**Gold Brief - Live Testing strategy and Benefits Mapping – 08/06/21**

Dear Executive Directors, Directors and Governors,

*This briefing provides information on two subjects:*

1.Future Regimes Live Testing Strategy.

As per the attached document, establishments are asked to consider becoming a “regime testing site”(in a very simple process!) by either expressing an interest in testing the regime delivery ideas mentioned in the document on pages 2/3(especially as some of sites have been working on some of them already) or sharing additional ideas not included in the list that governors/directors would like to see in the future regimes and think they are worth sharing with other sites.

This will inform both Stage 1 framework planning as well as our Spending Review bid and in these ways allow governors/directors to influence the shape of future regimes.

Please send any questions/queries to Chris.Gunderson@justice.gov.uk and Milosz.bruski1@justice.gov.uk.

If their PGD is content, governors/directors are kindly asked to express an interest to Chris and Milosz in testing the ideas from the document(chosen by the establishment) or adding and testing new ideas. Naturally, this is completely voluntary but we hope that many of you would be able to join this.

2.Benefits Mapping exercise

Invited governors have been already contacted in relation to this.

Both of those projects are coordinated together but are focusing on different aspects thus a site can both participating in live testing and benefits mapping- and both are certainly being done in the simplest possible way and is intended to be an “unbureaucratic” process recognizing the pressures that governors/directors are experiencing. More details below.

As you know we are refining the design of Stage 1 regimes and are looking to develop solid costs for elements of the regime to inform planning and to support any case for funding via SR.  We are particularly keen to ensure we are not including anything in stage 1 that is not deliverable within the overall financial envelope and to expose the trade-offs and hidden consequences in order to deliver it within existing resources, and areas where investment would offer results. We have therefore developed two projects to be delivered at pace in June.

Firstly an **Agile Regime Testing process** open to volunteer prisons who will live test elements of future regime design ideas or for us to see local plans being delivered and to use these as national pilots within stage 2 to potentially roll out further from stage 1.

Alongside this a **Benefits Mapping Exercise** with a smaller number of identified prisons to test the viability of stage 1 elements such as minimum standards/red flags set at different levels to assess the cost neutral approach and deliver reasonable standards above the regime red flags at all prisons.  The sites we have selected to test in are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cat D | **Hollesley Bay** |
| Women’s | **Send** |
| LTHSE | **Full Sutton** |
| Cat C Trainer | **The Mount** |
|  | **Berwyn** |
| Cat B Local | **Hewell** |
|  | **Birmingham** |

Any concerns regarding site selection should be escalated by the Governor or PGD as soon as possible please.

These two projects will collectively feed into Stage 1 planning and the SR narrative by generating costs we can upscale to the national level. I welcome your support for these pieces of work, both to identify sites able to engage in live tests at stage 2 and supporting us working with the identified prisons engaged in benefits mapping. I have provided further details on both projects.

The attached document introduces live testing and the summary below also introduces benefits mapping which again is based on prisons that have expressed an interest in sharing their local plans and to work with us on this exercise. These pieces of work will not be completed for stage 1 in June but by early July.  We will therefore feed both into a v2.0 of the stage 1 design which we will publish in July, following on from the higher level model that POMC agree for June publication.

Governors/Directors who have got the capacity and would like to participate in the “agile live testing”(whether that’s the ideas from the document or some other ideas suggested by establishments), please confirm that your PGD is content with this and then express the interest to Chris and Milosz who will be coordinating the process. (Chris.Gunderson@justice.gov.uk; Milosz.bruski1@justice.gov.uk)

**Stage 1 Benefits Mapping Exercise**

The benefits mapping exercise will be undertaken by the Resourcing Team reporting to Linda Hennigan and coordinated by Tom Head and Dan Billingham. A small team will visit selected sites and review the list of ideas for potential inclusion in their future regime delivery plans (those held locally) to draw specific comparison between pre covid and stage 1 delivery looking at operational resilience impacts (eg it can be delivered within cost neutral basis but what are the operational costs and if we need X staff resources to deliver it, where do these come from and what does it mean in terms of resilience in other areas) plus associated resource requirements. This will look at key areas of delivery:

* Core day
* Activity spaces
* On wing regime offer
* Supplementary regime
* Daily staffing requirements
* Prisoner cohorts
* Wing staffing levels
* Droppable tasks

In addition, the team will seek to explore wider benefits to Safety, Security, Reducing Reoffending and Partnership Enablement. This work will be completed between 7th - 21st June and comprise a half a day visit to site with required input from members of the local management team and staff group who can speak to delivery requirements pre-covid and who are informing planning for Stage 1. For example, the Head of Business Assurance, Reducing Reoffending and those in roles with oversight of daily staffing arrangements such as Oscar 1 and the People Hub.

Many thanks,

Ed

