

MJW March Newsletter



The Transforming Rehabilitation Consultation

The consultation is now closed, yet it would appear that the die is cast. Probation are being stripped of the central role they have played for so long in reducing re-offending. They will be left as a narrowly-focused organisation dealing with, amongst other things, the risk assessment process for offenders, and may well lose many of their best staff.

We remain extremely concerned about the pace of the reforms being introduced, as well as the uncertainties about measurement and outcomes. The widespread adoption of Payment by Results (PbR), represents a radical new departure. We are especially concerned that PbR has never yet been applied to the delivery of community sentences in the UK or anywhere else, and that no one knows for sure how it will work.

Many questions remain unanswered. MJW acknowledges, however, that the reforms may eventually lead to the development of a leaner, smaller, more effective criminal justice system. The main focus should, we believe, be on demand reduction – fewer people in the system, and more rehabilitation work delivered in the community, rather than inside overcrowded prisons.

Our response can be viewed [here](#).

Transforming Justice

MJW visited the [Transforming Justice](#) programme in Manchester recently – the Intensive Alternative to Custody project managed by the Trust was the first community sentence visited by our [Community or Custody panel](#), chaired by Peter Osborne, the Daily Telegraph political commentator. While the world of community sentencing is being turned upside down and inside

Media

[Institute for Government](#) -

05/03/13 Disappointment by Results

[The Huffington Post](#) - 21/02/13

Community Sentences Branded 'A Failure' For Not Reducing Reoffending And Prison Numbers

[The Telegraph](#) - 08/02/13

Britain's spending on ramming people in jail is lunacy at a time of austerity

MJW Videos Perspectives - Prison and short term sentences

The first short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series. This film talks to previous offenders about their experience of prison and short term sentences.



Perspectives - Alternatives; effective sanctions delivered in the community

out, the team continue to develop and strengthen their very impressive and encouraging work in this field. Transforming Justice is a great example of how probation, the private and voluntary sectors can work in partnership at a reduced cost and successfully reduce re-offending.

Payment by Results - Just Results

We were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Alasdair Liddell, on New Year's Eve. Al was the key person behind the development and implementation of our '[Just Results](#)' day, together with his friend and colleague, Dr Greg Parston. We were extraordinarily fortunate to have benefited from his knowledge and expertise, not to mention his support and friendship. He is very much missed by us, and by all his friends and colleagues.

Working with Greg in the 1990s, Al commissioned a simulation exercise known as the 'Rubber Windmill', to explore how the proposed reforms in the health service might work in practice. It enabled managers and clinicians to test mechanisms and behaviours, and develop practices to ensure the new system worked. Importantly, it provided early evidence of the weakness of purchasing (later called commissioning), the potential of GP fund holding (now reborn as clinical commissioning) and the need to take all clinicians, especially those in the acute sector, along with you. It was also evident at the outset that the voice of the patient was not being heard.

We are urging the Ministry of Justice to undertake a similar process before rolling out PbR in the criminal justice sector.

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If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter, or any of MJW's work please email info@makejusticework.org.uk

The second short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series.

This film talks to previous offenders about their rehabilitation and the effectiveness of peer mentoring schemes.



Future - Making the right change

The third and final short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series.

This film talks to previous offenders about their future plans and how a community sentence helped to turn their lives around.



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