HM Prison & Probation Service

Probation Service

# Probation Explained: Roles, Risk Management and Working with Education

## Understanding responsibilities and collaboration in rehabilitation

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# Probation

There are **12** Probation regions across England and Wales; 11 in England and one covering Wales.

The London Probation Service is organised into **12** Probation Delivery Units (PDUs).

The local PDU to Hillingdon is the Ealing and Hillingdon PDU which comprises of:

**Ealing Probation Office**
**Acton Probation Office**
**Uxbridge Probation Office**
**Ealing Magistrates Court**
**Uxbridge Magistrates Court**

Our PDU currently manages **2258 cases** (07/05/2026)

# UNDERSTANDING PROBATION AND ITS CORE FUNCTIONS

# WHAT PROBATION IS AND WHO WE SUPERVISE

## Our Role

Probation supervises adults sentenced by courts or released from custody to ensure compliance and reduce reoffending.

## Our core functions are:

**Public Protection**

**Reducing Re-offending (Rehabilitation)**

**Preventing Victims**

# MANAGING COMMUNITY ORDERS AND LICENCES

**Community Orders Overview**:

Community Orders involve court-imposed sentences served outside prison with requirements like supervision and rehabilitation.

**Licences and Conditions**:

Licences govern early release with restrictive conditions such as curfews, exclusion zones, and mandatory meetings.

**Impact on Education:**

Strict licence conditions can create pressures affecting parents' school engagement and emotional stability.

**Enforcement and Rehabilitation**

Probation balances enforcement with rehabilitation, acting proportionately based on engagement and compliance.

# Legislative Changes

## What is changing?

**Post-Sentence Supervision (PSS) ended on 11 May 2026 following legislative changes.**

**This means:**

Individuals released from short custodial sentences will no longer be supervised under PSS. Probation supervision will now apply only where there is:

A licence

A community-based order

**What this means for schools:**

Some parents who were previously supervised after their licence ended will no longer have probation oversight

# YOUTH JUSTICE TRANSITIONS AND PROBATION INTERVENTIONS

# TRANSITION FROM YOUTH JUSTICE TO ADULT PROBATION

**Shift in Management Approach**

Transition from youth justice to probation marks a shift from a **child first** approach to focus on public protection and reducing re-offending.

**Broadened Focus in Probation**

Probation manages adult offending patterns, victim concerns, and long-term risk with clearer compliance expectations.

**Role of Schools and Agencies**

Schools play a crucial role in sharing information during this period to support risk management and additional support needs.

**Understanding Cultural Change**

Recognising probation's structural and cultural differences helps contextualise behaviour and engagement for education professionals.

# INTERVENTIONS DELIVERED BY PROBATION

**One-to-One Supervision**:

Probation involves direct supervision focused on addressing offending behaviour and individual risks with evidence-based approaches.

**Targeted Accredited Programmes**:

Probation delivers programmes addressing violence, substance misuse, and emotional regulation to reduce reoffending.

**Support with Stability**:

Support for accommodation, employment, and stability is critical as instability increases risk and reoffending likelihood.

**Safeguarding and Risk Management**:

Probation embeds safeguarding and risk reviews, sharing information with agencies and participating in multi-agency panels.

# ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE IN PRACTICE

**Legal Basis of Enforcement**

Enforcement in probation is legally required and triggered by missed appointments or breach of conditions.

**Decision-Making Criteria**

Enforcement decisions are based on evidence, risk assessment, and proportionality to ensure fairness and safety.

**Impact on Schools and Parents**

Enforcement actions can seem sudden to schools but reflect legal responsibilities and public protection duties.

**Importance of Early Information Sharing**

Early communication between schools and probation services helps identify issues and prevent escalation.

# SERVICE PRESSURES, INFORMATION SHARING, AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

# Current challenges:

**Current Operational Pressures**:

Resourcing challenges, workload and significant number of changes that are being implemented as part of the Independent Sentencing Review (ISR)

**‘Red status’**:

As part of a national measure for PDUs with resourcing issues, Ealing and Hillingdon operates under ‘Red status’. This means that some people on probation would be seen less frequently than business as usual. This does not apply to High and very high-risk cases or active child protection.

**Strengths in information sharing**:

Information sharing across partners, assists in effective management of people on probation. We have access to Hillingdon CSC database and work closely with all other local authorities where a child of a person on probation resides.

# INFORMATION SHARING WITH EDUCATION

**Collaboration for Safeguarding**:

Information sharing between education and probation is essential for effective child safeguarding and risk assessment.

**Person-Based Record System**:

Probation searches records by the parent's details, not by the child's, requiring accurate identifying information.

**Legal and Data Protections**:

Information is shared within legal frameworks ensuring confidentiality and appropriate action based on assessed relevance.

**Early Communication Benefits**

Sharing concerns early,, improves risk management and strengthens safeguarding outcomes.

## Final Message

Working together improves safeguarding outcomes

**Education and Probation play different roles — but we both have the same goal.**

## Questions and Queries

If you have a safeguarding-related query or would like further clarification following today's session, please contact:

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