



Ministry
of Justice



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Probation
Service



Learning from a Pandemic: a focus on the Blended Supervision Model Evaluation

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Probation in England and Wales

- Part of HMPPS – work closely with and in prisons
- Over **28,000** staff
- **240,922** people on probation at 31 March 2022
- **80,659** people in prison at 30 June 2022
- **12** regions headed by Regional Probation Directors

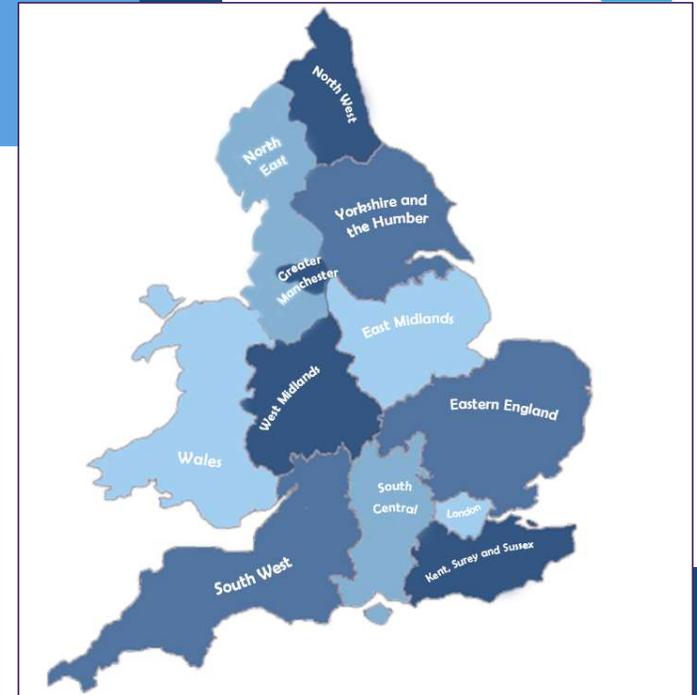
Functions

Pre-sentence reports for courts

Sentence management on community orders and licence supervision:
1:1 supervision; RAR days; accredited programmes; UPW; structured interventions; treatment requirements for drugs/alcohol/mental health; electronic monitoring; referrals to commissioned rehabilitative services

Sentence management in prisons and resettlement teams

Victims work



Assess, protect, change

Responding to a pandemic

Prioritisation

Use of technology

From groups to individual work

From in person to virtual contact

Cross agency solutions, e.g. court video platform

In call technology

Wellbeing support, use of volunteers

Flexibility of appointment time

Providing prison leavers and homeless with mobile phones

Home working projects for UPW



ULTIMATELY – WORKING FLEXIBLY TO RESPOND TO RISK AND NEED OF INDIVIDUALS

Blended Supervision – what we know

Based on research looking at probation remote supervision practice in response to covid-19 (Dominey et al, 2020*) and anecdotal evidence from practitioners, remote supervision appears to be:



Most suitable for service users:

- with childcare responsibilities*
- with physical health problems*
- who live in rural or remote areas*
- Who are younger (18-25)
- With sufficient childhood trauma

Least suitable for service users:

- who perpetrate domestic violence*
- where English is not their first language*

Challenges in terms of:

- Building/sustaining professional relationships*
- Ensuring data security*

The experiences of people on probation

Preferences across groups, based on research by UserVoice (unpublished) following re-nationalisation of probation

Higher % prefer remote contact

- Male
- Younger
- White
- On Community Order
- Stated that they Do Not Need Support from Probation
- Have long distances to travel
- In employment

Higher % prefer face-to-face contact

- Female
- Older
- Black & Dual Heritage
- On Licence
- Stated that they Need Support from Probation i.e. housing, mental health substance misuse, debt.

Blended Supervision Evaluation

Purpose

to identify an evidence-based supervision model comprising the most effective blend of remote supervision techniques to achieve the best outcomes for people on probation as well as probation practitioners.

Aims

- how we can support probation practitioners with guidance that helps them do their job, and how they apply discretion within a mandated set of principles for blending remote, and in person, contact;
- the benefits, challenges and effectiveness of technological solutions to remote supervision including telephony and video conferencing; and,
- the perceived impact of using different modes of contact on sentence management, including risk assessment and risk management.

Research

- Four Probation Regions – core evaluation
- One Probation Region – use of Technology
- Interviews, surveys, observations, documentary analysis, etc.
- Two- year study

Challenges with evaluating at this time

Projects in our Evaluation strategy

- Blended Supervision
- Transition to Adulthood Hub
- Unpaid Work
- Short Term Sentence Team model
- Pre-sentence Reports
- Integrated Offender Management
- Commissioned Rehabilitative Services
- Structured Interventions

