

### **1) Name, Job Title and quick summary of role:**

Ruth Bloomfield, Acting Senior Policy & Commissioning Manager, MOPAC.



I have worked at MOPAC for just under 4 years in a couple of different roles; I am currently Acting Senior Policy and Commissioning Manager for the Criminal Justice Service team. The team leads on policy areas including: female offenders, persistent offenders, young offenders and transition to adult services, out of court disposals, and electronic monitoring.

I am lucky to manage a great team who are all engaged and motivated by the work; together we are currently working on, to name a few, a Blueprint for women in contact with the CJS, a Devolution agreement with the Ministry of Justice, electronic monitoring for knife crime offenders, diversion pilots and an action plan to address BAME disproportionality in youth justice.

Working with the team is extremely important to me, everyone has specific knowledge and experience, however we collaborate to deliver our work. This sometimes means working together to deliver a specific programme, and sometimes just being able to talk through a tricky issue. Collaboration also means working with a vast array of partners from Local Authorities, to third sector organisations, to statutory organisations. Convening partners to address some of the more challenging issues within the criminal justice service means that we can work together to implement new initiatives and co-commission.

### **2) What is your background and what brought you to City Hall?**

I left University and somewhat naively became a Probation Officer at 21, I have an unwavering belief in everyone's capacity to change given the right support. As a probation officer I worked with people from all walks of life and heard some extraordinary life histories about how people had made wrong choices - however as I moved into middle management I became increasingly interested in influencing policy to make practitioners and service users experiences better- I believe this ultimately will reduce victimisation and improve communities. With this in mind I did a short stint at the MoJ, before moving to MOPAC to work on a pilot addressing persistent offending. I am very lucky being able to come to work everyday to focus on what I believe in.

### **3) What keeps you here?**

The work, the people, the great pay and conditions, and the fantastic location! Plus, working in such a fast paced and exciting environment, I could never get bored!

MOPAC has also been really supportive in enabling me to complete a masters degree in the last couple of years.

### **4) Why should people come and work at City Hall?**

City Hall is such an interesting place, being publicly accessible there is always something going on. In addition, witnessing the workings of the Mayoral administration reminds me that my work is part of something much bigger.