

A guide to housing options for offenders (England)

Positive steps and good practice in preventing homelessness and improving access to housing amongst offenders and their families

V1.0

October 2017



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Introduction

This guide has been developed to help local authorities in England, and their partners, in dealing with homelessness approaches by offenders and their families. The guide sets out current legislative obligations for local housing authorities and provides links to other useful sites.

Within the scope of this guide are offenders who are;

- subject to custodial or community sentences
- on remand
- those on probation
- those who have been released on license
- those subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

This guide is by no means exhaustive – it is intended as a starting point in assisting offenders and their families in the prevention of homelessness and gives links to relevant websites with in-depth advice and information.

All NHAS members, local authority frontline officers, voluntary agency members and Local Citizens Advice have access to the NHAS Consultancy Line to assist them with any advice issues relating to offenders and their families. Consultancy line numbers can be found on our website: www.nhas.org.uk

This guide represents only the views of practitioners working with offenders. Local authorities are encouraged to seek specific independent advice to satisfy themselves on any issues or questions raised.

To accompany the guide, a series of factsheets are available on the **NHAS website** which are designed for the use of offenders and those working with offenders in an advice or support capacity.



Before sentencing – bail and remand

Where a court directs that someone is remanded in custody, they will be held until the point of their hearing or trial. A court will only remand defendants in particular circumstances, where there is a reasonable prospect of a custodial sentence if convicted and there are substantial grounds for believing the defendant would commit further offences whilst on bail, or may not attend their trial. In deciding whether to grant bail, the court will consider a number of factors including;

- the nature and severity of the crime
- the character of the defendant
- any previous criminal record
- associations and ties within the community
- the strength of evidence against the defendant
- the defendant's previous commitment to bail conditions

Remand prisoners have different entitlements than those who have already been convicted, including a continued entitlement to housing benefit (see below).

Alternatively, someone may be granted bail until their hearing or trial. Bail means the person may be required to comply with certain specified conditions, including those relating to residing at a designated place. Additional conditions may be attached, such as;

- not contacting certain people
- surrendering a passport to police to prevent travel outside the UK
- reporting to a police station at agreed times, e.g. once a week

Following arrest, someone may be bailed by the police or have bail granted by the court. Where bailed from court, the court is likely to require that an address is provided where the offender will stay. This can be an address belonging to family or friends (provided that the offender can show they have permission to stay there).

In instances where an individual does not have suitable accommodation available to them, alternative options are available, including the Bail Accommodation and Support Service (BASS). BASS provides accommodation and support to people who would normally be living in the community on bail or home detention curfew, but who do not have a suitable home address. It offers accommodation with extra support for those who need it, during the period of their bail or Home Detention Curfew (HDC) licence. Those persons suitable for the BASS service have either been bailed by the courts prior to trial or after conviction (but prior to sentencing).

In order for an individual to be granted bail by the police, they may be required to provide an address at which they usually reside.



How does sentencing work?

There are four main types of sentence a court can impose where someone is convicted of a criminal offence in the UK:

- Conditional Discharge
- Fine
- Community sentence
- Prison sentence

Discharges and fines are generally given for less serious crimes and do not impose any restrictions or conditions on the offender other than financial penalty in the case of a fine. Conditional discharge means that no further action will be taken unless another offence occurs within a time set by the court (usually 3 years)

A Community Order means that although the offender will not have to go to prison, the court will punish the offender by requiring them to engage in specific activities to address the factors that contribute to their offence. They will be under the supervision of probation services or an electronic monitoring company. A community order, which can last up to 3 years, allows the court to select from a range of specific requirements. For example, this may mean that the court can order the offender to stay at a specific address, or to impose a curfew to control what times they must be at home or to receive health related treatment. This could also mean that the offender is required to meet with a probation officer regularly or, if they are aged 18-24, go to an attendance centre.

Prison sentences take several different forms. Offenders serving determinate sentences that are of a fixed duration will normally be released at the half way point in their sentence and be subject to supervision in the community for the second part of their sentence. Since the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014, all offenders released on licence from custodial sentences of more than one day will be supervised in the community for at least 12 months (either on licence or on a combination of licence and a new post-sentence supervision period). Release can come earlier than half way through the sentence if the prisoner becomes eligible for Home Detention Curfew or for Release on Temporary License. If an offender does not comply with the terms of their license, they may be sent back to prison. See *What happens when a prisoner is released* (below).

Those convicted of an indeterminate sentence (for example a life sentence) will be considered for release by the Parole Board and will only be released if the Parole Board consider it safe to do so. Those serving life sentences once released will spend the rest of their life on licence.



What happens when someone goes into prison?

When a court imposes a custodial sentence, the prisoner will not be allowed to speak to family or friends whilst awaiting transfer to prison. Some prisoners may have the opportunity to speak to their solicitor before being transferred who can pass on messages to family and friends, but this is by no means certain. Many offenders will not expect to receive a custodial sentence at court, so when a custodial sentence is given it can leave offenders and their families ill prepared. Where possible, agencies should help to manage expectations where someone is at risk of a custodial sentence and help in taking necessary steps to protect the home at the earliest opportunity.

The support a prisoner can expect will depend on the sentence they received. Generally, prisoners with shorter sentences will be supported by the relevant Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) within the prison, although some may be supervised by The National Probation Service. In either case, the CRC or probation representative can offer help with the prisoners' housing situation, for example by contacting the council on the prisoner's behalf. Authorities should work closely with CRC and probation representatives from as early as possible to reduce the risk of prisoners being released without any accommodation available to them.

It should be noted that those with very short sentences may not have time to get an appointment with a CRC or probation worker before release. A list of current CRC suppliers can be found [here](#).

Prisoners with a sentence of 12 months or more will be allocated an offender manager, who are appointed by Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service. The offender manager is responsible for the prisoner for the whole of their sentence, including any community sentence following release. This would also apply to sentences carried out wholly in the community (known as release on license). The offender manager has a broad role in integrating the offender back into a settled way of life in the community, which may include help in finding suitable housing for the offender in order to reduce the risk of reoffending.



Keeping a home whilst in prison

Tenancies

Wherever possible, priority should be given to keeping up rent payments during the period of custody. This could be done by arranging for a spouse/ partner to continue to pay the rent (and if applicable to claim housing benefit in their own right). A spouse or civil partner of the prisoner sometimes has a right to continue paying the rent whether or not they are named on the tenancy agreement.

If the prisoner holds a tenancy, the tenancy will continue provided that the prisoner intends to return to their home in the future. Previous case law* has confirmed that even where a prisoner is given a long sentence, provided their rent is maintained, the property is looked after and there is an intention to return, then the tenancy will continue.

Anyone else who remains in the property does not have an automatic right to continue paying the rent, but could try to come to an arrangement with the landlord, as long as the prisoner intends to go back to the property when released. The tenancy will not end when someone goes into prison and the tenancy will continue in the prisoner's name, unless it is brought to an end by the prisoner or their landlord. Guidance on ending tenancies can be found on the [Shelter website](#),

For those renting privately, there is no special reason for a landlord to end the tenancy of someone who is given a prison sentence. The landlord may still use the same processes as for any other private tenants however, such as [giving notice under s.21 of the Housing Act 1996](#) to bring the tenancy to an end.

* see *Amoah v Barking and Dagenham LBC [2001] 82 P&CR DG6*

Subletting

Occupiers should be aware that subletting the whole of the property without the landlord's permission will usually breach the terms of their tenancy and could lead to possession action against them. There is a difference between subletting the property (where the occupier moves out and accepts rent from the subtenant), and having someone else stay in the property and pay rent on their behalf.

Where someone is in custody, their tenancy will continue provided that they intend to return to their home when released. If someone else will stay in the property whilst the tenant is in custody, the landlord should be made aware of the arrangement, particularly where it is likely to be for a significant period of time.



Mortgaged property

Contractual mortgage payments must be maintained during the period of the prison sentence in order to reduce the risk of possession action by the lender. If there is another person left in the property, such as the prisoner's spouse, they can continue to make payments even where they are not named on the mortgage. This could extend to other family members or friends provided that the contractual payment is maintained. It should be noted that anyone paying the mortgage whilst the prisoner is in custody will not automatically gain any rights of ownership toward the property. This is a complicated area of law and specialist advice should be sought.

Where the contractual payment can't be met, then the lender should be notified as soon as possible. If the sentence is likely to be short, then it may be easier to negotiate a temporary solution with the lender (such as a period of interest only payments). In some circumstances, a prisoner or their spouse / partner may be able to claim support for mortgage interest (see below).



Housing benefit and support for mortgage interest

Housing benefit

Where someone is taken into custody and is in receipt of housing benefit, payments can continue for a defined period of time;

- For up to 13 weeks, provided there is an expectation to return home within that time (for example, if the sentence is 26 weeks or less)
- For up to 52 weeks where a prisoner has not been sentenced (either because they are on remand awaiting trial or have been convicted and are awaiting sentence), or where the prisoner is living in a bail or probation hostel and is bailed to live away from home.

At the point the offender is sentenced, housing benefit payments will stop unless they are still expected to return home within 13 weeks. The 13-week time limit is strict, but does take account of any remission the offender is entitled to, or any likelihood of release on parole.

Where a current or former partner, adult child or other non-dependent remains in the property whilst the tenancy is in custody, they will be treated as liable for rent for housing benefit purposes (regulation 8, HB regulations 2006), and may claim in their own right.

Support for mortgage interest

Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) can help pay towards mortgage interest costs and is available to those who are responsible for mortgage payments and who are eligible for:

- income support
- income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA)
- income-related employment and support allowance (ESA), or
- pension credit.

A prisoner held on remand who is already in receipt of SMI can continue to receive help with housing costs for up to 52 weeks whilst on remand awaiting trial or having been convicted and awaiting sentence. At the point of conviction, entitlement to the above benefits ends which would also bring entitlement to SMI to an end.

A partner remaining in the property would subsequently be able to make a claim for SMI provided that they qualify for one of the above benefits in their own right, but would be subject to the 39-week waiting period for any new claim to SMI. The exception to this is for those in receipt of Pension Credit, who have no waiting time.

A remaining partner does not have to be named on the mortgage, but they must be living at the property to be able to claim. Other family members, such as adult children, would not be able to claim SMI for help toward the mortgage payments.

From April 2018, SMI will change from a benefit to an interest-bearing loan under the provisions of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.



Universal Credit

Although there will be few prisoners in receipt of universal credit, the rules are slightly different. Where someone is renting and is in receipt of the housing costs element of Universal Credit, they will continue to receive this if:

- they were entitled to universal credit immediately before they became a prisoner
- this included the housing costs element, and
- they have been sentenced to a period in custody that is expected to last no more than six months.

Guidance on housing costs under Universal Credit for tenants and homeowners can be found [here](#).



What can local authorities do to prevent homelessness?

As a matter of good practice, statutory and voluntary services should engage with a prisoners' housing needs at the earliest opportunity. This may be with a view to;

- supporting and maintaining the prisoners' tenancy during their time in prison
- helping to bring tenancies to an end where they are not sustainable
- working together with the prisoner prior to release to explore suitable housing options
- avoiding a build-up of rent or mortgage arrears

All local authorities are required to prevent homelessness wherever possible and to provide advice and information to those who need it. Waiting until the point of release often means the prisoner will have no suitable housing available and will put pressure on local authority resources in finding emergency accommodation. This will also often have the effect of placing unnecessary stress on the prisoner (and their families).

There is evidence to show that without stable housing, there is an increased risk of re-offending, which in turn incurs a higher cost to the public purse than where early intervention is in place. Authorities should work closely with CRCs and with the probation service in discussing an offenders housing problems as soon as they come to light.

Homelessness reduction Act

The Homelessness Reduction Act is expected to be enforced in April 2018. The Act will place additional responsibilities on authorities to prevent and relieve homelessness. Currently a council must accept someone as threatened with homelessness if they are at risk of becoming homeless within 28 days. Under the Act, this period increases to 56 days, which will give more time for councils to take preventative action or to relieve homelessness before the situation becomes urgent.

Councils will need to assess all those at risk of homelessness and produce a personalised housing plan, the new duty includes a requirement to help prevent and relieve homelessness regardless of whether a housing duty will be owed by the authority or not. For those in custody, this could mean help with (for example);

- keeping a tenancy
- negotiation with landlords / lenders
- helping to secure accommodation prior to release
- resolving welfare benefit problems

The Act also introduces a statutory duty for certain public bodies to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Local authorities and statutory services will need to work closely in respect of preventing homelessness for offenders or in relieving homelessness for those without accommodation.



Prisoners from outside the UK

Prisons will usually establish a prisoner's immigration status and rights to remain in the UK prior to release through work with the immigration services. Where a non-UK national is in need of housing following a prison sentence, local authorities will need to assess if the applicant is eligible for statutory homelessness assistance. Eligibility rules for foreign nationals who have been in prison are the same for any foreign national in the UK.

Prisoners who do not have a right to remain in the UK will be seen by the immigration services prior to their earliest release date, where they may be removed to an immigration removal centre, or assisted to return home through the [Early Removal Scheme](#).



Housing legislation and prisoners

Homelessness

The legislation relating to prisoners who are homeless or at risk of homelessness comes from Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and (in prospect) by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 requires local authorities to provide assistance in the form of accommodation to applicants who are homeless, eligible, in priority need, not intentionally homeless and who have a local connection to the area in which they apply.

Local authorities must have regard to the [Homelessness Code of Guidance](#) when carrying out their duties under the act.

Priority need

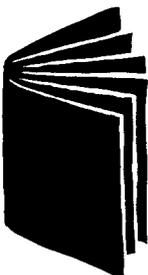
Under the Homelessness (Priority need for accommodation) (England) Order 2002, offenders may be vulnerable (and therefore in priority need) as a result of;

- having served a custodial sentence
- having been committed for contempt of court or a similar offence
- having been remanded in custody.

Chapter 10.24 of the Code of Guidance gives a detailed explanation of what each of these terms means. Authorities will need to assess each case on its own merits, but must pay careful attention to whether the applicant is vulnerable as a result of being in custody. Vulnerability has a specific legal meaning which was clarified in the Supreme Court decision in ***Hotak v Southwark LBC, Kanu v Southwark LBC and Johnson vs Solihull MBC***. To be considered vulnerable, a person must be deemed to be significantly more vulnerable or likely to suffer greater harm when compared to the average person if made homeless.

There are a number of factors listed in the Homelessness Code of Guidance that can help to assess whether an offender may be vulnerable, although this is not exhaustive and each person should be assessed in the context of their individual circumstances. The code suggests that councils must consider;

- the length of time spent in prison or custody
- whether the applicant is receiving probation service supervision
- the time that has lapsed since the applicant was released from prison or custody, and whether the applicant has been able to obtain and maintain accommodation during that period
- whether the applicant has any existing support networks, such as family or friends.



Where an offender has spent a short period in custody, councils should assess priority need with a composite view of the prisoner's circumstances when determining whether or not they are vulnerable. This may include any previous periods of custody and reoffending behaviour.

The NHAS has produced the [Vulnerability Assessment Guide](#) for frontline advisers supporting single people making a homeless application where there may be an issue about priority need.

Intentional homelessness

For a finding of intentional homelessness, there are 3 tests that local authorities must consider;

- the applicant must deliberately have done, or failed to do, something in consequence of which s/he has ceased to occupy accommodation which was available to her/him
- it must have been reasonable for the applicant to continue to occupy the accommodation
- the applicant must have been aware of all the relevant facts before deliberately taking or failing to take the actions. An act or omission in good faith on the part of a person unaware of a relevant fact should not be treated as deliberate.

All of these considerations must be satisfied for intentional homelessness to apply.

Where an offender loses their home as a result of going into prison, local authorities will need to determine if the act that led to a custodial sentence is relevant in determining if the applicant is homeless intentionally. There have been previous court cases* where offenders have been found to be homeless intentionally either as a direct or indirect result of going into prison. This does not mean that all those who lose their home as a result of going into prison will be homeless intentionally, and the Code of Guidance stresses that there should be no blanket approach to assuming offenders will be homeless intentionally.

It must be remembered that the accommodation that was lost as a result of the custodial sentence, had to be of a settled nature. Authorities will need to examine any periods in accommodation since the offender was released to determine whether there has been a break in the chain of causation from the offender losing their home to their presenting as homeless. Authorities must also enquire as to whether any accommodation that was lost as a result of going into prison was available for their occupation and was reasonable for the applicant to continue to occupy.

* See *Minchin v Sheffield City Council* (2000) Times, 26 April, CA; and *R v Hounslow LBC ex parte R* (1997) 29 HLR 939, QBD



Local connection

In some instances, prisoners could be located away from their usual locality and this could lead to an offender presenting to a local authority away from their previous home upon release. A period spent in prison does not give an offender an automatic local connection to the area under the normal residency rules (i.e. having spent 6 of the last 12 months or 3 of the last 5 years in the area). However, a local connection may still be established through family or work.

Local authorities will need to be particularly mindful of whether a connection is established by any other special reason. For example, although an offender may not have a usual connection to the area, they may be required to meet with their probation officer or required to go to an attendance centre in the area. In these circumstances, local authorities will need to consider the practical implications of the offender meeting these commitments if they were referred elsewhere.

Allocation of social housing

The rules for allocating social housing are found in part 6 of the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Localism Act 2011. In the exercise of their functions local authorities must have regard to the [allocations code of guidance](#).

There are no special rules regarding the allocation of housing to offenders, any offender who approaches a local housing authority for help will be treated in the same way as anyone else who applies. Authorities should pay particular attention to whether an offender falls into a category of person who is entitled to reasonable preference for housing;

- homeless people, as defined by Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996
- people living in unsanitary, overcrowded or otherwise unsatisfactory housing conditions
- people with a need to move on medical or welfare grounds, or
- people who need to move to a particular area to avoid hardship

Local authorities may disqualify people from the waiting list on the basis of past conduct, such as antisocial behaviour (ASB). However, if the applicant is convicted of an offence relating to antisocial behaviour the authority must be careful to comply with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Under this act, a 'spent' conviction is treated as though the offence was not committed, so refusing to accept an application on the basis of the conduct which gave rise to the conviction would be unlawful (see *YA v Hammersmith and Fulham LBC [2016] EWHC 1850 (Admin)*).



What happens when a prisoner is released?

When a prisoner is released, they will normally be placed under the supervision of the probation services.

Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

HDC applies to eligible prisoners with a sentence of between three months and four years, who will be released between two weeks and four and a half months of their automatic release date (normally halfway through their sentence). Prisoners on Home Detention Curfew will be required to wear an electronic tag and usually adhere to a curfew time of 7pm to 7am. The terms of the curfew mean that the prisoner must remain at their address during the curfew hours.

Release on Temporary License (ROTL)

ROTL allows prisoners who qualify for the scheme to prepare for their return to the community by making arrangements for employment, housing etc. upon their release. Release on Temporary License can be applied for at any point in the prisoner's sentence, the prisoner will be subject to a strict risk assessment before release is granted and there is no guarantee a prisoner will be successful in their application. Prisoners can be recalled from temporary license at any time and returned to prison, but only usually where license conditions have been breached or there is a threat to the offender's safety in the community.

Transforming rehabilitation – Through the Gate services

Through the Gate services are provided by CRCs within prisons and are designed to better prepare prisoners serving sentences of twelve months or less for a return to normal life. Under the scheme, CRCs will prepare a resettlement plan for a prisoner which can include help to find housing, tackle debt and money problems, seek employment or training or seek help with other problems such as medical issues. The scheme is designed to aid the prisoner both up to and after release, with a view to reducing re-offending in the long term.



MAPPA

As set out in the Criminal Justice Act 2003, Local housing authorities are listed as a duty to co-operate agency and have a duty to co-operate with the responsible authority in cases where the offender is subject to a Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA). The responsible authority is made up of the police, the National Probation Service and The Prison Service acting jointly in each area. The duty to co-operate agencies are required to co-operate as far as they can do so, consistent with the exercise of their other statutory functions.

Although there are no additional housing duties required for those subject to a MAPPA arrangement, local authorities should be aware of the potential difficulties in securing housing for those with a history of violent or sexual offences and should work with the responsible authority in securing suitable accommodation for those subject to a MAPPA arrangement. Furthermore, local housing authorities may have advice about accommodation and the procedures by which it is allocated and the suitability of particular housing stock which is a useful contribution to MAPPA meetings. Further guidance can be found on the Ministry of Justice [MAPPA site](#).



Useful resources

Clinks

Supporting voluntary organisations that work with offenders and their families.

clinks.org

I-Hop

I-Hop is a service for professionals that provides support in working with offenders' children and their families.

i-hop.org.uk

NACRO

NACRO offer resettlement advice to offenders including housing, employment, education and training and health.

0300 123 1999

nacro.org.uk

Offender's Families helpline

For advice and support on all aspects of arrest, going to court and prison

Helpline 0808 808 2003

offendersfamilieshelpline.org

PACT

The Prison Advice and Care Trust is a national charity which supports people affected by imprisonment. We provide practical and emotional support to prisoners' children and families, and to prisoners themselves.

Helpline 0808 808 3444

prisonadvice.org.uk

RECOOP (for age 50+)

Resettlement and care for older offenders and prisoners, offer resources for professionals in contact with older offenders.

Age UK also have a [guide](#) for professionals in supporting older people in prison

recoop.org.uk

St Giles Trust

St Giles trust is a charity helping offenders and disadvantaged people to move their lives forward.

stgilestrust.org.uk

St Mungo's

St Mungo's provide offender services teams in prisons in London and the East, as well as a range of advice and support services in Herts, Bristol, Bath and South Gloucestershire, and outreach services (MAPPA related) in Westminster.

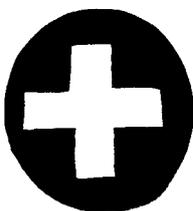
mungos.org

Women in prison

Women in Prison offers dedicated housing support to women affected by the Criminal Justice System both in prison and in the community.

0800 953 0125

womeninprison.org.uk



Positive practice examples

Sandwell council – accommodation and support

Sandwell council has developed a service to help those with a history of offending to access suitable private rented accommodation. The Accommodation and Link Support Officer works with the private rented sector, the Probation Service and the local authority to provide housing for ex-offenders who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

As well as helping clients to find suitable housing, the officer provides a package of support to help clients to sustain their tenancy, including;

- Help with housing benefit forms or other benefit claims
- Attending viewings and negotiating rents/deposits
- Help with any changes in circumstances
- Completing assessments with people in prison
- Resettlement support
- Supporting landlords with direct payments/deposits

The success measures of the project come in getting landlords on-side to provide suitable housing for a client group that can be difficult to help. The officer works closely both with clients and landlords to ensure an appropriate solution is found for all parties and that tenancies are maintained.

For further information, contact Elaine Martin; Elaine_Martin@sandwell.gov.uk

St. Mungo's – Haringey assessment team

St. Mungo's Haringey assessment team carry out housing assessments at probation offices in the format of a housing surgery.

Staff from the assessment and referral team at Haringey Council attend both the CRC and the NPS offices once a week to assess clients with housing issues while they are at probation. They also assess clients in prison via video link. After the initial assessment they will identify whether the client is suitable for the supported housing pathway and will then make referrals into appropriate accommodation. If a client has current access to accommodation which is at risk, then they will provide housing advice.

This set-up has been found to be more user-friendly for clients, and ensures that there is a joined-up approach between St Mungo's, the local authority and probation services.



Rochdale Boroughwide Housing

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing works closely with local partners in helping offenders to secure suitable housing before the point of release. Over time, the housing team has built up relationships with local prison and probation services, the advice and voluntary sector and with local accommodation providers and hostels.

Having a known point of contact has proved to be an invaluable benefit to the team, where individual relationships have often helped overcome barriers in finding accommodation for a traditionally difficult to help client group.

Although the team do deal with emergency cases, every effort is made to work with offenders from the earliest possible point, giving time to plan and prepare for release. Taking steps to help secure suitable accommodation prior to release reduces the burden on the council's homelessness resources, whilst providing stability for offenders leaving prison.

Contact: Sean Landsborough – sean.landsborough@rbh.org.uk

Glossary of terms

- **Bail** – Temporary release from custody whilst awaiting trial.
- **Community Rehabilitation Company** – Under the transforming rehabilitation programme, a company engaged by the government to manage low to medium risk offenders.
- **Community sentence** – Any sentence where the offender is ordered to carry out work in the community or to attend a treatment programme to address their offending behaviour (e.g. a drug treatment programme).
- **Custodial sentence** – Any sentence where the court directs that the prisoner is to be detained, usually in prison.
- **Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service** – A statutory agency with overall responsibility for the running of prison and probation services.
- **Offender Manager** – Where allocated, an offender manager is responsible for the prisoner for the whole of their sentence and has a broad role in assisting offenders to reintegrate into the community and to fulfil any obligations of their remaining sentence.
- **Probation** – A period of supervision for an offender when not in custody, subject to conditions to ensure continued good behaviour.
- **National Probation Service** – A statutory criminal justice service that supervises high-risk offenders released into the community.
- **Remand** – A period where the prisoner is detained pending trial or sentencing following a not guilty plea.

Abbreviations

- **ASB** – Antisocial Behaviour
- **BASS** – Bail Accommodation Support Service
- **CRC** – Community Rehabilitation Company
- **HDC** – Home Detention Curfew
- **HMPPS** – Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service
- **MAPPA** – Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement
- **NPS** – National Probation Service
- **ROTL** – Release On Temporary License
- **SMI** – Support for Mortgage Interest

The NHAS is a Shelter and Citizens Advice service supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

OBR-1261