

Routes into employment for offenders

Lessons learnt from the Dartmoor Rehabilitation Project 2004 - 2010

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- 72% of male and 70% of female sentenced prisoners suffer from two or more mental health disorders. Neurotic disorders are at three times the level of the general population.
- Prison has a poor record for reducing re-offending - 64.7% are reconvicted within two years of being released (75% in young men).
- 30% of people released from prison will have nowhere to live.
- Breaking the cycle of no job, nowhere to live and no money is crucial to reducing re-offending.

- More than half of male and two thirds of female prisoners have no qualifications at all.
- Compelling evidence that **employment** is one of the most effective ways to reduce re-offending.
- In 2008 there was a deficit of over 65,000 workers in the land based sector.
- A great deal of money is spent on training courses for offenders - how much of this is relevant to the likely employment opportunities?
- For manual rural jobs, skills consolidation and mentoring is crucial.





Suitable offenders selected by HMP Dartmoor resettlement staff following risk assessment



Stage 1 - 30 days voluntary work with Dartmoor FC team



Stage 2 - A structured mentoring, skills training and work experience programme. Full time for 6 months (min) - paid



Release - Reference / nationally recognised certificates



Release - Stage 3 (Optional)
3 month contract working for FC following release.



FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

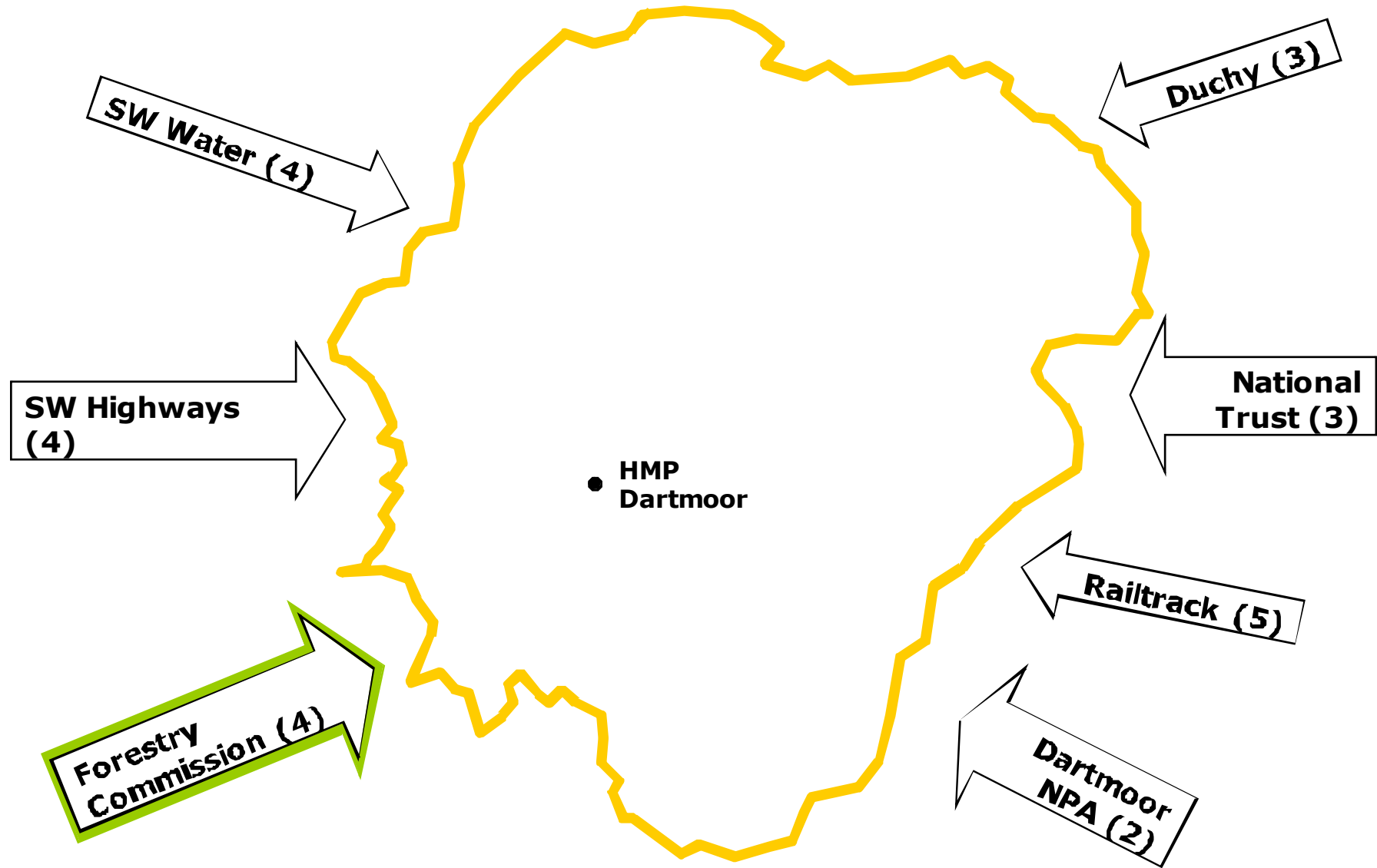
- 20 offenders have completed the programme - 13 are now in full-time employment (65%). Typical jobs have included arboriculture and tree surgery, forestry contracting, landscape gardening, firewood supply and contracting.
- Within the 5 year period only 1 offender has re-offended (breaking bail conditions).
- 10 km of important stream sides have been cleared (biodiversity) and woodfuel supplied for local tourism business and conference centre (sustainable heating).

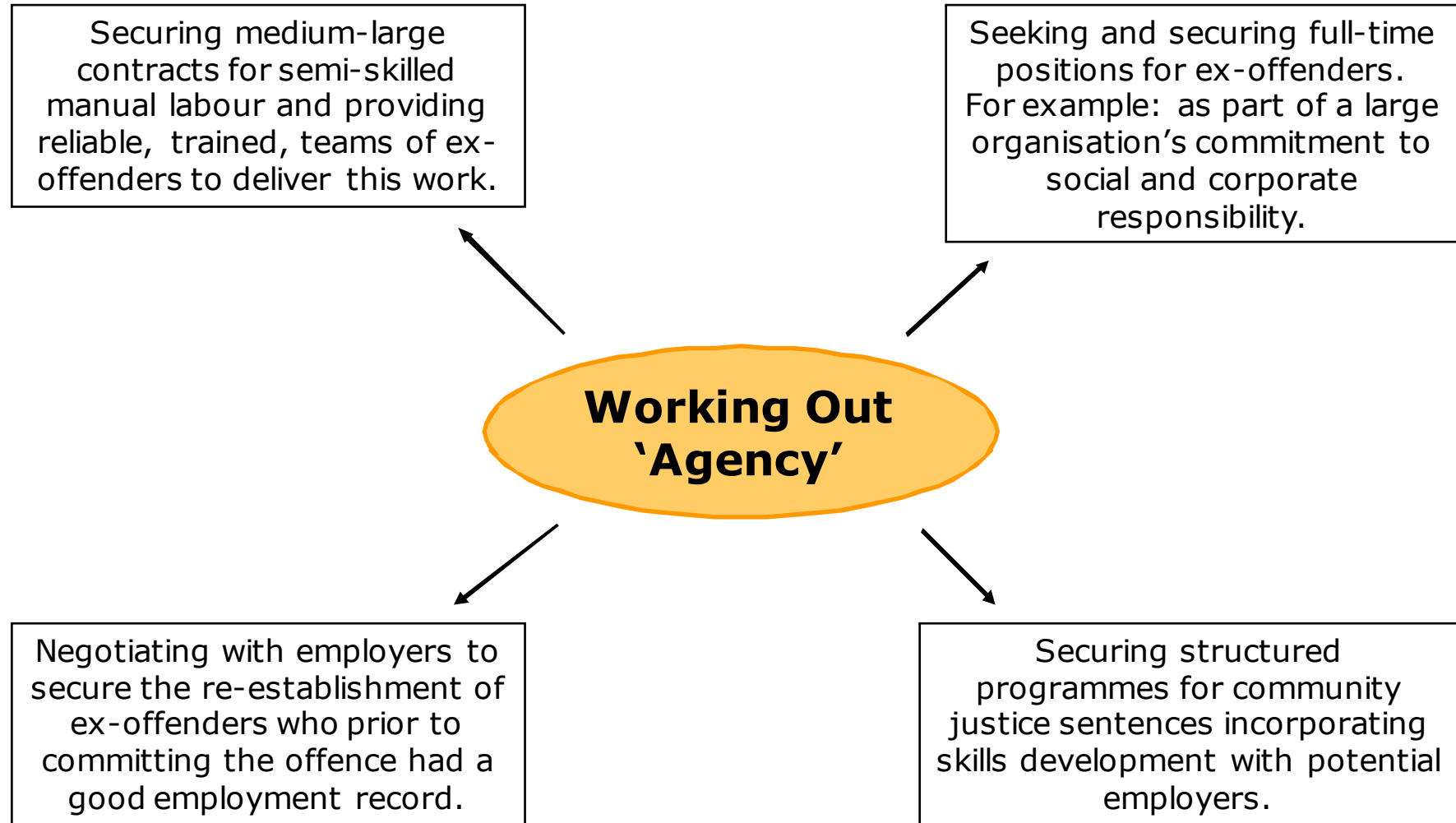
- Every prisoner who re-offends costs the criminal justice system an average of £65,000 up to the point of imprisonment.
- It costs an average of £40,992 / year to keep a person in prison in England and Wales.
- The Dartmoor Rehabilitation Project has cost £16,000 per participant (including in-kind contributions). This could be reduced to £8,000 by reducing the stage 2 payment levels.
- External funding secured has now come to an end - FC budget only £8,000 per year.

Where do we go from here?

HEALTH WARNING!

Expanded ROTL Provision





Questions?

Learning Network opportunities for practitioners engaged in offender employment programmes?