

**Report to:** Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee  
**Date of meeting:** 15 March 2018  
**By:** Director of Adult Social Care and Health  
**Title:** Services to prisons (post Care Act)  
**Purpose:** To update the Committee on activity relating to social care services to prisons

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) consider and comment on the update report for services to prisons;**
  - 2) accept this as a final update on services to prisons activity. The activity will continue to be monitored and reported to the Committee on an exception basis.**
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### **1. Background**

1.1 From April 2015 local authorities have been responsible for assessing and meeting the social care needs of adult prisoners (not just on discharge from prison but also while they are in custody), under Section 76 of the 2014 Care Act. All adults within those prisons and approved premises will be treated as if they are resident in that local authority's area for purposes of the Care Act for as long as they reside in that establishment.

1.2 Since April 2015, East Sussex County Council Adult Social Care and HMP Lewes have had in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Information Sharing Agreement for the provision of Social Care in Prisons. This agreement sets out the shared strategic intent and joint commitment of HMP Lewes and East Sussex County Council to work together to ensure people in HMP Lewes have access to appropriate social care support.

1.3 HMP Lewes ensure that East Sussex County Council is informed when an adult the prison believes has care and support needs arrives at their establishment or when the prison becomes aware of a prisoner's need for care and support during their time in custody.

1.4 Adult Social Care staff will undertake the assessment. In some instances the person may have more complex needs or a need for a specialist service such as Occupational Therapy (OT) equipment, sensory services or autistic spectrum services. Following a social care assessment, if the prisoner has eligible needs then the assessor, other relevant professionals and the prisoner will prepare a care and support plan which sets out how the identified needs will be met.

1.5 Prisoners will be subject to a financial assessment to determine how much (if anything) they may be required to pay, as they would be in the community, towards the cost of their care and support. Prisoners' earnings from work in prison are exempt from consideration during financial assessments. Adult Social Care is responsible for determining and undertaking financial assessment.

### **2. Activity**

2.1 Table 1 below shows the level of activity between Adult Social Care and HMP Lewes over the last two years. The table shows similar numbers of assessments over the two year period, with small numbers of prisoners requiring ongoing low level support and two prisoners in 2017 having eligible needs which are being met through ongoing long term support.

**Table 1**

<b>HMP Lewes</b>	<b>Jan - Dec 2016</b>	<b>Jan - Dec 2017</b>
Number of prisoners assessed for care and support	18	16
Of those assessed - no services required	15	8
Of those assessed - needs were met only by advice and information / signposting	0	2
Of those assessed - needs were met by ongoing low level support	2	2
Of those assessed - short term support to maximise independence provided	1	1
Of those assessed - needs were met by other short term support	0	1
Of those assessed - long term support (eligible needs)	0	2

### **3. Operational delivery of the service**

3.1 Social Care is provided to HMP Lewes by the ESCC Joint Community Rehabilitation (JCR) Team. Our preference would be to commission this support via the independent sector, however provider interest in this work is not currently forthcoming.

3.2 The level of provision of social care to HMP Lewes is relatively low, however it does require close management and monitoring given the operational challenges of this work, including:

- Access to and exit from the prison is often restricted e.g. when prisoners are out of their cells. This affects our ability to provide the service.
- Frequently the client is not there to receive their care (prisoners maybe elsewhere in prison and it is personal choice as to whether they accept the care). JCR wait but often have to abandon the call due to other service pressures.
- To ensure staff safety, all calls are double-ups (i.e. two members of staff attend).

### **4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

4.1 The level of assessment activity relating to social care provision in HMP Lewes has remained consistent over the last two years, with low numbers of prisoners requiring ongoing long term support

4.2 The MOU and information sharing agreement in place between East Sussex County Council and HMP Lewes are robust and fit for purpose; confirming process, roles and responsibilities.

4.3 The level of activity relating to social care provision in HMP Lewes is manageable within current resources and processes are well established.

4.4 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on this report. It is also recommended to consider this the final update on services to prisons activity, although the activity and data will continue to be monitored and reported to the Committee on an exception basis.

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