

What involvement do you currently have with prison governors in your area?

The Office of the PCC works closely with the prisons in Teesside (HMP Holme House & HMP Kirkclevington Grange) and has established a working relationship through the initial transition process from police authority to PCC. The OPCC has an agreed selection of performance measures which informs future commissioning and current service performance of the service and its related services based externally within communities. Prisons have provided specific performance data relevant to re-offending and this has been shared with the OPCC.

Do you feel that you are sighted on and engaged in issues relating to prisons?

The OPCC feels it is sighted on and engaged with the prison service and is monitoring the impact of reforms and austerity measures across the service and its affect on reoffending. We recognise there is always room for improvement within any engagement however feel that current working relationship is further cemented by collaborative working within Local Criminal Justice Board.

Could you highlight any examples of good practice in your dealings with prison governors?

The PCC has worked with the prison service on a number of projects from "Minds" Offender mentoring project to the 'Voice' project, funded by Victim Support and based in HMP Holme House. This project supports the victims of DV through the provision of information about release dates, how to stop contact and other support mechanisms available.

How might PCCs benefit by improving their relationships with governors?

Improved working relationships with the prison service will allow PCC's to understand the full picture of the criminal justice landscape and influence not only commissioning but areas of collaborative opportunity. The integrated approach dispenses with barriers associated with silo working and allows the OPCC to assess the ripple affect of collaborative working and commissioning of services such as mentoring, family connections, restorative justice and resettlement. This will become even more relevant under the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda.

How might engagement between PCCs and prison governors be improved?

The decision and commissioning authority of the PCC needs to expand further in to the processes and external links of the prison service as this would underline a fixed working arrangement between prison services and the PCC. Improvements could be driven further forward by establishing PCC's as chairs of LCJB's which would integrate the PCC in to the strategic decision making within that organisation. The advent of the CRC and the opportunity to work with offenders serving 12 months and under will raise a further opportunity and will give the PCC an avenue to engage with crime reduction measures . This is seen as an area for future development - for example The OPCC is aware that accommodation is a major issue for many of the prison services revolving door prisoners something we are confident will become more evident when working with the 12 moths and under prison group becomes statutory.