

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

How The **New** **Government** Can Fix Our Criminal Justice Crisis



Make Community Sentences more robust and more person-centered

1

Greater, more flexible use of Community Treatment Orders (CTOs), including dual orders that address both mental health and substance use. Enhanced Combination Orders delivered in Northern Ireland offer a promising model for a multidisciplinary response to prolific offending.

2

More focus on accommodation and tenancy sustainment support to prevent people being breached for becoming homeless and offering a foundation for addressing other support needs. Pilot intensive, accommodation-based services as alternatives

Make Community Sentences more robust and more person-centered

3

National roll-out of Intensive Supervision and Problem Solving Courts, training magistrates/sentencers on how they should be used. Establish specialist domestic and sexual violence courts to fast-track the backlog and ensure cases are heard in a trauma-informed setting

4

Increase the proportion of Category D (open) prisons, which are cheaper to operate and better prepare people for release

Wider use of Liaison & Diversion initiatives

1

Adapt and expand successful diversion initiatives with young people to include women and people with mental health and/or addiction issues

2

Increase resources for L&D services, particularly the provision of support for mental health, addiction and homelessness

Wider use of Liaison & Diversion initiatives

3

Reduce the burden on courts by expanding out of court disposal and deferred sentence options for some lower-level crimes

4

Ensure the Young Futures Programme is available to the 18-25 cohort

Improve Staff capability, wellbeing and retention

1

Actively promote and encourage lived experience in CJS roles, including reforming the archaic prison vetting process.

2

Improve partnership working and collaboration across the sector by developing a shared training platform and a formal secondments pathway spanning statutory and VCSE providers.

Improve Staff capability, wellbeing and retention

3

Safely embed AI and automation to reduce the heavy administrative burden on prison and probation staff.

4

Inflationary uplifts to be applied consistently across all HMPPS contract.

CABINET OFFICE

Longer-term, joined-up strategies to tackle root causes

1

Cross-departmental taskforce, directed by Cabinet Office, focused on diverting people committing low-level, non-violent offences away from criminal justice pathways and into appropriate support.

2

Meaningful lived experience involvement in policymaking and representation at MoJ and HMPPS Board level.

Longer-term, joined-up strategies to tackle root causes

3

Longer-term contracts give service providers the certainty and stability to deliver the best possible outcomes.

4

An independent commission into drugs policy and sentencing that reviews international best practice in terms of both criminalising addiction and public health responses.

5

Political courage from the very top to champion an evidence-based approach and push back against lazy 'soft on crime' media narratives

