

Service Specification

Service Specification No.	
Service	Provision of support and activities for older people in prison
Commissioner Lead	Julie Dhuny
Provider Lead	
Period	1 st May 2017 – 31 st March 2018
Date of Review	

1. Aims and Objectives
<p>To make contact with every prisoner over 50 and provide information regarding access to social care, healthcare and prison services.</p> <p>To develop a range of sources of information, activities and support to older people within HMP Northumberland, HMP Frankland and HMP Holme House.</p> <p>To work on an advisory basis to HMP Durham and HMPYOI Low Newton.</p> <p>To develop and support integrated working within the prison and other stakeholders such as healthcare providers and health trainers.</p> <p>To provide support and advice to NEPACS and their visitors.</p> <p>To act as expert adviser to commissioners and prison Senior Management Team to further improve services for prisoners.</p> <p>To support the rehabilitation and resettlement process to ensure prisoners have access to information and support prerelease or transfer.</p> <p>Provide advocacy service for older people to support prisoners to express their needs effectively and improve mental health and wellbeing.</p>
2. National/Local context and evidence base
<p>People aged 60 and over and those aged 50–59 are the first and second fastest growing age groups in the prison population. Between 2002 and 2014 there was an increase of 146% and 122% in the number of prisoners held in those age groups respectively. On 31 March 2016 there were approximately 300 people in prison in the North East aged 60 and over.</p> <p>Ever-lengthening sentences mean people in prison are growing old and frail with high rates of unmet social care and support needs. Two in five (37%) of those over the age of 50 in prison have a disability.</p>

For the first time, the Care Act 2014 will require local authorities and prison staff to work together to respond to the social care needs of people in prison. The need for a statutory framework and new prison policy is evidenced by the experiences of many elderly and disabled prisoners in contact with the Prison Reform Trust who have been denied essential care and support.

Over the last two year HMP Northumberland has worked hard to respond to the needs of its older prisoner population and with the support of third sector and local university support there has been an increased range of activities for older people. NHS England will now continue this work into the other North East Prisons.

It is the intention now to further develop these services and support the development of an Older people in Prison Strategy for Cumbria and North East prisons and develop more structured links with healthcare and the wider stakeholder.

3. Service Description

The provider will deliver as a minimum one social / community session per week per prison.

The provider will work with the Healthcare teams, Gym staff, kitchen staff and other key stakeholders to ensure good levels of communication and holistic support is offered to the prisoner(s) as appropriate.

The provider will work with the prison and other stakeholder to develop a range of purposeful social activity for prisoners.

The provider will make available a range of literature to support older people in prison and for those preparing for release.

The provider will act as advocate to older prisoners and with consent will liaise as appropriate with social care, healthcare providers and the prison

4. Any exclusion criteria

Under 50's.

5. Whole system relationships

The Provider must be committed to an interagency approach and work closely with all key stakeholders.

- Compiling a list of local services and telephone numbers that can be kept in a place that is easily accessible.
- Developing service information leaflets with details of the service
- Placing service information leaflets on prison wings so that prisoners can take them away or read the information in private.

6. Interdependencies and other services

Prison governors
Prison older person lead
Gym staff

TEWV mental health
NHS England commissioners
G4S (nursing and admin)
Spectrum (GP and pharmacy)
Burgess and Hyder (dental)
Northumbria University
NEPACS
Independent Monitoring Board
Local Authority

8. Governance

The Provider will be expected to have robust governance procedures and checks in place. This will include a named individual who will have responsibility for ensuring the effective operation of the System of Governance. The person nominated shall be a person who performs or manages services under this agreement.

9. Record Keeping

The Provider must set out a policy and arrangements for record keeping. The Provider will ensure that accurate and up to date notes are kept on all individuals seen by the service, in line with both Caldecott and Data Protection requirements. The Provider will share data with Commissioners to facilitate the ongoing planning and development of services.

10. Service User Involvement

The Provider will ensure that service users are fully and meaningfully involved in all aspects of service delivery. Service User feedback will form a key element of the evaluation process.