

**STAFFORDSHIRE PROBATION BOARD**

**24TH APRIL 2009**

**CHIEF OFFICER'S UPDATE**

**1. PERFORMANCE**

It is too early to be able to confirm the final quarter 4 IPPF results but it is likely that unless NOMS agree to include our request that the PPO OASys final reviews element in the moderation exercise, it will remain in amber /two staff rating overall because of the cumulative effect of the miscounting earlier in the year. Changes put in place to address the problem identified have resulted in 100% completion rate in February and cumulatively there has been month by month improvement so that in January the cumulative figure had increased to 38%, February 42% and March to 45%.

The involvement of the Probation Improvement Unit (PIU) with Melbourne House managers has seen a continuing improvement in all the OASys timeliness results (cumulative as percentages) :

	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>March</b>
Tier 2 & 3	71	73	75
Tier 4	81	82	83
PPO OASys	82	83	84
OM Phase 2 & 3	95	95	96
Tier 2 & 3 final review	62	64	67
Tier 4 final review	59	61	66
PPO final review	38	42	45

In addition, in relation to the other key red/amber elements on the IPPF, the element under Interventions relating to sustained employment has increased from 86% in January, 90% in February and 91% in March, while DRR completions has achieved the target (from 92% in January). The PIU has also been involved in improving the Remand in Custody timeliness target: this has improved cumulatively from 37% in January to 44% in March (the actual monthly figure for March was 60%).

## **2. REGIONAL TRAINING CONSORTIUM – UPDATE ON THE PROPOSAL TO MOVE ACCOMMODATION TO A REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE**

The Executive Board at its last meeting agreed in principle to work continuing to assess the viability of the proposed move to new accommodation at Fort Dunlop, which would be able to provide a regional training centre. The Board will recall that NOMS has agreed to and is supporting the move. The Executive Board required a sub-group (of which I am part) to pursue specific issues so that the Board, representing the constituent 9 Boards, could be clear about the extent of any liabilities such a move might incur and assured of how these could be covered. There were three main issues on which that the Executive Board needed assurance. These related to whether the current governance arrangements could continue when Areas became Trusts; whether the new accommodation would incur net additional costs to Areas; whether there would be any ongoing liability when the current offices at Atherstone and Lichfield are vacated.

The sub-group met on 16<sup>th</sup> April and considered the attached report (Appendix A). The sub-group was satisfied with the response (which was confirmed by the West Midlands Board Secretary) to the query about whether current governance arrangements could continue when Areas become Trusts (paragraph 4).

The sub group noted the additional costs identified in paragraph 5.7 and while the Director referred members to the original business case which had identified that this additional cost would be more than covered by the savings made from no longer needing to hire hotel and conference facilities, the sub group required an additional report clearly identifying the savings that will offset this additional cost. It was also noted that West Midlands Area are now seriously considering moving their training unit to Fort Dunlop and if so this would reduce the potential cost to the other Areas. Again the sub group required the report to identify the impact this would have on the costs.

The sub group heard from Bill Daly who is a member of the NOMS Board that there would not be any on going liability should the current offices be vacated because this was part of the NOMS business plan for this project (referred to paragraph 5.4). The sub group however still required written confirmation from NOMS that this was specifically the case and this will also be included in the report requested.

The sub group was also satisfied that with the commitment of West Midlands to the Consortium there risks to the future of a regional consortium were greatly reduced and that subject to receiving the confirmations requested for its next meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> April will be recommending to the Executive Board the move to Fort Dunlop.

### **3. TRUST APPLICATION AND MERGER UPDATE**

Intensive work has continued to be undertaken by the project groups. The Board Chair and I are attending a meeting with the ROM on the 17<sup>th</sup> April and will be able to give a verbal report on this at the meeting. A detailed business case is being developed but as members are aware this is complex and at the time of this report it is not certain whether this will be available in sufficient advance of the Board meeting. If not then consideration might be given to the fixing of an additional meeting so that members will have time to consider the plan.

**17<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

#### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A – MRPTC Report from Meeting Held 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009

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