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National Offender  
Management Service

# Mentoring

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**Mentoring in Criminal Justice**  
**University of Leeds**



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# Overview

- What is NOMS
- Mentoring in NOMS
- Overview of Informal Mentoring Project
- Project expectations
- Model
- Where are we now and next steps
- Your questions



# National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

- NOMS is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, bringing together the former headquarters of the National Probation Service and HM Prison Service to enable more effective delivery of services.



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# Mentoring in NOMS

- Mentoring is widely available in the Criminal Justice System (CJS).
- Models vary in size, scope, target group, aims and objectives.
- Mentoring in the criminal justice context is usually seen as supporting and helping those wishing to stop offending and improving positive life outcomes.
- NOMS is committed to developing and delivering mentoring to offenders aiming to contribute to reducing reoffending and providing value for money

# Informal Mentoring Project

- Builds on the principles of the ‘Big Society’ and Localism which challenges local authorities and communities to be more proactive in crime prevention and reducing reoffending
- Overall aim – within 5 years all convicted prisoners will be offered informal mentoring, to support them in desisting from crime and reintegrating into society
- Informal mentoring in this context can be described as ‘light touch’, it is not time bound or outcome focussed, but has a purpose and is relevant to the individual needs of the offender



# Expectation of project

- To build on existing provision of local volunteer networks
- Integrate informal mentoring into existing provision with the aim to:
  - encourage increased capacity in local communities
  - contribute to local cohesion
  - help de-stigmatise offenders



# Project model

- The model aims to complement, rather than replace formal, mentoring schemes
- Works alongside statutory provision
- The nature of the mentoring offer is based on the agreement and needs of the offender
- The model will draw on the developing theories of desistance
- Pro-social modelling underpins the principle of the offer



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# Where are we now?

- Appointed two voluntary organisations to pilot the project
- Appointed an independent research organisation to work with the pilots over the year and to carry out a process evaluation
- Went live 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011



# To sum up these are the outcomes I am hoping for from the informal mentoring project

- Project designed to pilot and roll out mentoring through the voluntary and community sector *to offenders*
- Develop, test out and evaluate the practicality and effectiveness of a larger scale approach to mobilising volunteer resources from local partners
- Identify ways of ensuring offenders are offered a more consistent approach
- Develop commissioning guidance for mentoring and volunteer services
- Further grant funding over the next 3 years to deliver mentoring and volunteering services



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# Questions?



<http://training.usgs.gov>