

MJW November Newsletter



Dear

There continues to be increasing concerns around the future plans of the new Justice team. Whilst MJW welcomes the focus on rehabilitation and mentoring, how this will be paid for remains unclear.

Payment by Results would appear to provide the answer. However, there is considerable scepticism around the ability of PbR to fulfil the funding gap so damagingly left by the cuts. MJW is in discussion with key people in government and other stakeholders to share the findings from its report "Just Results" which outlines important guiding principles that must underpin PbR, particularly when rolling it out for community sentences.

There are many lessons still to be learnt - but will there be time to learn them?

Crime and Courts Bill

Government proposals in the Crime & Courts Bill to include a punitive element in all community sentences – except in exceptional circumstances – have been debated by members of the House of Lords. The Bill is currently going through the report stage in the Lords and is likely to move to the Commons in the new year.

Make Justice Work are concerned that the mandatory inclusion of a punitive element risks undermining the discretion of sentencers to issue the most appropriate community sentences. As an unintended consequence of focussing on greater punishment there also is a risk of substituting rehabilitative elements for punitive ones, leading to an increase in rates of reoffending. Make Justice Work will continue to work with others in the criminal justice sector to

MJW in the News

David Cameron: all sentences must have element of 'punishment' - [The Telegraph 22/10/2012](#)

Roma Hooper of Make Justice Work sees commissioning as the key issue for payment by results - [Russell Webster Blog 22/10/2012](#)

Roma Hooper talks to Eddie Mair about David Cameron's speech - [Radio 4 PM Show 22/10/2012](#)

Payment-by-results 'could squeeze out' vital prisoner rehab services - [Civil Society Blog 21/11/2012](#)

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

The second short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series. This film talks to previous offenders about their

lobby for improvements to the Bill.

Chris Grayling's speech on the 'rehabilitation revolution'

On Tuesday 20 November the Secretary of State for Justice – Chris Grayling MP – delivered his first major speech on criminal justice since taking office.

Make Justice Work welcomes the importance placed by the Secretary of State on rehabilitation and the recognition that many offenders face a multitude of complex problems in their lives. However he 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 is to catch the offender before they end up in prison 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.

Police and Crime Commissioner Election

In the first ever elections, 41 new police and crime commissioners have been elected across England and Wales. They will be responsible for police priorities, police force budget and responding to local people's concerns. If you would like to see who the successful candidates were, you can visit the [Home Office](#) website.

MJW are looking forward to working with the new police and crime commissioners and help them with their role and have teamed up with the [Center for Court Innovation](#) to produce a briefing that will be sent out to the commissioners in December.

Social Media

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Read the latest blog on the [MJW blog page](#)

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.



Supporting other Organisations

MJW have just updated our [Facts and Figures](#) page using the statistics from the [Prison Reform Trust's](#) 'Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile November 2012'. You can read the document on the [PRT website](#).

MJW have also been supporting the PCC elections and promoting the work of [Policy Exchange](#) and their fantastic [Police Election](#) website alongside Sam Chapman's website [Top of Cops](#) where MJW contributed a [blog](#).

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