

TRUSTS TO INFORM JUSTICE POLICY IN EVIDENCE TO GREEN PAPERS AND SELECT COMMITTEE

The Association is engaging with two Green Papers which are set to transform the local justice and commissioning landscape and with the Justice Select Committee's Enquiry into the Probation Service.

Evidence will be submitted to the Home Office Green Paper "[Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people](#)" which will form part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, to be introduced in the autumn.

The Association will present its evidence based on returns from members (requested by September 20th) to the pro forma circulated on August 18th. A good response will enable the Association to formulate an authoritative submission.

Ian Fox, the Association's Policy Development Manager, said: "We strongly recommend that all trusts consider the contents of the policing Green Paper. They are radical and may have a very significant impact on the "localism" agenda, governance arrangements and strategic relationships between trusts and the proposed role and function of the elected Policing and Crime Commissioner."

The role of the Commissioner has yet to be decided but will



Justice Minister Crispin Blunt

potentially encompass all crime-related services.

We are also preparing a submission to the [Justice Select Committee's Inquiry into the Probation Service](#).

A copy will be circulated to members in September once it has been considered by the PA Board of Directors.

A Green Paper on rehabilitation reform will be published in the autumn.

At the Minister's request, PA

and PCA are providing him with written briefings on issues they consider should be covered in this Green Paper and both organisations have also been invited to meet him on September 21st. The PA delegation will be Chairman Sebert Cox, PA Director Christine Goldstraw and chief executive Christine Lawrie.

We will, of course, be responding to this Green Paper once it is published and further information will follow about how we would like to gather the views of member trusts to inform our response.

The Minister has also agreed to address the Council meeting on September 16th.

"We are very pleased that the Minister has agreed to give his views about the Government and probation and discuss them with Council members," said Christine Lawrie.

GREEN PAPER THEMES

Themes in the policing Green Paper include: Increasing local democratic accountability; removing bureaucracy to free frontline staff; and the primacy of local commissioning.

"Much of the Home Secretary's analysis of the challenges facing the police can be read across to the challenges facing probation," said Ian Fox.

"These are also issues which the PA has been highlighting over the past year in various published documents."

IMPACT OF SAVINGS ON PARTNERSHIP WORK CONSIDERED

The Association is to exhibit at the third annual Safer Communities Conference on 12–13 October, in Brighton.

The Local Government Association conference will look at the immediate issues facing the local authority community safety world, not least the significant reduction in public sector spending announced in the new government's budget.

The scale of savings councils, the police and other partners will have to find means community safety activity can no longer be delivered in the same way. Community Safety Partnerships will have to deliver safer communities in a very different way than in the last decade.

The programme will include sessions on:

- The key community safety priorities of the new government
- Getting more from partnerships through greater collaboration and taking a place-based approach
- Improving public confidence
- Coping with the Comprehensive Spending Review squeeze
- Antisocial behaviour casework management Early intervention and preventing offending Reducing re-offending
- The future performance framework for community safety

For more information click [here](#).

OFFICE DIARY

3 August	<i>Projects Manager:</i> Offender Engagement Programme stakeholders meeting
9 August	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Probation Awards Judging Panel 2010
10 August	<i>Chief Executive:</i> NOMS Probation Estate Investment Board meeting
18 August	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Meeting with Robin Wilkinson, Director of HR, NOMS
19 August	<i>Chief Executive and Policy Development Manager:</i> Meeting with Ministry of Justice Policy Group <i>Chief Executive:</i> Meeting with John Thornhill, Magistrates' Association
25 August	<i>Chief Executive and HR Manager:</i> Essex Probation Trust
26 August	<i>Chief Executive and HR Manager:</i> Essex Probation Trust
27 August	<i>Chief Executive and HR Manager:</i> London Probation Trust

TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR TRUSTS' COMMISSIONERS

Excalibur Procurement Services, which has delivered well-received consultancy to trusts over the past year, is offering a two-year programme of training to develop the skills of trusts' commissioning staff.

Excalibur's Ian Clarke said: "Good commissioning will become more important as trusts explore partnering opportunities, so we have produced a training package designed specifically to develop the skills of probation staff in this area".

The course material is a mixture of pre-reading, seminars, workshops and work-based projects which use material relevant to supporting the development of skills and understanding in a team environment.

A series of seminars designed specifically for senior managers, directors, board members and other internal stakeholders have been included within the programme.

These are designed to develop an understanding of the commissioning concept, the skills and competencies required to support it, and the opportunities and risks associated with the process.

For more information: Email trusts@excalprocure.com or telephone 02392 454545