

Tuesday 20th November 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Make Justice Work

www.makejusticework.org.uk

Comment From Make Justice Work Following Speech On The 'Rehabilitation Revolution' By The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling MP On Tuesday 20th November 2012.

Roma Hooper, Director and Founder of Make Justice Work said, "I welcome the comments from the Secretary of State for Justice about the importance of rehabilitation and the recognition that many offenders face a multitude of complex problems in their lives. However he has missed a trick by not making a single reference to community sentences in a speech where the focus was on rehabilitation. There are more offenders serving their sentences in the community than in custody. While there are over 88,000 prison places in England and Wales, it is important to remember that last year the Courts issued nearly 173,000 community orders or suspended sentences.

"The Secretary of State's enthusiasm for peer mentoring programmes for offenders leaving prison is welcome, but the real win would be made by ensuring offenders on a community sentence have access to this also. This would help to stem the flow of offenders going from a community sentence into custody.

"The success of the 'rehabilitation revolution' will depend on a real commitment to effective and robust community sentences. Short term prison sentences are an expensive way of dealing with lower level offenders. There is a risk that an over emphasis on punishment for its own sake will lead to cuts in rehabilitation which do reduce re-offending.

"The extension of Payment by Results must recognise that many offenders live complex and troubled lives and the journey away from criminal behaviour is not straight forward. If the payments for success do not reflect progress made along the way then rehabilitation will fail."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

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About Make Justice Work:

MJW was established in 2009 and is a campaign to boost public support for a change in how Britain deals with lower level offenders – a switch from expensive and ineffective short prison terms to intensive and effective sanctions, delivered in the

community. It aims to raise public awareness of the ineffectiveness and expense of locking up low-level offenders, only for them to offend again.

Crucially, the campaign identifies the community alternatives to custody that are most effective both at reducing re-offending and cutting costs. The brainchild of criminal justice campaigner, Roma Hooper, founder of the Prison Radio Association, MJW is backed by leading experts both inside and outside of the criminal justice system – including former prison governors, charity directors and leading academics. It also enjoys the support of a wealth of key figures from outside the criminal justice world.

Just Results:

In July 2012 MJW published Just Results which looks at the various challenges involved in delivering Payment by Results in the use of community sentences.

The report can be accessed here:

<http://www.makejusticework.org.uk/results-3/>