**Gold Briefing - Structured On Wing Activity (06.08.21)**

Dear Executive Directors, Directors and Governors

As you are aware we have recently published version 1.0 of the Stage 1 model, progression mechanics and SOP. The Gateway to stage 1 has also subsequently been opened.

We recognise that many prisons are not in a position to apply for progression to stage 1 at this point but are looking to enhance regimes following the recent relaxation of restrictions in the community.  We have received several requests from establishments to provide examples of Structured On Wing Activity (SOWA) which can be introduced to enhance or supplement the traditional activities in prisons for regime groups or prisoner cohorts. Prisons need to still maintain overall focus on progression through the stages at the earliest safe opportunity. Though we support prisons enhancing regime at their current stage this is not a substitution for progression to the next stage, which must always be the priority where it can be achieved.

SOWA is extracurricular, enrichment activity sessions delivered largely on or around residential units (but can be anywhere subject to local physical layout). SOWA may be staff or prisoner led, individual or group activities that are informal or formal in design. They do not need to be formally accredited or linked to a sentence plan requirement but are intended to provide enrichment, skills and opportunities for prisoners and staff who participate. SOWA can include events, charity work, interactive sessions, support groups and individual activities that are delivered in or out of cells to enhance traditional activities. SOWA has grown during COVID restrictions as establishments have needed to become more flexible in regime delivery and to offer different forms of activity during periods of reduced movement.

There is an existing EDM on SOWA, covering delivery possible at Stages 3 and 2 under COVID restrictions. Activity must be compliant with the EDM requirements in a COVID safe way and should still minimise movement and mixing and follow the COVID restrictions operating at each regime stage, set out in the appropriate SOPs. However establishments can locally determine what SOWA looks like at their site provided it is risk assessed and endorsed by the PGD.

To support prisons to introduce or increase their local offer of SOWA we are establishing a national document of SOWA examples based on what prisons are running or planning to introduce locally. The aim of this guidance is simply to share ideas for local consideration. Therefore, we would like prisons to share with us any ideas or local examples of SOWA that you have introduced or plan to. Please share anything you think may be of use to other sites. If possible, please provide responses by close on Monday ***16August*** so we can publish this nationally as a set of examples and ideas. We are attaching a template that can be used to share the ideas, but if you have existing documentation describing an idea, please simply share this instead.

Please send all responses to **jess.tucknutt@justice.gov.uk** or **Milosz.Bruski1@justice.gov.uk**

Thank you in advance for your submissions and for your continuous and significant efforts towards COVID recovery

**Chris Gunderson**

**For COVID Gold Command**

