

HMI Probation News

Incorporating:
Joint Inspection of Youth Offending Teams



Issue 01

April 2004

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Foreword



I am pleased to be introducing this newsletter on my appointment as HM Chief Inspector of Probation from 5 April, following Rod Morgan's move to become Chair of the Youth Justice

Board. We congratulate Rod on his new position and offer him our best wishes.

This is the first of what will be a quarterly newsletter from HMI Probation to probation areas, YOTs and others with whom we work to keep you informed of progress in our inspection programmes. We hope you find it useful. We think good communication is important, particularly in view of the considerable changes ahead with the development of NOMS - changes which will of course affect ourselves in HMI Probation along with others.

The newsletter will provide information about inspections on hand and planned, on the publication of reports and on staff changes - i.e. the process of our work. The results of inspections will continue to be provided in our inspection reports, including Inspection Findings which, as you may know, we have recently commenced as a shorter and more accessible means of disseminating the results of inspections. All of our reports continue to be available on our website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/justice/probation/insprob/index.html>

Looking Ahead

At a time when there is so much concern being expressed about what might be 'lost' in the prospective change to NOMS we feel it important to maintain our commitment to helping to improve quality work with offenders. We explain what we mean by that, and how we hope to do that in the coming year, in our Plan for 2004/5, also available on our website this week.

Developing that, there are just two further general comments about our work that I would like to make. Firstly, as the newsletter indicates, our ESI and YOT inspection programmes are well underway. We think they are proving successful in focusing on the effectiveness of the engagement with offenders and others in individual cases - an issue which we believe is vital to the achievement of Home Office aims on reducing re-offending and protecting the public.

Secondly we are working closely with our colleagues in HM Inspectorate of Prisons on plans for the inspection of NOMS and other work, and the implications of this for the future structure of inspection work. We will of course keep you informed of developments as they become clearer.

Turning to staffing matters, we are very pleased to welcome the following people who have recently joined us:

- Kevin Ball, as our Information Manager
- Helen Boocock, as an HM Inspector, on secondment from Derbyshire Probation Area.
- Nick Read, as our assistant Information Manager.

We are very sorry to bid farewell to Karen Page who has been appointed Acting Chief Officer of Surrey probation area, and congratulate her warmly on the appointment.

On the domestic front, we have recently moved our Manchester office to Trafford House, in Old Trafford, and are now well settled in.

We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Andrew Bridges

HM Chief Inspector of Probation

Effective Supervision Inspection Programme (ESI)

The ESI Programme commenced in June 2003. All 42 probation areas are being inspected over a three year period, with areas of similar characteristics (in terms of size and population density) inspected in the same year to facilitate comparisons in performance.

The reports we have published so far are listed below. Paper copies of all reports are distributed to interested parties at the time of publication, but reports are also available from our [website](#). Direct links to the reports are below.

Cheshire	(20/02/04 345Kb)
Derbyshire	(24/11/03 282Kb)
Hampshire	(25/03/04 242Kb)
Hertfordshire	(29/03/04 338Kb)
Lancashire	(10/03/04 342Kb)
Leicestershire & Rutland	(24/11/03 299Kb)
Kent	(18/03/04 346Kb)
Nottinghamshire	(25/11/03 289Kb)

(Please click on the name of the area to download the report. You must be connected to the internet to do this. All electronic versions of our reports are in Acrobat format. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat, please click [here](#))

We have also completed inspections of Essex, Teesside, Co. Durham, Gwent and South Wales. These will be published shortly.

Inspections due to take place during April to September 2004 are:

- [Staffordshire](#) Week 2 w.c. 5 April
- [West Midlands](#) Week 1 w.c. 19 April
 Week 2 w.c. 10 May
- [Norfolk](#) Week 1 w.c. 26 April
 Week 2 w.c. 24 May
- [Suffolk](#) Week 1 w.c. 07 June
 Week 2 w.c. 14 June
- [Gtr Manchester](#) Week 1 w.c. 07 June
 Week 2 w.c. 28 June
- [Merseyside](#) Week 1 w.c. 05 July
 Week 2 w.c. 26 July
- [Cumbria](#) Week 1 w.c. 06 September
 Week 2 w.c. 27 September

In general we are not undertaking follow-up inspections under ESI, unless there are particular issues of concern. In this connection it has been decided that there will be follow-up inspections of Hertfordshire and South Wales.

The ESI will produce a substantial amount of information about the quality and effectiveness of NPS work when analysed across a number of areas. We intend to publish an Inspection Findings within the next couple of months with some key initial results across areas inspected so far.

The ESI also includes a thematic element. In the first seven areas this was Employment and Basic Skills; in the next seven it has been domestic violence; and in the next set of inspections now commencing will be racially motivated offenders.

Other Area Inspections

We have completed the programme of audits of accredited programmes with the publication of the final set of follow-up reports:

[West Midlands](#) (Feb 04 269kb)
[Staffordshire](#) (Mar 04 331kb)

A further follow up of the London Probation Area was undertaken in March and the report will be published in May.

Supporting People

We are working on the 'Supporting People' inspection programme with the Audit Commission taking the lead, and participation from the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI). The inspection programme commenced in September 2003 and will cover all 150 administering local authorities over a 5-year cycle. All 42 Probation Areas will be subject to inspection at various points during the programme. To date, reports have been published on:

- [Bury](#) (488Kb)
- [Ealing](#) (256Kb)
- [Herefordshire](#) (588Kb)
- [Leicestershire](#) (357Kb)
- [Northamptonshire](#) (359Kb)
- [Rutland](#) (285Kb)
- [Somerset](#) (341Kb)
- [Sunderland](#) (304Kb)
- [Wirral](#) (435Kb)

The reports can be found on our [webpage](#). Further details of this inspection, and all current HMI Probation inspections, can be found [here](#)

Thematic Inspections of the NPS

In the last six months we have published the following thematic reports:

- [“From Aspirations to Reality”](#) An inspection of the Governance of Probation Areas by Probation Boards (31/10/03 191kb)
- [“Towards Race Equality”](#) (27/01/04 328Kb) follow up thematic inspection, along with a [summary](#) Inspection Findings 1/04 (87Kb)
- ["Work to Reduce Crime"](#) (06/02/04 333Kb) the report of the thematic element of the ESI on Employment and Basic Skills, along with a [summary](#) Inspection Findings 2/04 (80kb)

We have also completed a short thematic inspection of the movement of offender cases between areas and will be publishing the report in April.

The report of the thematic element of the ESI on domestic violence will be published in June

An increasing proportion of our thematic work is now undertaken jointly with other CJ inspectorates:

- we participated in the joint inspection of Gloucestershire, whose [report](#) was published in February. (628Kb)
- we also participated, with other CJ inspectorates, in the inspection of joint inspection of persistent offenders, the report of which will be published in April
- we are making plans with the Prisons Inspectorate for joint inspection work of resettlement
- we are also making longer term plans for joint inspection work on public protection

Other reports

A report by Professor Rod Morgan (Chief Inspector up to end of March 2004) into the events surrounding the death of PC Ged Walker was published on 25/03/04. It is available on the Home Office website – click [here](#)

YOT Inspections

The YOT inspection programme commenced in mid 2003 and will cover all 155 YOTs in England and Wales over the next 5 years. The inspection is being undertaken jointly by nine criminal justice and other inspectorates, led by HMI Probation.

We have so far completed inspections in:

- Cardiff
- Conwy & Denbighshire
- Halton & Warrington
- Havering
- Lancashire
- Milton Keynes
- Sheffield

The report for [Halton & Warrington](#) (257Kb) was published on 31/03/04, and the reports on the other YOTs above will be published shortly.

YOT inspections during April-July 2004

- Co. Durham Week 2 w.c. 19 April
- Slough Week 2 w.c. 19 April
- Leicester Week 2 w.c. 10 May
- Stoke-on-Trent Week 2 w.c. 10 May
- Oxfordshire Week 1 w.c. 31 May
 Week 2 w.c. 28 June
- Suffolk Week 1 w.c. 31 May
 Week 2 w.c. 28 June

Staff Contact Details

HMI Probation has offices in London and Manchester

London Office:

HM Inspectorate of Probation
Second Floor
Ashley House
2 Monck Street
London
SW1P 2BQ

General Enquiries

Tel: 020 7035 2203

Fax: 020 7035 2237

Email: HMIP.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Manchester Office:

HM Inspectorate of Probation
6th Floor
South Wing
Trafford House
Chester Road
Stretford
Manchester M32 0RS

Tel (YOT): 0161 869 1301

Tel (Other): 0161 869 1300

Fax: 0161 869 1350

Our website address is:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/justice/probation/insp_prob/index.html

HMI Probation Staff

HM Chief Inspector of Probation

Andrew Bridges 020 7035 2203

HM Assistant Chief Inspectors of Probation

Youth Offending Team Inspection Programme

Liz Calderbank 0161 869 1301

Effective Supervision Inspection Programme

John Hutchings 0207 035 2234

Thematic Inspections

Alan MacDonald 0161 869 1300

Support Services and Development

Peter Ramell 0207 035 2233

Inspectors

Di Askwith	0207 035 2221
Ged Bates	0207 035 2224
Helen Boocock	0161 869 1300
Mark Booter	0207 035 2222
John Browne	0161 869 1300
Rose Burgess	0207 035 2213
Kam Kaur	0207 035 2223
Karen Page	0207 035 2225
Nigel Scarff	0207 035 2213
Joe Simpson	0207 035 2219
Andy Smith	0207 035 2218
Jane Webb	0161 869 1300
Ray Wegrzyn	0161 869 1300
Kate White	0207 035 2216

Full-Time YOT Inspectors

Maddie Blackburn	0207 035 2230
Steve Glass	0161 869 1301
Yvette King	0207 035 2231
Mike Mullis	0161 869 1301
Vivienne O'Neale	0207 035 2228

Inspection Officers:

Mary Barnish	0207 035 2220
Roseanne Cameron	0207 035 2227
Peter Carter	0161 869 1300
Ben Clark	0207 035 2231
Jackie McAvoy	0161 869 1300
Joy Neary	0161 869 1300
Eileen O'Sullivan	0207 035 2214

Programme Manager

Andy Bonny 0161 869 1300

Deputy Programme Manager

Lynn Carroll 0161 869 1300

YOT Support Staff Manager

Grace Dickin 0161 869 1301

Media & Publications Officer

Zach Rathore 0161 869 1300

Information Manager

Kevin Ball 0161 869 1300

Assistant Information Manager

Nick Read 0207 035 2208

All staff can be contacted by:

firstname.surname@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

We always welcome feedback on our publications. If you would like to comment on this newsletter please **email** our Media & Publications officer, Zach Rathore.
zach.rathore@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk