

Probation hostels house some of the most dangerous offenders, as they leave prison. We found they are doing a good job overall. Local communities are well protected as residents are managed closely, and returned to prison when their behaviour warrants it. Individuals stay for just a few months, but some hostels - especially those for men and those in public ownership - could do more in that time to rehabilitate offenders and prepare them for their next steps.

"Probation hostels are usually full. More places and well-run hostels where they are most needed would mean more of our most dangerous offenders could be released safely, and change their lives for the better."

HM Chief Inspector of Probation Dame Glenys Stacey, July 2017

PROBATION HOSTELS IN CONTEXT



101
Number of probation hostels in England and Wales. This includes six for women and 11 independent hostels



2,267
Approximate number of beds available (July – September 2016)



£30,000
Average cost per bed



Percentage of residents who were assessed as posing a high or very high risk of harm (July – September 2016)



Occupancy rate (July – September 2016)



Proportion of residents who are subject to licence on release from prison (July – September 2016)



percentage of placements where the resident leaves the premises because of a breach of licence conditions (July – September 2016)



Probation hostels are unevenly spread, with no provision for women in Wales or London

PROBATION HOSTELS - OUR INSPECTION

48

former residents in sample

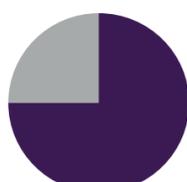


current residents in sample

71

10

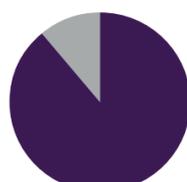
Hostels were inspected



Three-quarters had an application to a probation hostel made in good time



Approximately three-quarters had been prepared well enough for the placement



Induction helped residents to get off to a good start and do well in 89% of cases

Public protection was prioritised in all hostels but work on rehabilitation and resettlement was mixed. The best (women and independent probation hostels) did well on this front with residents routinely engaged in purposeful activities.

Of the 48 former residents in our sample, almost one-third had had insufficient attention given to preparing to move on.

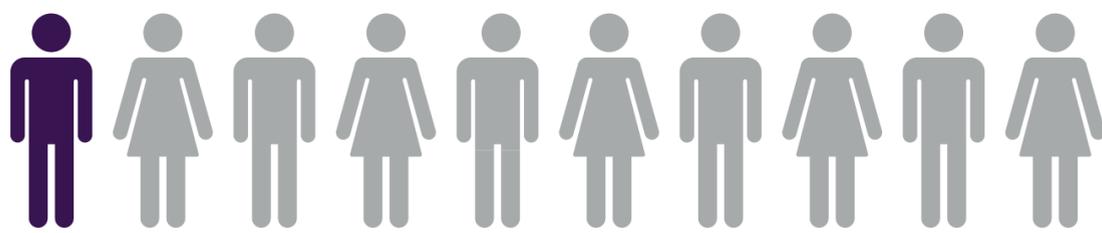
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?



48 former residents were followed up at least **3 months** after leaving the probation hostel

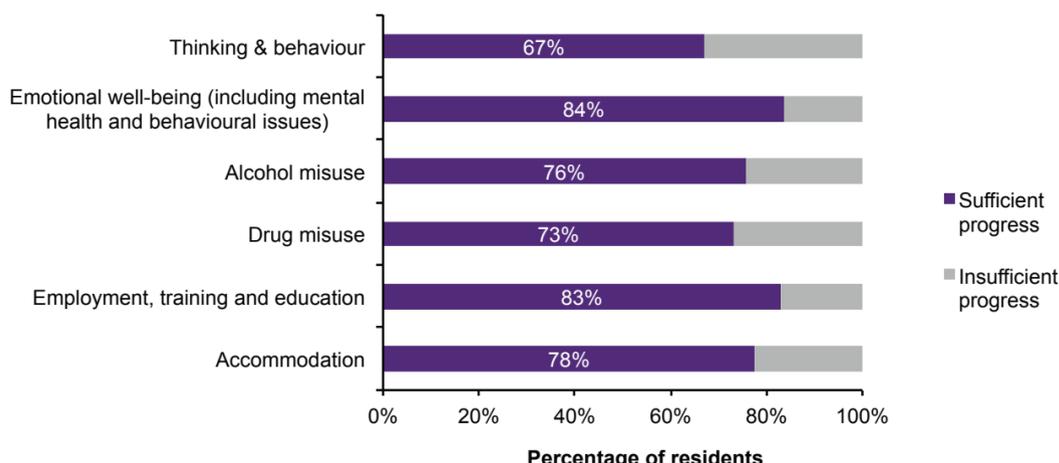


One in three of the previous residents were recalled to prison – the majority due to concerns about risk of harm to the public



12/119 had committed a further proven offence

Progress made on addressing factors related to offending (current residents)



Main recommendations

The Ministry of Justice should:

- develop a probation hostel policy statement to include the population, capacity, type and distribution of the probation hostel estate

The Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service should:

- where appropriate, reduce the number of non-local hostel placements
- establish systems to measure take-up of hostel places, service quality and outcomes and use this to improve the effectiveness of the estate
- support effective work with residents through facilities contracts that provide services in ways that promote the primary purposes of probation hostels

The National Probation Service should:

- ensure all probation hostels offer a programme of purposeful activities, that both meets the needs of residents and secures their participation
- provide guidance to HMPPS staff on how pre-release work and sentence planning will build on work done in custody and prepare prisoners for successful hostel placements