

# Health and Social Care Needs of Offenders

Brief for Scrutiny Board (Adults and Health)

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Paper Title: Health and Social Care Needs of Offenders; current commissioning & delivery arrangements of offender care and support services by the Adults and Health Directorate

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The Care Act 2014 reformed social care provision in England from April 2015 and clarified the responsibility of local authorities to provide assessments and care and support services for adults in prisons and approved premises on the basis of equivalence to people living in the community.

Local authority duties under the Act include responsibilities to prevent the escalation of care and support needs. From April 2015 local authorities became responsible for assessing and meeting the social care needs of adult prisoners whilst they are in custody within their local authority area regardless of which local authority they came from.

There are two prisons in Leeds; HMP Leeds (in Armley) is a category B remand/resettlement prison which currently has a capacity of 1,212 male prisoners. There is a 'churn' of approximately 600 individuals a month at Leeds.

HMP Wealstun (in Wetherby) is a category C Training Prison with a current capacity of 832 male prisoners on longer term sentences, with a significantly smaller turn over.

In regards to social care, prisoners will have many of the rights and responsibilities of people living in the rest of the community with care needs but with four notable exceptions:

- a) Prisoners cannot receive direct payments and will have less choice over how their eligible care needs are met.
- b) Adult Social Care is not responsible for investigating safeguarding incidents in prisons.
- c) Prisoners will not be able to express a preference for particular accommodation except when this is being arranged for after their release.
- d) Prisoners will not be eligible for a Carer's assessment.

In April 2016, Care UK was awarded the health care contract for both Leeds prisons by NHS England. This was previously delivered by NHS Leeds Community Health Care, and as a consequence Leeds City Council, Adults and Health directorate, then entered into an agreement with Care UK as the new provider. This arrangement ensures that LCC Adults and Health comply with the Care Act 2014 responsibilities for prisoners.

Under the terms of this agreement, which has an annual contract value of £54,252, Care UK undertake an initial assessment of prisoners when they first enter the prison and if any prisoner is deemed to have social care needs, which are mainly needing support with the activities of daily living, they are referred to the health care team. In addition Adults and Health have seconded two care assistants to work in the prison under the direction of Care UK and they are part of the health care team. These Adults and Health staff then provide

care and support to prisoners; mostly around personal care, assistance with dressing or eating meals.

A multi-disciplinary team meets on a monthly basis and is chaired by the Adults and Health Commissioning Manager and consists of representatives from Adults and Health, Care UK, Leeds prisons, 'Catch 22' (the Third Sector resettlement service based within HMP Leeds) and the New Wortley Offender Support Team. This meeting provides release planning for all prisoners who have eligible social care needs, regardless of which local authority they resided in before being remanded or sentenced to HMP Leeds.

A LCC Adults and Health social work team manager allocates each assessment to a social worker and the assessment is undertaken in the prison. When a release date is known this allows for release planning, including for the social care needs of the prisoner to be met when they return to the community. At times this can be a difficult piece of work due to the complexity of the prisoner's needs and the nature of their conviction. For example, HMP Leeds is experiencing an increase in older prisoners being remanded or sentenced there due to historical sexual offences.

Adults and Health also helped support a further agreement to be put in place between Leeds prisons that if a prisoner has social care needs in HMP Wealstun they will be transferred to HMP Leeds where their needs can be more fully met. This is necessary because HMP Wealstun does not have the health care facilities required to meet the needs of these prisoners to the level that Leeds Prison has which has a small dedicated health unit.

Leeds Adults and Health also commissions the New Wortley Offender Support Team based at the New Wortley Community Centre and have done so since July 2016. This is at an annual cost of £99,408. The team provides 'through the gate' support to prisoners and they identify prisoners that would benefit from their support by attending the weekly resettlement sessions at HMP Leeds and the monthly sessions at HMP Wealstun. To date they have supported 248 prisoners of which only 6 have reoffended and 4 have been recalled to prison. The West Yorkshire percentage for reoffending is 34% but a rate of 3% is seen at this service and this is down to the highly innovative services provided by the New Wortley Offender Support Team. This is an approach that has had national acclaim:

<https://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2017/jan/09/exprisoner-scheme-breaks-cycle-reoffending>

Support includes finding accommodation, attending appointments with those on the day of their release, and obtaining volunteering and employment opportunities. The NWOSt has successfully secured accommodation for a significant number of prisoners upon their release, and have also established strong links with both housing associations and private landlords.

They also provide support to women from Leeds imprisoned at HMP New Hall.

In terms of adults living in approved premises requiring a social care assessment, they are referred via the Contact Centre and follow the process for any adult in the community. No new arrangements were required to ensure Care Act 2014 compliance for approved premises.