

SEBERT COX IS ELECTED AS NEW CHAIR OF THE PROBATION ASSOCIATION



Sebert Cox: "I am privileged and honoured to have been elected."

Sebert Cox, Chairman of Durham Tees Valley Trust, is to chair the Association until 2013.

He will take office at the annual meeting of the Association, on September 16.

Sebert said: "I am privileged and honoured to have been elected to chair the PA during the next phase of development."

A long-standing advocate of the ability of trusts to deliver benefits, he remained

convinced that the challenges to make trust status work in the new and austere financial climate should be seen as an opportunity.

He said: "The next three years will present tremendous challenges for trusts. I want to continue building a more influential national voice for PA and to develop a fresh approach to engaging with politicians."

Sebert's other priorities were:

- A close partnership

with the Probation Chiefs Association, especially on policy development

- Businesslike leadership of the board of directors
- Drive to identify public figures to help PA increase its influence
- Regular personal contact with boards and assisting them in developing regional networks where required

ACTION TAKEN ON ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY REVIEW GROUPS

Three of the four working groups reviewing outstanding issues relating to the Third Wave Trust Contract have held their first meetings.

The groups each comprise representatives from trusts and NOMS and are chaired by a trust chair.

Discussions, focusing on a range of aspects of the contract, have been constructive and well-informed and have led to numerous specific proposals for improvement.

The working groups have also usefully identified some areas for action which relate to, but are outside of the confines of, the

trust contract. For example, the work of the group looking at the ICT Schedule resulted in Association Chief Executive Christine Lawrie writing to NOMS ICT Director Martin Bellamy seeking substantial trust involvement in the forthcoming review of the OMNI contract.

The results of the working groups' efforts are being collated jointly by the PA and NOMS Probation Trust Programme, with a view to capturing these in an in-year variation to the contract in October 2010, although some of the recommendations will inevitably require further work and development.

COMMISSIONING SKILLS TO BE HONED AT PA WORKSHOPS

Places on workshops to develop commissioning skills, being co-ordinated by the Association, are in the process of being allocated.

The workshops will be run by Ian Clarke, of Excalibur Procurement Services. Ian is a specialist in public sector contracts and commissioning who led some of the Association's successful trust development workshops last year.

Regional workshops will be held for the

North West, North East, South West and the East Midlands. A further two events, covering a number of trusts in the South East, have also been agreed.

These seven workshops will be attended by more than 20 trusts. The Association is planning to fund a further three and organisational work on these will begin soon.

For further information please contact Projects Manager Nigel Spencer on nspencer@probationassociation.co.uk.

OFFICE DIARY

- 1 July *Governance Services Manager:* Probation Estate Investment Board
- 6 July PA Audit Committee
Chief Executive: Meeting with Crispin Blunt, Justice Minister
- 7 July National Negotiating Council
- 8 July *Chief Executive:* Visit to West Mercia Probation Trust
Governance Services Manager: Probation ICT Board
- 9 July PA Employers' Strategy Group
- 12 July *PR & Communications Manager:* Meeting with Jeremy Halley, Total Politics
- 14 July *PR & Communications Manager:* Local Crime: Community Sentence National Steering Group
- 15 July *Governance Services Manager:* Trust Contract Review Working Group
- 16 July *HR Manager:* Metropolitan HR meeting
- 20 July *Chief Executive and PR & Communications Manager:* Howard League Community Awards, London
- 21 July *Governance Services Manager:* NOMS Probation Qualifications Assurance Board
- 22 July PA Board of Directors
Chair: Meeting with Michael Spurr
- 23 July *Governance Services Manager:* Meeting with Mike Short, National Approved Premises Association
- 27 July Standing Committee for Chief Officer Grades
Chief Executive: Meeting with Robin Wilkinson, NOMS
- 29 July *Governance Services Manager:* National Treasurers' meeting

DVD TO PROMOTE PROBATION WORK

A DVD containing a series of short films supporting the Local Crime: Community Sentence (LCCS) project is to be distributed next month.



"These films bring two LCCS case studies vividly to life and will make public presentations much more exciting," said Neil Lampert, the Association's PR & Communications Manager, who co-ordinated the project for the LCCS National Steering Group. LCCS is a highly effective, free public engagement tool which is operated by all but a small handful of probation trusts.

ANNUAL MEETING

Alan Wooderson will step down as Chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, to be held at Broadway House, Westminster, London, on September 16.