

# Work with...

## Prisoners

Probation staff based in prisons assist with sentence planning and liaise with the NPS in the area into which the prisoner will be released. Prisoners sentenced to a year or more are supervised by the NPS on licensed release and must stick to certain conditions as part of their licence. Otherwise they may be recalled to prison.

## Victims

Probation staff work with the victims of violent or sexual crime where the offender has been sentenced to a year or more in prison. They keep the victim informed about the progress of the sentence and may consult the victim about conditions of release.

## Approved Premises

The core purpose of approved premises is to protect the public from offenders who pose a significant risk of harm to others. For this reason, the majority of bed spaces are occupied by offenders released from custody, some of whom have been convicted of very serious offences. The enhanced supervision typically includes security measures such as CCTV and alarm systems, a standard curfew from 11pm-6am and a core regime which addresses offending behaviour.

## Partners

The NPS works closely with other criminal justice agencies, including the police and prisons. For the most dangerous offenders, including sexual and violent offenders, these three agencies are required by law to work together to manage their supervision in the community. Together they will agree supervision plans designed to minimise the risk to the public from this group of offenders. This work comes under the umbrella of MAPPA – multi-agency public protection arrangements.

Many probation staff are seconded to youth offending teams responsible for offenders under the age of 18. The NPS works with voluntary (non-governmental organisations) and private sector (commercial) partners.

For further details, visit our website

[www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk)

For further details on NOMS, visit

[www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk)



# The National Probation Service for England and Wales

# The National Probation Service for England and Wales

## Who we are

**The National Probation Service for England and Wales (NPS) is a law enforcement agency which supervises offenders in the community - those subject to a court order and those released on licence from prison.**

### **The aims of the NPS are:**

- Protecting the public
- Reducing re-offending
- The proper punishment of offenders in the community
- Ensuring offenders' awareness of the effects of crime on victims and communities
- The rehabilitation of offenders

The NPS is responsible for 42 separate probation areas, divided into 10 regions across England and Wales. Its head office is the National Probation Directorate in London.

With the Prison Service and other organisations working with convicted offenders, the NPS is part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), which is a department of the Home Office. The task of NOMS is to lead and co-ordinate all the services that work with offenders in order to achieve the maximum possible reduction of re-offending.

## What we do

**At any one time the NPS is supervising around 200,000 adult offenders in the community, of whom 90 per cent are men and about 9 per cent from ethnic minorities. It has approximately 20,000 staff working throughout England and Wales. Staff who work with offenders are highly trained professionals.**

The probation caseload is made up of men and women aged over 18. Of these 70% are on community orders imposed by the courts and 30% on licence from prison.

## The Community Order

**Offenders may be sentenced by a court to a Community Order with one or more Requirements. The Requirements are:**

- Unpaid work – a set number of hours of work performed for the benefit of the community
- Activity – including community drug centre attendance, education and basic skills or reparation to victims
- Programme – a group or individual programme to address behaviour such as general offending, violence, sex offending, drug or alcohol abuse, domestic violence and drink impaired driving
- Prohibited activity – a ban on an activity such as entering a public house or attending a football match

- Curfew – supported by electronic monitoring (tagging)
- Exclusion – a ban from entering a specified place or places for a period of up to two years
- Residence – residing at the place specified, either an approved hostel or private address
- Mental health treatment – under the direction of a doctor or psychologist
- Drug rehabilitation – aimed at reducing or eliminating dependency on drugs
- Alcohol treatment – aimed at reducing or eliminating dependency on alcohol
- Supervision – attending regular appointments with a probation officer who will undertake work with the offender to change attitudes and behaviour
- Attendance centre – for 18 to 24 year olds

The number and type of Requirements is decided by the judge or magistrates.

These Requirements are also available to courts when sentencing an offender to a Suspended Sentence Order.

## Pre-sentence reports (PSRs)

Before reaching a decision the sentencer may ask the NPS to prepare a pre-sentence report (PSR). This can be oral but is normally written. This report will describe the circumstances of the crime, factors involved and the risk the offender poses to the public. The report will propose a sentence but it is the court which makes the decision. Each year the NPS produces about 250,000 written PSRs.