



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

**NHS**  
National Treatment Agency  
for Substance Misuse



**Offender Health**  
Area 108, Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London SE1 8UG

26<sup>th</sup> October 2011

NOMS Executive Management Committee  
NOMS Deputy Directors of Custody  
Deputy Director, NOMS Head of Offender Services Co-commissioning Group  
Prison Governors  
SHA Chief Executives  
PCT Cluster Chief Executives  
PCT Cluster Prison Leads  
SHA Offender Leads  
NTA Managers  
DAAT Chairs  
Prison Healthcare Managers  
NHS Criminal Justice Regional Leads  
Area Chief Probation Officers  
Directors, Private Sector Prisons

### **Gateway Number 16796.**

Dear Colleagues,

### **Commissioning of substance misuse services from April 2013**

It has come to our attention that some local partnerships have expressed concerns regarding the implications of the Health and Social Care Bill, (currently under consideration by Parliament), for the commissioning of prison-based substance misuse services post-April 2013.

Although the shape of the new NHS commissioning and delivery landscape, and the respective roles of the NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB) and Public Health England (PHE) are beginning to emerge, they remain subject to the passage of the Bill. It is also important to stress that the finer detail of how this will work at an operational level is still developing. It is clear that Offender Health, operating within the NHSCB, would have overall responsibility for setting outcomes and overseeing the commissioning of all health services delivered in prisons and other forms of prescribed detention.

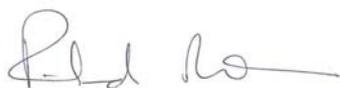
We would however like to take this opportunity to provide the following reassurance. Subject to the passage of the Bill:

- it is anticipated that at an establishment level, prison-based substance misuse services will continue to be commissioned by local partnerships operating under the new PHE and Local Authorities structures. This will be consistent with the key [Patel Review](#) recommendation that integrated and needs led treatment services are best commissioned at a local level;

- we fully recognise that in order to maximise the benefits of effective continuity of care and establish recovery-oriented care pathways between community and custodial settings it is vital that these services are commissioned in tandem and not through separate structures.

Local partnerships are now fully engaged and working hard to meet the challenge of re-commissioning substance misuse services in prisons. We would reiterate the message contained in [the letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March](#) 2011 (gateway no 15827), that the new funding arrangements provide a unique opportunity to establish fully integrated, recovery focussed treatment services across the prison estate. We would therefore urge you to be bold and ambitious in realising this vision confident in the knowledge that this approach will continue to be supported post April 2013.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Bradshaw  
Director  
Offender Health



Rosanna O'Connor  
Director of Delivery  
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse