

### **Arrivals Lounges operated by Shelter, HMPPS Commissioned Rehabilitation Services, Yorkshire and Humberside**

In October 2024 a large group of people were due to be released from prison on the same day as part of the government's SDS 40 strategy whereby people would be released after 40% of their sentence had been served.

To ensure that people were adequately supported, Arrival Lounges were set up in Probation Services across the region. These included staff from the Commissioned Rehabilitation service, a prescriber from the drug and alcohol service and a GP. Housing Options attended in one area but were available on the phone in others.

A series of meetings were held in advance in which the names and support needs of those due for release were shared. This enabled planning to take place in advance with the result that only 2 people were released NFA without an agreed action plan.

The service received positive feedback and the prescribing service was particularly well used and appreciated. The GP was able to do assessments which was invaluable for one person who needed a medical assessment for housing options. As people were released gradually throughout the day, there was no issue with queueing for services.

The initiative was spearheaded by the Probation service and had good engagement from all partners which included the Commissioned Rehabilitation Service, Probation, Drug and Alcohol Services, Local Authority Housing team and relevant Healthcare/GP services.

Challenges remain, notably a lack of available accommodation across the region. It can be very hard to access the Private Rented Sector and there are not enough hostel places to meet the demand. Hostels and supported housing are also struggling with bed blocking as a result of a lack of move on options.

All those released from prison were able to make contact with services in one location on the day of release. Research has shown that the main reasons for people not engaging with their service post-release is either the cost of travelling to the appointment or being overwhelmed by the number of appointments people are asked to attend. The Arrival Lounge removes both of these barriers. It is hoped that the Arrival Lounge model could be continued in the future based at the CFO Hubs.