

NEWS UPDATE

APRIL 2010 :: A MONTHLY DIGEST FOR PROBATION TRUSTS

CHANCE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON FINANCIAL FREEDOMS

Members will have the opportunity to raise issues which go to the heart of their trust's ability to operate efficiently and effectively at an event later this month.

The Association has organised a Trust Finance day, in partnership with NOMS, on April 30. The Agency's Chief Executive designate, Michael Spurr, and members of his finance team will attend to discuss concerns face to face with trust representatives.

The outline agenda is as follows:

- Carry Forward arrangements in the context of HM Treasury guidelines
- Income generation and external funding arrangements
- The NOMS Delegation letter, which has been the subject of negotiations between the Association and NOMS Financial

Policy and is now a stated requirement on trusts in Schedule 4 to the third wave contract

- VAT and trusts
- Trust insurance arrangements, as set out in Schedule 15 to the contract



Chief Executive Christine Lawrie said: "Members have consistently told us that year-end flexibility and other financial issues are those that concern them most and inhibit their ability to operate efficiently and effectively. "We have regularly raised these concerns with NOMS and Michael Spurr is giving priority to them. This event provides the chance to discuss trust finance concerns with NOMS and to reach some mutually agreeable positions on the issues."

"LOCALISM" PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY TO BE UNVEILED

New legislative responsibilities are pointing probation in a lateral direction - towards strategic alliances with local authorities and other local partners.

The Association has been leading moves to drive forward the "localism" agenda for probation and is now inviting trust representatives to the launch of its **Local Partnership Development Strategy** in London on June 2.

Speakers will be: John Thornhill (Magistrates Association), Cllr Les Lawrence (Local Government Association), Sue Hall (Probation Chiefs Association) and Yvonne Thomas (NOMS).

The strategy draws together different aspects of localism, including the concept of

Total Place, which represents the cutting edge of the agenda. The initiative demonstrates how better services can be delivered at reduced costs and provides a model within which trusts can drive forward the benefits of the localism agenda in partnership.

A number of trusts made significant contributions to the design and implementation of those **Total Place pilots** which focussed on offending.

"We are providing a 'roadmap' which will help members negotiate the new terrain," said Ian Fox, the Association's Policy Development and Business Capability manager.

→ Trusts are invited to send two representatives and can confirm places by emailing lhogan@probationassociation.co.uk

ASSOCIATION TO BE INVOLVED IN PRACTICE REFORMS

NOMS launched a major new initiative, the Offender Engagement Programme, at its March conference.

The Association will play an active role in the programme and will take a keen interest in the findings and their application.

The programme aims to “improve the effectiveness of one-to-one engagement between the probation practitioner and the offender in order to reduce re-offending”.

This is based on the hypothesis that “the relationship between the offender and the probation practitioner can be a powerful vehicle for changing behaviour and reducing

re-offending”.

Jane Wilson, Leicestershire and Rutland Chair, will represent the Association on the Programme Board and Nigel Spencer, Association Project Manager, is a member of the stakeholder reference group.

The project is staffed and run by the NOMS Specifications, Benchmarking and Costings team led by Martin Copsey.

Mr Copsey and colleagues will provide a briefing for trust chairs at an Association event on “Effective Intervention” on May 5, when OEP will share the bill with Total Place.

OFFICE DIARY

7 April	<i>Governance Services Manager:</i> Meeting with consultant John Hutchings
8 April	<i>Governance Services Manager:</i> Probation Estate Investment Board
9 April	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Meeting with Iain McIntosh (NOMS)
12 April	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Meeting with Richard Cullen (NOMS) and Joanne Hill
14 April	<i>PR and Communications Manager:</i> Local Crime: Community Sentence filming
15 April	<i>PR and Communications Manager:</i> Interview with Michael Spurr for Association magazine Interface National Negotiating Council
16 April	<i>HR Manager:</i> Metropolitan Human Resources meeting
19 April	<i>Policy Development and Business Capability Manager and PR and Communications Manager:</i> PA Scrutiny Conference, Birmingham <i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> Employment Relations Working Group
20 April	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Meeting with Aubrey Fox (Centre for Court Innovation)
21 April	<i>PR and Communications Manager:</i> LCCS National Steering Group <i>Chief Executive:</i> NOMS Human Resources team meeting <i>Chief Executive:</i> Academy for Justice Commissioning Seminar, London
22 April	PA Council
23 April	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Meeting with Sue Hall (Probation Chiefs Association)
26 April	<i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> NNC Good Attendance & Sickness Absence Management Workshops
27 April	Standing Committee for Probation Chief Officer Grades
28 April	<i>Governance Services Manager:</i> Probation ICT Board <i>Chief Executive:</i> Probation Trusts Programme Board
29 April	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Probation Leadership Development Task Group <i>Policy Development and Business Capability Manager:</i> Partnership Strategy Steering Group
30 April	<i>Chief Executive, Governance Services Manager and PR and Communications Manager:</i> PA/NOMS Trust Finance event

ELECTION OF A NEW PA CHAIR

Alan Wooderson's term of office as Chair comes to an end at the AGM on September 16 and the procedure for nominating his successor will begin at the Council meeting on April 22.

The Chair is appointed by the Council. Candidates may, with their consent, be nominated in writing by any member and seconded by another member.

If there is more than one nomination, the Secretary will give notice to the Council of the candidates and the Council will elect a Chair. In the past this procedure has been by postal ballot of members and this will again be the recommendation to Council.

The Association has joined the Confederation of British Industry and intends to use its membership to the maximum benefit of all members. More information to follow...