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Dear Partner

Probation services announcement

You will have seen the recent [ministerial announcement confirming that delivery of Unpaid Work, Accredited Programmes and structured interventions will now come under the control of the National Probation Service \(NPS\)](#), alongside offender management as originally planned, from June next year.

What this means for MTC

As a result of the announcement, bidding for the Probation Delivery Partner (PDP) contracts – under which these services would have been delivered under the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) original model – has now ceased. This is disappointing news for MTC, having developed our proposition and tender response for this piece of work. However, the MoJ has also confirmed that it remains committed to including the Dynamic Framework (DF) in its new probation model. Under this framework, the NPS will be able to purchase specialist rehabilitative services from a range of prequalified suppliers. MTC will continue to develop our proposition and bid for this framework in collaboration with specialist partner organisations in the community and voluntary sector.

As you are aware, MTC operates London and Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs). Bringing the delivery of Unpaid Work and behavioural change programmes under the remit of the NPS means our CRC employees will transfer to the NPS or the DF providers. And it is anticipated that the transfer of sentence management and Senior Attendance Centre services to the NPS will take place in June 2021. We don't know any further details of the transition at this stage but will be consulting with the MoJ as they shape their plans.

A continued focus on delivering quality probation services

While the revised probation delivery plan is disappointing, MTC remains committed to transforming lives and building safer communities. Our immediate focus continues to be supporting our dedicated and highly skilled CRC employees to safely manage risk and deliver quality probation services that reduce reoffending and protect the public.

With COVID-19 lockdown restrictions easing, we are developing plans to move away from our Exceptional Delivery Model (EDM) – which has seen us minimising face-to-face service user supervision – when it is safe to do so. This includes gradually re-opening outdoor Community Payback (CP) projects, which can be safely run within social distancing guidelines, and with smaller numbers of service users.

One of the fundamental principles of CP is to give service users an opportunity to carry out meaningful unpaid work to add real value back to their communities. And we know that if we work collaboratively with local partner organisations to identify such projects, it has the potential to reduce reoffending and build safer communities. Knowing that the easing of lockdown restrictions

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is inevitably seeing an increase in the use of outdoor community spaces, this might be an ideal opportunity for us to explore how our CP teams might be able to support you. We would very much welcome an opportunity to discuss this with you.

We remain incredibly proud of what MTC, our CRC employees and partner organisations have achieved over the past five years – continuing to drive quality improvements and innovations which have been recognised by recent HMIP inspections in both London and Thames Valley CRCs. Over the next year, we will be working closely with the MoJ to make sure our people, systems and services transition back to the NPS safely and with a firm focus on protecting the public.

Looking to the future

MTC continues to run Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre (STC), one of three purpose-built centres designed to accommodate young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who are either serving a custodial sentence or are remanded to a secure facility. And the MoJ's announcement will have no impact on the excellent work our employees continue to deliver there. Indeed, building on our experience of running the STC, MTC has ambitions to expand further into the UK custody sector.

With a focus on transforming even more lives, we will also be building on our expertise in delivering quality interventions and evidence-based outcomes, developing tailored interventions to support individuals across, and beyond, the justice arena.

Any questions?

I trust the above gives you more of an insight into the MoJ's revised probation delivery plans, and confidence that reducing reoffending and public protection remains at the forefront of everyone's minds here at MTC. As does our commitment to continuing to work collaboratively with our partner organisations in the criminal justice sector who share this focus with us. However, if you have any questions, would like to talk to someone about the impact of the MoJ's announcement on probation service delivery, or you would like to discuss a potential CP project we could support you on, please email: MTCPartnershipWorking@mtcgroup.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

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