LCJB Member

Via email

25 May 2018 MOPAC25052018- D1892

Dear LCJB Member

**London Alcohol Sobriety Programme**

At the London Criminal Justice Board meeting on 24 April 2018 we discussed the impending closure of the Mayor’s Office for Police and Crime’s Alcohol Sobriety Programme.

MOPAC recently received notification from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) that it was no longer willing to contribute funding for the Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirement. MOPAC is of the view that, just as with other court requirements, the AAMR should be funded by central government. For this reason, MOPAC has taken the decision to close the programme. To ensure the programme is closed effectively, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has committed funding for a short extension period.

The AAMR will cease to be available as a sentencing requirement from 30th June 2018. After this date the existing AAMRs will still be monitored and managed by the respective agencies. MOPAC will now work with all partners, including the judiciary, to minimise the impact of withdrawing the requirement from sentencing options. Communication of the planned closure has already been sent to London CRC, the NPS and the tagging provider, whilst MOPAC staff members have implemented a risk management plan.

The Alcohol Sobriety Programme began in July 2014 and allows the judiciary to impose an AAMR as part of a community or suspended sentence order. When sentenced to the requirement an offender must abstain from alcohol for a fixed period of up to 120 days. The offender is fitted with an electronic tag to monitor alcohol consumption and ensure compliance with the order. Since programme inception over 1,200 requirements have been imposed.

Evaluation of the programme continues, the findings from which will inform future decision making around electronic monitoring in London. To date it has been found that the compliance rate with the requirement has remained high, with over 90% of offenders successfully completing the AAMR element of their order. The technology has also been found to work consistently well and overall feedback from stakeholders has been positive.

The latest process and performance evaluation and an early impact evaluation - looking at early arrest and conviction data - will be published on MOPAC’s website in June. However, if you’d like to have sight of the reports before then please let me know and I will share them. A full impact evaluation will be completed by the end of 2018. This will include a Cost-Benefit Analysis and an analysis of re-offending rates of those offenders’ subject to a AAMR. This will be made available to you shortly after its completion.

MOPAC would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support in the successful delivery of the Alcohol Sobriety programme over the past four years. When more information on

the long-term future of the AAMR becomes available, MOPAC will share this with partners but in the meantime if you have and queries or concerns regarding the end of the programme I ask you to get in touch with the MoJ’s Electronic Monitoring Policy Team.

Yours sincerely,



**Samantha Cunningham**

**Director Criminal Justice & Commissioning Directorate**

**Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime**