

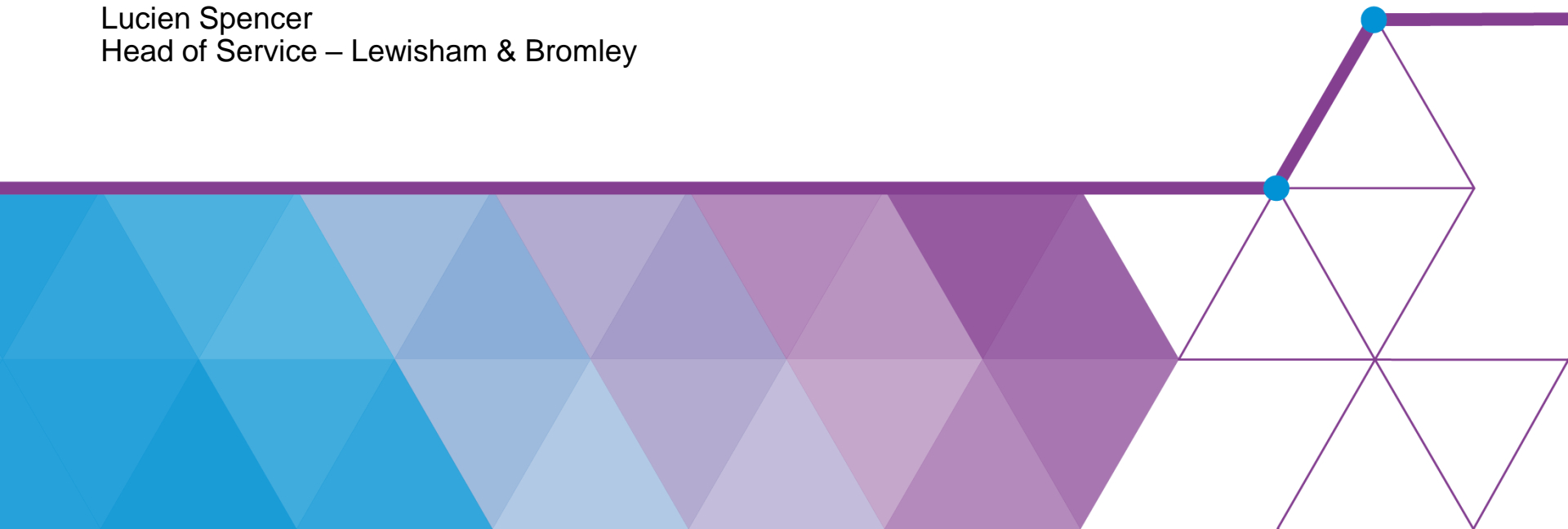


HM Prison &
Probation Service

Community Accommodation Service

A brief overview of accommodation services –
Probation Service

Lucien Spencer
Head of Service – Lewisham & Bromley



Community Accommodation Services (CAS)

- There are currently 3 tiers of accommodation services provided to support those leaving custody

CAS	Type	Eligibility
Tier 1	Approved Premises	Male & Female Reserved for the highest risk and most complex cases Limited bedspace for maximum of 8 weeks 13 AP's in London (available bedspace around 200)
Tier 2	Bail & Accommodation Support (BASS)	Male & Female Commissioned Service Mainly utilised to support release on home detention curfew Residence will be for length of HDC
Tier 3	Homelessness Prevention	New Service Male & Female Maximum 84 days

What is CAS 3: Aims and Objectives

•**Aim:** The aim of the CAS3 service is to ensure that no one leaves prison without the offer of a place to live, from their first night in the community, and to provide a pathway to settled accommodation.

•**Objectives:** The key objectives of the CAS3 service are:

- To ensure that all prison leavers who would otherwise be homeless have access to temporary accommodation for up to 84 days on release or when moving on from CAS1 (Approved Premises) and CAS2 (BASS) provision.
- To support prison leavers to move-on to settled accommodation at three months.
- This provision will provide a critical stabilising environment for people on release from prison from which they can address other aspects of their behaviour linked to their risk of re-offending.



The Accommodation

- Must be available on the Prison Leavers' day of release.
- Must be available for up to 84 nights, although the assumption is that the individual may move on earlier.
- Accommodation from 1-bedroom self-contained units, to a maximum of 4 bed spaces with shared facilities.
- All single gender accommodation, 10% dedicated for sole use by females.
- Accommodation furnished to a serviceable standard/holiday let ready, with a welcome pack of basic food essentials and toiletries.
- The supplier must meet the prison leaver at the property on the day of release for property induction.
- A phased increase to a maximum of just over 300 units is currently underway, having commenced in May 2023
- This is a commissioned service, with the contract award to Housing Action Management (HAM) for the London Region



Who is Eligible?

• The scheme is open to adult prison leavers of all genders who are aged 18 or over and who are:

- At risk of being released as homeless from prison following a custodial sentence to be supervised by the Probation Service; or
- moving-on as homeless from an Approved Premises (CAS1); or
- moving on as homeless following a period at a CAS2 residence.

• And who have;

- given consent to be referred into the service; and
- signed an Accommodation Compact

• CAS 3 is **not** available to:

- Persons on probation subject to a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order only.
- Persons who are released after a period on remand, not under the supervision of the probation service as HMPPS have no statutory responsibility.
- Persons on probation subject to NRPF will not be eligible for CAS3
- Prison leavers who after their release, later become homeless.
- Prison leavers at the point of release on Home Detention Curfew.
- Persons released from custody at Sentence Expiry date (SED).
- Prison leavers where consent has been refused and/or there is a refusal to sign an Accommodation Compact.

Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS)

CRS providers work closely with probation practitioners and community interventions teams to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for people subject to a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order with Rehabilitation Activity Requirements (RAR) and on Licence or Post Sentence Supervision.

CRS providers are commissioned by Regional Probation Directors to deliver the following services:

- Accommodation – pre-release and in the community
- Employment, training and education
- Personal wellbeing
- Finance, benefit and debt
- Dependency and recovery
- Women's Services -provide all of the above as part of a holistic approach to service delivery

- In London the accommodation support service is commissioned to St Mungos / SHP
- There are no accommodation units attached to this provision with the service being solely focused on advice, guidance and signposting

Resettlement Panels

- As to ensure a coordinated response to information sharing around prison leavers, between Probation Services and LA Housing, the London Probation region have implemented resettlement panels
- These panels sit once a month and are chaired by Probation
- The panels will review all cases known to be released within the next 12 weeks, with a focus on those likely to be assessed as being of no fixed abode or with an accommodation need
- Actions arising from these meetings include the completion of the Duty to Refer, a referral to Commission Rehabilitative Service and potentially the referral to CAS3
- The early sharing of this information to local authority housing is expected to improve assessment pathways for those leaving custody, enabling more effective on the day support

Questions?