



15th April 2020

Safety Programme Stakeholder Update – Impact of COVID-19

The purpose of this note is to provide you with a summary of the changes we have had to implement in response to the impact of COVID-19 across the prison estate. My intention is to ensure that we continue to support prisons to operate safely during these unprecedented times. We have, therefore, reviewed the work delivered through the Safety Programme, and identified what work it is necessary to pause or continue at the current time. I wanted to ensure that you were aware of the work being undertaken in such challenging circumstances.

Work that will be paused:

The majority of reforms planned for delivery under the Safety Programme for 2020/21 will be paused, initially for a period of three months. The timescales will then be reviewed depending on how COVID-19 continues to impact. The work paused includes:

- The roll-out of Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) version 6.
- The roll-out of PAVA, SPEAR and Rigid Bar Handcuffs.
- The implementation of the Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) model in the women's and open estate.
- The key work sign-off process for establishments in the closed male estate.
- The roll-out of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM).
- The transition of the Challenge, Support and Intervention Plan (CSIP) to business as usual.
- The pilot for the revised Cell Sharing Risk Assessment (CSRA) process.

Work that will continue:

As part of the need to support our colleagues on the frontline we are redeploying some members of the Safety Group. This leaves a small core of HMPPS staff, MoJ policy staff and project delivery staff to support the central COVID-19 team on the safety workstream and take forward work on the programme.

This core team will continue to develop or deliver some aspects of work, including:

- Communications and ministerial briefings.
- Development of the Safety Policy Framework.
- Monitoring and providing advice on policies and reforms that have already been implemented or partially implemented, and;
- Planning for and completing preliminary work for future reforms.

Further work will be undertaken to establish plans for recovery and remobilisation once normal conditions resume.

Yours sincerely

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