



13th October 2008

Reducing Re-offending Publications

The Ministry of Justice has today published the Government responses to the consultations on '*Working in Partnership to Reduce Re-offending and Make Communities Safer*', the paper '*Working with the Third Sector to Reduce Re-offending*' and the '*Believing We Can*' faith based consultation. These Government responses can be found at : <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for participating in our consultations. Your views have been used to inform these papers and will contribute to the further development of government strategy, the focus for the important role of partnership work that supports the reduction of re-offending.

The consultation response paper '*Working in Partnership to Reduce Re-offending and Make Communities Safer*' summarises the feedback from the consultation, details the government response to key issues raised and describes how the consultation will influence our shared approach across Government to effectively manage offenders and deliver the reducing re-offending and related targets. It sets out our thinking in key areas, including local delivery, working with different groups of offenders and building an evidence base to communicate what works, to make the case to partners for work with offenders that help us achieve safer communities.

The latest figures for 2006 show that the frequency of adult re-offending has fallen by 22.9% compared to 2000. The consultation process highlighted many examples of good practice, demonstrating the now growing impact of national and regional/ Wales partnership work and we want to build upon these foundations to support delivery on the ground. We are encouraged by this hard won progress by prison, probation and our many partners and want to continue to work with you to reduce re-offending.

The Ministry of Justice will shortly be publishing a paper that sets out our approach to managing offenders. This paper will update and develop the Prisons Policy Update Briefing Paper produced in January 2008 (available at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prison-policy-update.htm>). The responses from the consultations have been crucial in the formulation of this document, which highlights the critical role of you, our partners, as well as the continued challenges of tackling reducing re-offending and crime overall.

The paper '*Working with the Third Sector to Reduce Re-offending 2008-2011*' (available at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/third-sector-effective-partnerships.pdf>) aims to maximise the contribution made by the third sector, including faith groups, to our targets to reduce re-offending, protect the public and contribute to achieving safer communities. Informed by public consultations on the role of the third sector, faith-based organisations and volunteering in reducing re-offending, the paper states the principles and expectations of the Criminal Justice Group in the Ministry of Justice, NOMS, prisons and probation providers when engaging with and funding the third sector. It also sets out a three-year programme of action to underpin and help achieve these principles and expectations.

If you would like to request hard copies of any of the above papers, please contact Tina Markose (tina.markose@justice.gsi.gov.uk).

Frances Flaxington
Head of Partnerships Strategy Unit
Criminal Justice Group