National Offender Management Service

European Union
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Investing in jobs and skills

NOMS CFO Round 3 Event.
PEN PICTURE TEMPLATE

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Background	Blue Sky is an award-winning social enterprise established in 2005 to create employment opportunities for ex-offenders – we aim to break the cycle of re-offending and to challenge negative perceptions about ex-offenders. Blue Sky wins commercial contracts in a range of industry sectors including grounds maintenance, waste management, catering, distribution and catering. We then offer the jobs created by these contracts to ex-offenders on a fully-paid, full-time basis for 6 months. As well as *'a proper job for a proper company'* we provide peer mentoring and supervision, and offer employees a personalised package of resettlement support to help with housing and ongoing employment. We have now employed over 900 ex-offenders - only 15% have re-offended, a quarter of the national average. In 2012 Blue Sky diversified by establishing a textiles workshop at HMP Bronzefield called *Stitch in Time* specifically to engage women prisoners who as a group experience disproportionate hardship.
Objective	We have delivered successfully on NOMS ESF programmes in the past – notably being part of London Probation's PIANO programme where we achieved all the employment and training outcomes assigned to us. We are also currently part of the NOMS CFO Consortia Building Programme in the North West. In being part of Phase 3 we would be looking to build on our proven track record of supporting ex-offenders – both in prison and in the community.
Interests	Blue Sky is a social enterprise focussed solely on the rehabilitation of ex-offenders. We work with people both in prison and in the community and are uniquely placed to deliver through-the-gate employment outcomes.
Areas of Delivery	We win new contracts all the time but at present our main areas of activity are in London, the Thames Valley and Kent. We also have a very successful franchise operation based in the North West working in partnership with Groundwork Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford.