

PBNI Consultation Response Form Corporate Plan 2020-2023

Please complete this response form in full and submit:

By email to Consultation@pbni.gov.uk

By post to 80-90 North St

Belfast

BT1 1LD

Closing date for responses: 31 October 2019

I am responding (delete as appropriate) : -

- on behalf of an organisation

Name: Dr Gerry Lynch

Job Title: Chair & Vice President

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The questions that we are asking during this consultation process are:

1. Do you agree with our aim, vision and values as outlined in the Consultation document?

We broadly agree with the aim, vision and values outlined.

2. Do you agree with our strategic priorities or is there anything else we should add or take out?

We do not believe that there is sufficient emphasis on the use of evidenced based models to address the recognised criminogenic factors that are contributing to offending.

Our particular area of interest is that of mentally disordered offenders. Reference is made to the fact that 40% of those subject to probation have mental health problems. We would advocate for the introduction of a mental health court liaison model as described in the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Report 2010. The psychiatric literature is clear that this is the only evidenced based approach.

3. What are probation doing that you feel is important and should continue or develop?

There is now some information exchange between probation and mental health services. This is minimal and needs further development.

4. What could probation do better in the future?

From our perspective, probation need to engage with mental health services at both a local and national level. For public safety to be maintained, it is essential that relevant information is appropriately

shared. There remains too much working in isolation. The failure to engage mental health services in either the substance misuse Court or the proposed mental health Court is a good example.

We would recommend consultation with the forensic faculty of the Royal College of Psychiatrists on matters relating to mentally disordered offenders.