

7 December 2018

Issue #1

UNISON'S LET'S FIX PROBATION CAMPAIGN

UNISON has launched a major campaign to oppose the Government's proposals for the future of Probation and to call for the Service to be reunified as a locally run and locally accountable public service.

The Government has set out its plans for the future of the Service in its consultation paper 'Strengthening Probation, Building Confidence'. Following the damning report into the failure of Transforming Rehabilitation by the Justice Select Committee in June this year, many were shocked when the Ministry of Justice responded to the Select Committee by proposing more of the same! The MOJ wants to continue with the disastrous split in the Service between NPS and the CRCs and to reward the failing private companies with even bigger CRC contracts!

The MOJ officials in charge of TR have clearly not yet come to terms with the strength of opposition to TR, or accepted responsibility for the damage which TR has caused to service users, victims, communities and probation staff.

But all is definitely not lost. First the MOJ has got to persuade the Treasury and the Cabinet Office that its proposals are sound and good value for the public purse. The MOJ also has to go back in front of the Justice Select Committee early next year to account for its decision to propose to carry on with TR as if nothing had happened.

If MOJ officials can't persuade their colleagues at the Treasury and Cabinet Office that their plan is sensible then it will not go ahead. And of course we all know that the proposals in 'Strengthening Probation...' are neither sound, nor good value.

WHAT'S UNISON CALLING FOR?

UNISON's Let's Fix Probation Campaign is calling for the following clear and sensible objectives:

- The CRCs brought back into public ownership
- Probation Reunification
- The re-creation of Local Probation Services, as public sector bodies/employers
- All CRC and NPS work/staff in England to be transferred into the new Local Probation Services
- Local democratic accountability and funding for the new Local Probation Services via the offices of Police and Crime Commissioners and/or Elected Mayors
- The work of NPS Wales and the Wales CRC to be combined in a new unified, delivery organisation, or organisations, following an all Wales consultation on appropriate boundaries
- The reform of Her Majesty's Prisons and Pro-

bation Service (HMPPS) to protect the integrity and independence of Probation and to devolve political control of Probation from Ministers to local level

- A guarantee of no compulsory redundancies for staff in NPS and CRCs and the protection of pay and conditions, including pensions, via a national collective agreement with the employers.
- Funding from the Treasury to provide for the reconstruction of Probation in recognition of the failure of the TR experiment, including money for pay reform and harmonisation across the probation service

UNISON will be taking our campaign to MPs and to Parliament. We are aiming to work with like minded organisations to oppose the Ministry of Justice's flawed rescue plan for Probation and to put our own plan into place. We already have support in many quarters.

HMPPS TO CONSULT UNIONS ON MoJ PROPOSALS

At the same time as campaigning for our rescue plan for Probation, UNISON will be taking part in the consultation which HMPPS has started in relation to its plans.

We obviously have to be in these talks to put forward our alternative vision for Probation to protect members' interests.

UNISON has made clear to HMPPS that taking part in these consultations does not mean that we agree with the Government's proposals; we don't.



**DON'T LOSE
SLEEP OVER
YOUR JOB
SECURITY.**

**OUR HELPLINE
STAYS OPEN
UNTIL MIDNIGHT.**

From
£1.30
a month

Join UNISON now.
Call free on **0800 171 2193** or visit joinunison.org

JOIN UNISON NOW

CALL FREE ON 0800 171 2193 OR VISIT WWW.JOINUNISON.ORG

After 5 years of disruption and heartache for Probation staff, whatever the future for Probation, there is going to be more change. That is inevitable. UNISON hopes that it is change for the better and the re-establishment of Local Probation Services free from the centralising grip of HMPPS. At times of change you need a trade union at your back, to look out for your interests and protect you.

So if you are not already a member of a trade union, join UNISON now.

