



Probation services - Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) and National Probation Service (NPS) - supervise individuals sentenced by the court, either on a community sentence or as part of a licence or supervision following release from prison.

Probation workers must weigh up what is best for society and the individual when someone under probation supervision does not comply with probation requirements, and refer individuals back to court or recall them to prison when appropriate.



In this inspection we found that almost all NPS and CRC recall decisions were appropriate. However, it was a mixed picture for community cases, with CRC case management being insufficient to support good enforcement decisions.

“Overall, recall was appropriate, even when the individual had not committed a further offence. There is still every reason to be anxious about CRC enforcement, however. We found that NPS cases were sufficiently well-managed, whereas too many CRC cases were not. While it seems odd that we found CRCs notably better at recall than enforcement, this may be because licence cases tended to be allocated to more experienced and qualified probation officers.”

HM Chief Inspector of Probation Dame Glenys Stacey – February 2018

CONTEXT

29,718

Community orders or suspended sentence orders returned to court due to failures to comply, further offences or other reasons in the year to March 2017

21,721

Licence recalls in the year to March 2017

268,062

Offenders on probation supervision at the end of March 2017

72%

Community orders completed satisfactorily (2016/2017)

37%

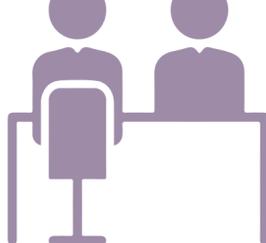
The proportion of these recalls who had served a sentence of less than 12 months

OUR INSPECTION



187

staff and managers were interviewed



13

service users were interviewed

WHAT WE FOUND

CRC

Enforcement of Community Orders/Suspended Sentences

NPS

37%

Good quality assessment?

83%

58%

Appropriate decisions about absences/behaviour?

85%

48%

Appropriate decision to return to court?

86%

42%

Were alternative approaches considered?

62%

CRC

Licence Recall

NPS

63%

Good quality assessment?

96%

89%

Appropriate decisions about absences/behaviour?

96%

89%

Appropriate decision to return to prison?

92%

64%

Were alternative approaches considered?

83%

Post sentence supervision

Our sample found complex needs and a number stuck in the revolving door between prison and the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Her Majesty's Government should:

- ensure that probation services are sufficiently resourced to supervise individuals with complex needs effectively.

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service should:

- set expectations that Community Rehabilitation Companies and the National Probation Service develop partnership-based approaches with key local stakeholders to manage those released from prison on licence.

Community Rehabilitation Companies should:

- ensure effective assessment and planned and purposeful levels of face-to-face contact with those under probation supervision.

Community Rehabilitation Companies and the National Probation Service should:

- develop practice which engages individuals in the processes of assessment and planning of their sentence
- jointly develop local partnerships that directly address service users' needs in relation to accommodation, health, education and substance misuse
- jointly develop local services which are accessible to those with diverse needs, particularly women.