



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

# **Working with offenders**

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**Producing the 2025–2030 Offender Strategy**



# **Childs poem**

**Reasoning for looking at an  
offender strategy rather  
than a prisons strategy**

# Our Mission

United, we seek and find those in need, providing practical support and fellowship in a spirit of justice, while tackling the causes of poverty.



A large, horizontally-oriented oval filled with a solid yellow color. It has a thin, dark red border. The oval is centered on a white background.

**11M**

# Work to date

- Visited 8 projects and spoken to all CSP managers
- Gathered information from the prisons group
- Spent time in both Approved Premises
- Spoken to service users
- Attended a variety of meetings
- Captured information on projects and members work

# Summary of what SVP has been doing

- There are have been three distinct areas of work that support offenders within the SVP
  - Members work
  - CSP work
  - Approved Premises
- These areas tend to work in isolation and although some amazing work is done in each area the crossover is limited

# Members work

- Attending services
- Visiting groups
- Visiting individuals
- Connecting family's
- Arranging grants
- Organising festive gifts
- Arranging transport
- Arranging accommodation





Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Able to respond to local need  Responds quickly to individuals need  Agile enough to react to different issues  Some excellent relationships with chaplaincy in certain prisons</p>	<p>Number of members reducing  Not all prisons / prisoners know about SVP</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Involvement in events like "Prisons Week"  Links to Prison Discharge Hubs  Contacts with prisons where we are not working at present  To widen the network to offenders and families</p>	<p>Prison overcrowding  Lack of onward accommodation</p>

# CSP work

- Working with Probation
- Working with the homeless
- Men's groups
- Family events
- Food banks
- Lunch clubs
- Debt advice
- Housing support



Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Able to respond to local need Offers space and support without judgement Offers Social Value interventions</p>	<p>Not in all areas Sometimes only specific groups included</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Potential revenue Learn from each other</p>	<p>Offending behaviours Lack of Housing</p>

# Approved Premises

- Accommodation
- Early Prison Release
- Manages risky offenders
- Offers Social Value
- Helps offenders settle back into community
- Wrap around support
- MOJ contracts

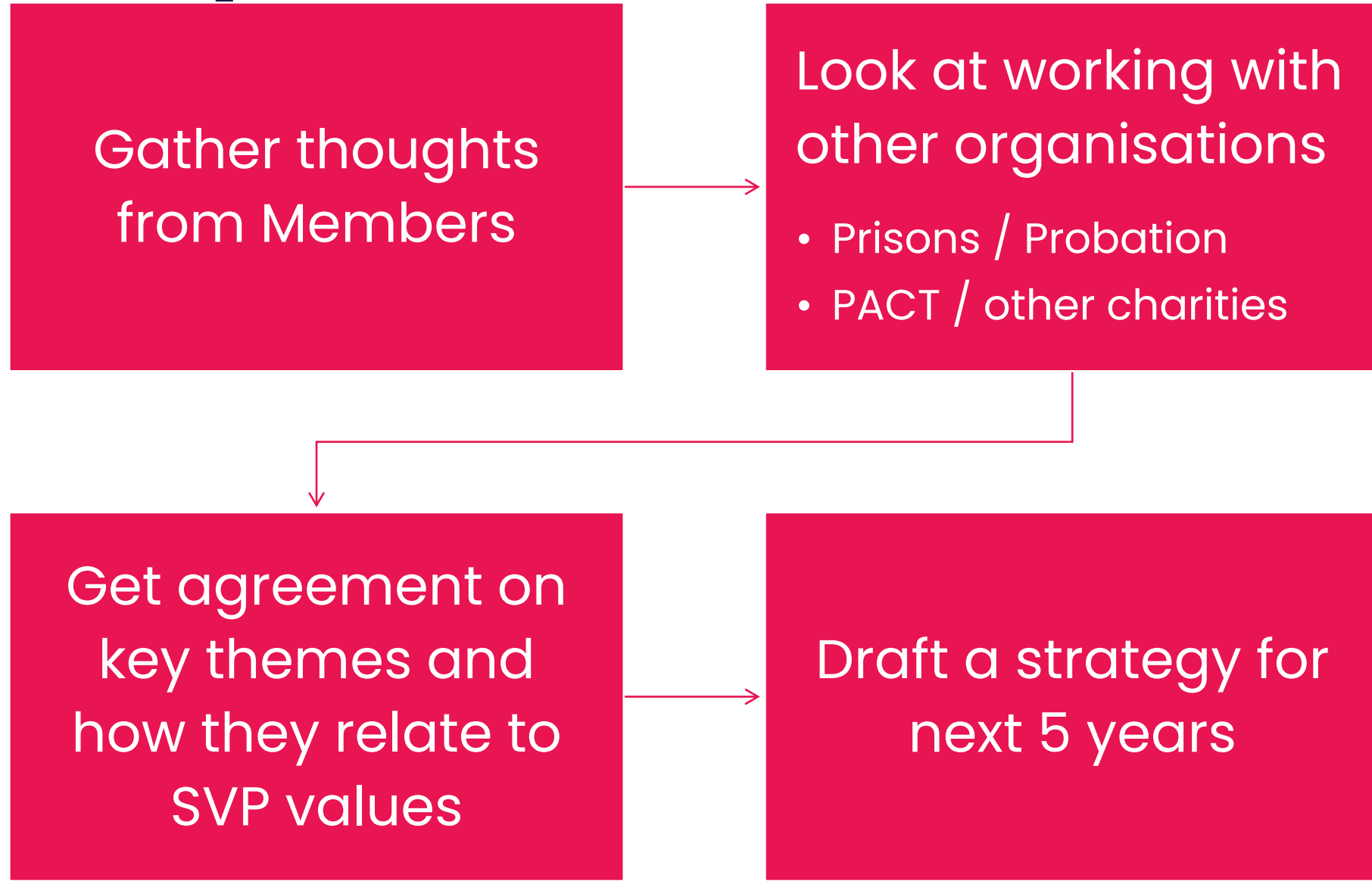


Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Offers space and support to high-risk offenders</p> <p>Protects the Public</p> <p>Employs 60 plus staff</p> <p>Helps offenders resettlement</p> <p>One of the best performing in England</p>	<p>Not linked up to other SVP services</p> <p>Aging buildings</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Large revenue opportunities</p> <p>ITT process</p> <p>Potential income to other SVP services or partner organisations</p> <p>Links to other housing projects</p> <p>Expansion or links to other areas</p> <p>HMIP</p>	<p>Offending behaviours / incidents</p> <p>ITT process</p> <p>Self-harm and suicide risk</p> <p>Pensions</p> <p>Industrial action</p> <p>Unsettled staff group</p> <p>Lack of onward accommodation</p> <p>HMIP</p> <p>Public Opinion</p> <p>Pressure on the prison Population</p>

# Future of APs

- You have seen the threats in the previous slide and it has very recently been decided by the Trustees that we will not be bidding for next the AP contract because
- The risks are high
- The fit is questionable
- There is not senior level expertise
- Potential capital expenditure could be high

# Next steps



# How can you help

There are flipcharts on the wall and sticky notes around could you please note down what you do now to help offenders and what you would like to do to help with Offenders in the future and stick you notes on the flipcharts

