 **Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs) update**



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| Why am I receiving this information?We are writing to provide an update on what is happening with OBPs in prisons. We understand this is a difficult time and want to make sure you are kept up to date with OBP information.**Why were programmes paused?**The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we have needed to make lots of changes to the way that we live and work to protect ourselves, and each other. Pausing the delivery of OBPs was done for this reason. **So what is happening now?**We have now re-started programmes in some prisons, making sure to think about the health and safety of everybody involved. We also know that the pause in OBP delivery has created a lot of worry. We will continue to deliver as much as we can where it is safe to, but there will be differences in different prisons, based on the local situation. **How might programmes now be different?**Before COVID-19 most of our OBPs were delivered face to face in large groups but now we can’t deliver in this way. We have new ways to deliver most programmes in smaller groups or one to one. Sometimes some of this can be over video and telephone but not the whole programme. This means we can re-start OBP delivery but it also means the number of places for programmes is much lower. We keep looking at what we can do differently. Will the prison I am at deliver everything the same?Which programmes prisons deliver will vary because of a range of things – what staff are available and what they are trained in, what rooms can be used, as well as the prison regime and the safety information around COVID-19. It’s possible that after we re-start we might have to pause again, depending on local information. All our delivery plans will be reviewed as we see how COVID-19 progresses as the safety of both staff and residents remains very important. **How are programmes places being provided?**We are regularly reviewing lists of referrals to make sure programme places are offered in as fair a way as possible. We are prioritising places based on risk and release/end of tariff date. We know the impact the reduction in programme spaces can have and we are talking to the Parole Board and Probation colleagues about how we manage this. At the moment we can only offer programme spaces to people who are already at the site where the programme is running, but we are also finding those cases where residents need to transfer and looking at ways to help do this. **If I have questions who can I contact?**If you are at an OBP delivery site please contact your local programmes Treatment Manager or, if you are not at a site that runs OBPs or the OBP you might be referred for, you can ask your keyworker or Offender Manager.  |  |



