Offender Skills and Employment in England: Transforming delivery – a continuing story

Jane Bateman
Head of Social Mobility Unit
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Context of Offender Skills and Employment in England

• Government’s target is to reduce re-offending by ten per cent by 2010 - improving offenders’ skills and job prospects is a key part of that.

• My Unit’s budget £153.9m ($304.8m) for 2009-10

• Prison population 84,000 and approximately 200,000 offenders supervised in the community
Approach to Transforming Services

1. Review of the starting position

2. The policy solution

3. Looking to the future
The starting position: why a need for transformation?

• A service focused on ‘education’ and not on the skills needed to get and retain a job;

• A delivery system that was disengaged from the country’s main education systems, leading to:
  – quality issues;
  – difficulties with escalating problems and with the government asserting its purchasing power;
  – problems with targets and outcome expectations;
  – staff recruitment, quality and development issues;

• Incoherent funding arrangements – especially around distribution of funding.
The starting position: why a need for transformation?

Questions and answers
The policy solution – building blocks

• A managed, cross government programme with powerful and active Ministerial engagement

• Serious financial investment

• A determined move towards delivery by and through ‘mainstream’ arrangements

• Dedicated, local strategic management

• Inspection - exactly as for everyone else
The policy solution: committing to the way forward


Next Steps – The Key Agenda

- Engaging with employers
- Emphasis on learning, skills and jobs in prisons and on probation
- Building offender learning and skills services through a campus model

... and, without over-claiming ...
Trend of Re-offending 2001 - 2007

Male
Female
Total
Linear (Total)
The policy solution

Questions and answers
Looking to the future

• Rolling out the Virtual Campus

• Pushing on with the partnership agenda, moving towards shared targets:
  – Balanced scorecard
  – Data exchange
Looking to the future

• Rigorous performance management that doesn’t tolerate failures

• A refreshed policy document, setting out a new strategic direction?
Looking to the future

Questions and answers
Contact

E: jane.bateman@bis.gsi.gov.uk

T: 0011 44 203 300 8241

W: www.bis.gov.uk