are continuing to invest in the development of prison peer support programs which run along the lines of friends, family and community. The position is as follows:
  - We have an effective system established at HMP Coldingley.
  - We have rolled out a new program within HMP Highdown and are expanding this to other wings.
  - We are developing the program in partnership with HMP Send and are due to commence training of identified workers
  - We are establishing the program at HMP Bronzefield
  - We are in the process of agreeing the system and are committed to establishing this at HMP Downview
4. Since the last update, we have linked in with the Staines area children's services and have agreed a meeting between both services to ensure there are links between adult social care and children's services for those in prison and when released.

#### **Conclusions:**

5. In conclusion recent national data supports that Prison Social Care in Surrey is well established and recognised to be a high performing area. The roll out of the peer

programs has had a positive impact within the prison establishment in Surrey as we are using these systems to meet need along the lines of friends, family and community where it is not of an intimate nature. We are building our links with Children's services to address the unique needs for HMP Bronzefield.

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