

North East Probation – Probation Outreach

[keywords: *engagement*]

Overview

While it's part of the Durham and Darlington PDU, Peterlee is more than an hour from Durham by public transport, and over 90 minutes from Darlington. Historically, accredited programmes and other structure interventions were delivered only in the Durham and Darlington offices. This was significantly impacting on attendance and compliance among people on probation in the Peterlee area – meaning many of them were not getting the interventions they needed and resulting in many of them being breached as a result. In response to a request from Peterlee, a number of programmes and other structured interventions are now offered on an outreach basis in Peterlee and other satellite offices across the PDU.

Its impact

We have seen much higher levels of engagement with programmes and other structured interventions among people on probation in Peterlee, and substantially improved completion rates, as well as a resulting decrease in breaches too. In addition, because they are based in the same building, supervising officers have been able to engage more proactively with programme participants, helping to amplify some of the learning, and maintain and build on their motivation.

What's special about it

We believe that this model was unique to us when first introduced in 2023.

Wider applicability

This approach would be relevant to many other parts of the country and is already being adopted in other parts of the North East region. A similar approach could also be taken in relation to community payback.

Further information

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See also: [KnowX.uk/NorthEast2-KBT24.pdf](https://knowx.uk/NorthEast2-KBT24.pdf) (example feedback)