

## **Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines Working Group**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### *Composition of the Working Group*

1. The working group is composed of representatives of organisations with an interest in the MCSG and is chaired by a representative of the Sentencing Council.

#### *Objectives*

2. To assist in the development and revision of offences in the MCSG that are not currently on the workplan of the Sentencing Council .
2. To make recommendations to the Sentencing Council regarding:
  - a. the approach to revising the MCSG;
  - b. the content of a revised MCSG including guidelines, overarching principles and explanatory material;
  - c. the overall format of a revised MCSG; and
  - d. the future distribution of guidelines and updates to magistrates, district judges, justices' clerks and legal advisers.

#### *Scope*

3. The working group will consider the content and format of a revised MCSG including the number of guidelines and the extent of the specific guidance contained therein.
4. The Sentencing Council has agreed a model for guidelines which will be replicated in the revised MCSG. Therefore, the format of individual guidelines is outside the scope of the working group.

5. The working group will make recommendations to Council as to which offences to cover and the content of any new or revised guideline which are exclusive to the MCSG
6. The working group will make recommendations to Council regarding offences which should be considered for inclusion in the Council's work plan or are dealt with a MCSG exclusive guidelines.

### *Timescales*

7. The working group will meet as often as necessary to complete its recommendations. Frequency of meetings will be agreed at the meeting of the working group 24.09.15, and can be varied according to business need.