

# HMI Probation News

Incorporating:  
Joint Inspection of Youth Offending Teams



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## Foreword

This is the third of the quarterly newsletters from HMI Probation to probation areas, YOTs and others with whom we work to keep you informed of progress in our inspection programmes.



## Inspection Programmes

We are continuing to make good progress on the three regular "area" inspection programmes - the ESI and YOT inspection programmes, and also our contribution to the Supporting People inspection led by the Audit Commission. We have now inspected half of all probation areas under the ESI. As well as assessing the work of individual areas, we believe that we are building up an important body of information about probation work overall, and the factors that contribute to effectiveness. We will be disseminating soon some aggregate results from the ESI to date, and will be producing further analyses in future as we seek to make best use of this information for the longer term.

In addition to these regular programmes we are engaged on a number of pieces of thematic work, both as elements in the ESI programme and - increasingly - as joint work with other Inspectorates. More details on our programmes are given below.

We gave an account of our work over the last year in the Annual Report for 2003/04 published on 13 July and the area report on the YOT inspection programme published on 10 September. We were grateful to Ministers for speaking at the launch events for both these publications, and we also glad to welcome a number of colleagues from NPS and YOTs at the two events, which were lively and productive occasions.

## New Inspection Arrangements

We are continuing to work with our colleagues in HM Inspectorate of Prisons on the future inspection framework for NOMS and for other related work. This is being taken forward by a change programme involving staff from both inspectorates and chaired by Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons. In this context we are developing plans for inspection of offender management, based generally on the methodology in ESI, and will be piloting aspects of it over the next few months. We are also liaising with colleagues in NOMS on the development of standards in NOMS, to ensure that there is appropriate congruence between inspection criteria and NOMS performance standards.

## Staffing Changes

We are very pleased to welcome the following people who have recently joined us:

- Helen Cash as an HM Inspector. Helen has previously worked for London Probation area
- Sally Lester as an HM Inspector, on secondment from North Yorkshire Probation area.
- Shirley Magilton as a HM Inspector, who is joining us from Norfolk Drug Action Team.
- Rhona Bradley as a HM Inspector working full time in our YOT inspection team, on secondment from the Commission for Social Care Inspection.
- Stephanie Mason, as a Practice Assessor, on secondment from West Midlands Probation Area.
- Natalie Dewsnap who has joined the support service team in our Manchester office.

We are very sorry to bid farewell to Maddie Blackburn who has returned to the Healthcare Commission, to Peter Carter who has moved to Greater Manchester Probation Area, and to Jane Webb who has moved to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman's office as an Assistant Ombudsman (Fatal Incidents). We are very grateful to each of these colleagues for their substantial contribution to our work, and wish them well for the future.

We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Andrew Bridges  
HM Chief Inspectorate of Probation.

## Effective Supervision Inspection Programme (ESI)

The ESI Programme commenced in June 2003. All 42 probation areas are being inspected over a three year period, with areas of similar characteristics (in terms of size and population density) inspected in the same year to facilitate comparisons in performance.

The reports we have published so far are listed below:

Cheshire	(20/02/04)
County Durham	(13/07/04)
Derbyshire	(24/11/03)
Essex	(06/04/03)
Gwent	(13/07/04)
Hampshire	(25/03/04)
Hertfordshire	(29/03/04)
Kent	(18/03/04)
Lancashire	(10/03/04)
Leicestershire & Rutland	(24/11/03)
Norfolk	(17/08/04)
Nottinghamshire	(25/11/03)
South Wales	(03/08/04)
Staffordshire	(10/08/04)
Teesside	(02/06/04)
West Midlands	(14/09/04)

The published reports can be downloaded in PDF format from the ESI Report page of our website [here](#).

We have also completed inspections of Greater Manchester, Suffolk, Merseyside, and Cumbria. These will be published shortly.

Inspections due to take place during October 2004 to March 2005 are:

- Northumbria Week 2 w/c 11 October
- Gloucestershire Week 1 w/c 04 October  
Week 2 w/c 25 October
- Wiltshire Week 1 w/c 01 November  
Week 2 w/c 22 November

- Dyfed-Powys Week 1 w/c 08 November  
Week 2 w/c 29 November
- North Wales Week 1 w/c 06 December  
Week 2 w/c 10 January 2005
- N. Yorks Week 1 w/c 10 January  
Week 2 w/c 31 January
- W. Yorks Week 1 w/c 24 January  
Week 2 w/c 21 February
- S. Yorks Week 1 w/c 07 February  
Week 2 w/c 28 February
- Lincolnshire Week 1 w/c 14 February  
Week 2 w/c 07 March

The ESI will produce a substantial amount of information about the quality and effectiveness of NPS work when analysed across a number of areas. We intend to publish an Inspection Findings within the next couple of months with some key initial results across areas inspected so far.

The ESI also includes a thematic element. In the first seven areas this was Employment and Basic Skills (EBS) (report published 06/02/04); in the next seven it was domestic violence (report published 29/06/04); in the set of inspections now being completed it is racially motivated offenders. For the next set of inspections now starting, the thematic element will be offender accommodation; and for the following set it will be enhanced community punishment.

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## Other Area Inspections

We published a further follow-up inspection of the London Probation Area on 20/07/04.

We have carried out an inspection of the Isle of Man Probation Service, and the report will be published shortly. We are also carrying out an inspection of the Northern Ireland Probation Service.

## Supporting People

We are working on the 'Supporting People' inspection programme with the Audit Commission taking the lead, and participation from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The inspection programme commenced in September 2003 and will cover all 150 administering local authorities over a 5-year cycle. All 42 Probation Areas will be subject to inspection at various points during the programme.

To date, reports have been published on:

Blackpool	Brent
Bury	Dudley
Doncaster	Ealing
East Ridings of Yorkshire	Ealing
Enfield	Herefordshire
Lancashire	Leicestershire
Luton	Middlesborough
Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire
Oldham	Rutland
Somerset	Sunderland
Wirral	Wokingham

The reports can be found on the Supporting People page of our website [here](#).

Inspections due to take place during October 2004 to March 2005 are:

Telford & Wrekin	w/c 25 Oct 04
Hackney	w/c 25 Oct 04
Greenwich	w/c 01 Nov 04
Surrey	w/c 29 Nov 04
Barking & Dagenham	w/c 29 Nov 04
Wiltshire	w/c 29 Nov 04
Rotherham	w/c 29 Nov 04
Swindon	w/c 17 Jan 05
Harrow	w/c 17 Jan 05
Knowsley	w/c 17 Jan 05
Hull	w/c 21 Feb 05
Buckinghamshire	w/c 21 Feb 05
South Tyneside	w/c 21 Feb 05
Havering	w/c 21 Feb 05
Bracknell Forest	w/c 28 Mar 05
Peterborough	w/c 28 Mar 05
Croydon	w/c 28 Mar 05
Darlington	w/c 28 Mar 05

## Thematic Inspections of the NPS

The report of the thematic element of the ESI on domestic violence was published on 29/07/04. We have also produced an extensive literature review on publications that focus on the many aspects of domestic violence, which is available as a pdf from our website.

The report of the follow-up of our earlier inspection of the Diploma in Probation Studies (DipPS) programmes which was published on 09/08/04.

The report of the short thematic inspection of the movement of offender cases between areas was published on 21/09/04.

As indicated, under the ESI thematic element, the inspection of racially motivated offenders is nearly completed; the inspection of offender accommodation is now starting; and this will be followed by the inspection of enhanced community punishment.

An increasing proportion of our thematic work is now undertaken jointly with other CJ and other inspectorates:

- we are planning for a joint inspection on sex offenders, which we will lead. This will be followed by a more general joint inspection of public protection
- we will be participating in a forthcoming joint inspection on enforcement
- we are currently involved in joint area inspections in Surrey, North Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, which are focusing on pre-sentence work
- we are also currently involved in further joint work on Children's Safeguards
- we are working with the Prisons Inspectorate on arrangements for inspecting resettlement, in the context of the developing plans for inspection of offender management

Published thematic reports can be found [here](#), and the inspection findings page of our website can be found [here](#).

## YOT Inspections

The YOT inspection programme commenced in mid 2003 and will cover all 155 YOTs in England and Wales over a 5 year period. The inspection is being undertaken jointly by nine criminal justice and other inspectorates, led by HMI Probation.

The programme will run alongside and complement the Joint Area Reviews of Children's Services now being developed, which OFSTED will lead.

We published the annual report on the first phase of the YOT inspections on 10/09/04.

Reports published to date are:

Cardiff	(04/08/04)
Conwy & Denbighshire	(30/04/04)
County Durham	(04/08/04)
Halton & Warrington	(31/03/04)
Havering	(21/06/04)
Lancashire	(22/07/04)
Leicestershire	(08/09/04)
Milton Keynes	(20/04/04)
Sheffield	(26/04/04)
Slough	(25/08/04)
Stoke-on-Trent	(01/09/04)

The reports can be found on YOT Inspection report page on our website [here](#).

We have also completed inspections in Suffolk, Oxfordshire, Enfield, and Neath Port Talbot. These reports will be published shortly.

YOT inspections due to take place during October 2004 to April 2005:

- Medway Week 2 w/c 04 Oct
- N. Tyneside Week 1 w/c 04 Oct  
Week 2 w/c 08 Nov
- Lambeth Week 2 w/c 11 Oct
- Cumbria Week 1 w/c 11 Oct  
Week 2 w/c 22 Nov
- Salford Week 2 w/c 25 Oct
- Thurrock Week 2 w/c 01 Nov
- Stockport Week 1 w/c 01 Nov  
Week 2 w/c 06 Dec
- Islington Week 1 w/c 08 Nov  
Week 2 w/c 13 Dec
- Tower Hamlets Week 1 w/c 22 Nov  
Week 2 w/c 10 Jan
- Merthyr Tydfil Week 1 w/c 29 Nov  
Week 2 w/c 24 Jan
- Kingston upon Hull Week 1 w/c 06 Dec  
Week 2 w/c 31 Jan
- Bristol Week 1 w/c 13 Dec  
Week 2 w/c 07 Feb
- Wrexham Week 1 w/c 10 Jan  
Week 2 w/c 14 Feb
- Worcs & Herefordshire Week 1 w/c 24 Jan  
Week 2 w/c 21 Feb
- Barking & Dagenham Week 1 w/c 31 Jan  
Week 2 w/c 28 Feb
- Devon Week 1 w/c 07 Feb  
Week 2 w/c 07 Mar
- Sefton Week 1 w/c 14 Feb  
Week 2 w/c 04 Apr
- Somerset Week 1 w/c 21 Feb  
Week 2 w/c 11 Apr
- Derby City Week 1 w/c 28 Feb  
Week 2 w/c 18 Apr
- Walsall Week 1 w/c 07 Mar  
Week 2 w/c 25 Apr

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Details on all current HMI Probation inspections programmes can be found [here](#).

## Staff Contact Details

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We always welcome feedback on our publications. If you would like to comment on this newsletter please **email** our Media & Publications officer, Zach Rathore.  
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