



Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory Group (RR3)

14th February 2017

Morning session

The Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

Present

Barbara Natasegara – *Safer Wales*
Linda Bryant – *Together for Mental Wellbeing*
Christopher Stacey – *Unlock*
Rod Clarke – *Prisoners' Education Trust*
Matt Wall – *Community Chaplaincy Association*
Diane Curry – *Partners of Prisoners*
Mohammed Hanif – *Arooj*
Peter Dawson, *Prison Reform Trust*
Sarah Swindley – *Lancashire Women's Centres*

Riana Taylor – *Circles UK*
Jeremy Crook – *BTEG*
Max Rutherford – *Barrow Cadbury Trust*
Anne Fox - *Clinks*
Oonagh Ryder – *Clinks*
Nathan Dick – *Clinks*
George Barrow – *Ministry of Justice*
Adebola Fabunmi – *Ministry of Justice*
Katie Pettifer – *Ministry of Justice*
Bettina Crossick - *NOMS*

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. Anne Fox welcomed Katie Pettifer, *Ministry of Justice*, to the group.
- 1.2. Apologies were received from Chris Wright, *Catch22* and Beverley Williams, *Home Group*.

2. Update on RR3 next steps

- 2.1. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) have confirmed that Clinks will receive the infrastructure grant, used to deliver the RR3 for the next financial year. It is unclear whether this will sit under the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) or the new HM Prisons and Probation Service.
- 2.2. The membership of the RR3 will be rolled over but the secretariat will recruit another member with expertise in drugs and alcohol in order to cover this gap in expertise on the group.

3. Minutes and actions of the last meeting

- 3.1. Action 2: There has been lots of work done by the MoJ on evaluating the effectiveness of mentoring but there is currently a backlog for publication of this. It may be useful for members of the Special Interest Group on Through the Gate Mentoring to meet with the MoJ evidence team to discuss that work.

ACTION 1: Matt Wall to discuss MoJ evidence team mentoring information with Bettina Crossick

- 3.2. Action 3 (Clinks to consider adding family ties for future meeting and inviting Graham MacKenzie): The Farmer Review of family ties for men in prison has now submitted its final report to the MoJ. The work has been positively received. This action should be reconsidered once the report is published.

- 3.3. Action 5 (Clinks to consider adding the voluntary sector grants work to the next agenda):
The outcome of the grants will be published and shared through Clinks. There will be follow up work after March looking at sustainability, lessons learnt and outcomes, with a paper published.

ACTION 2: Bettina Crossick to share the outcome of the voluntary sector grants with Clinks to communicate to Clinks members.

4. MoJ policy update

4.1. Restructuring

- 4.1.1. On 8th February, the MoJ announced that it was creating HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) to replace NOMS from 1st April. Commissioning and policy-related functions will move to the MoJ, while HMPPS will take operational responsibility.
- 4.1.2. The group suggested that distance between policy and operations may not always be positive; policy staff need to have a good understanding of the implementation of the policy.
- 4.1.3. Under the policy directorate in the MoJ, there will be a prison reform function (sitting under Anthony Green) and a community and youth offending function (under Katie Pettifer). The directorate will shortly launch a competition for a new commissioning director.
- 4.1.4. Most policy staff in NOMS are likely to move into MoJ, with their roles staying the same. A process is underway to decide exactly what will move.
- 4.1.5. There is no confirmation about where the Equality, Rights and Decency Group will sit.
- 4.1.6. The plan is for Ministers to sign off Service Level Agreements with prisons. Michael Spurr will have operational responsibility for everything that happens in the system. He will also continue to hold the monitoring function for private prisons.
- 4.1.7. The group raised concerns that the Secretary of State hasn't mentioned the voluntary sector in her speeches so far. The sector can support the reforms but information about the reforms is crucial to support them to do this.

4.2. Probation and community

- 4.2.1. The internal review of probation is looking at the financial challenges faced by the Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) and the related performance issues. The MoJ are now entering the serious negotiation stage with the CRCs and hope to have this completed by the end of the financial year.
- 4.2.2. The MoJ are hoping to publish a probation strategy in spring.
- 4.2.3. The Secretary of State wants to look at early intervention, out of court disposals and encouraging greater use of conditional cautions. The MoJ is looking at tension between speedy justice and the quality of pre-sentencing reports. There is a particular focus on health needs in relation to courts, considering the low number of mental health treatment orders given – the MoJ is working with the Department of Health to look at the provision across the system.
- 4.2.4. The group highlighted concerns raised by voluntary sector organisations around the quality pre-sentencing reports and lack of awareness among probation practitioners of community services, as well as a decline in voluntary sector involvement in providing support at court stage.

ACTION 3: RR3 members to send information to Oonagh Ryder on diversion from custody at court stage, in relation to mental health needs, and how the voluntary sector can support this. Oonagh Ryder to collate this and send to the MoJ.

- 4.2.5. The MoJ will be focusing on quality and consistency of interventions across the country and considering whether there should be kite mark standards for rehabilitative interventions. There will also be some work to think about what national probation standards should look like and how this can be more joined up with standards in prisons.
- 4.2.6. The data on outcomes from liaison and diversion programmes and how these programmes relate to broader vulnerabilities is currently very poor.
- 4.2.7. The group suggested that Mental Health Treatment Orders can be problematic as beginning treatment as a punishment often doesn't produce the best outcomes.
- 4.2.8. The group also noted the importance of how alternative sentences are designed, highlighting issues with CRCs taking responsibility for this.
- 4.2.9. The group said that the Rehabilitation Activity Requirement was a good tool in principle and shouldn't be discarded, though it needs to be delivered better.

4.3. Women

- 4.3.1. The MoJ is currently looking at a residential alternative to custody; some women's centres are interested in working on this.
- 4.3.2. The group highlighted ethical and reputational issues associated with voluntary sector organisations delivering court-ordered interventions.
- 4.3.3. The strategy for female offenders will be published in summer. It is very focused on improving provision in the community, including diversion. The group advised that the women's strategy should be consulted on.
- 4.3.4. Applications for the [Whole Systems Approach grants](#) are in now, the MoJ hope to have a decision out by the end of February.
- 4.3.5. The MoJ will move forward on women's community prisons very soon, due to the timescales in which the funds for this need to be used. The community prisons will be new for old; no new prison places will be created.
- 4.3.6. The head of the National Probation Service (NPS), Sonia Crozier, will take on responsibility for women. The group suggested that it would be helpful for Sonia Crozier to begin discussions with provider organisations to build a sense of working together.
- 4.3.7. The group highlighted the issue of disproportionality and negative outcomes for Black Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women and noted that women were not mentioned in MoJ updates to the Prime Minister about BAME disproportionality.

ACTION 4: Anne Fox to write to Sonia Crozier and Luke Sergeant on behalf of the RR3 in order to introduce the group and offer expertise to support policy making.

4.4. Youth justice

- 4.4.1. The MoJ are looking closely at the secure schools proposal and considering how this can be done; taking into consideration the need to create the right ethos for a different type of custody. The team are visiting alternative provision schools and secure children's homes and are planning a stakeholder event in March.
- 4.4.2. The group said lessons can be learnt from the competition for Secure Training Colleges; although the specification was well constructed, the commissioning process was inaccessible for the voluntary sector.
- 4.4.3. The group highlighted the importance of the impact of distance from home and family for young people in custody. The MoJ are considering this but decisions on the sites for the schools will be based on what sites are available, what the cost is and what providers want.

- 4.4.4. The group suggested raising the threshold for the youth justice system to 21 to provide better support for young adults, highlighting that 65% of children in custody will leave as young adults.
- 4.4.5. The MoJ does not have sufficient funds to raise the age for youth justice, but is considering a cohort of young adults for secure schools. Reform will also aim to improve conditions in Youth Offender Institutions.
- 4.4.6. The group emphasised that BAME disproportionality within the youth justice system should be looked at and considered in relation to which children go to secure schools and whether they will need specific services.
- 4.4.7. The RR3 group should get in touch with Clare Toogood to discuss youth custody.

ACTION 5: Clinks to discuss with the MoJ on how the RR3 can engage in work on secure schools.

- 4.4.8. The group raised concerns that inequalities BAME people and disproportionality across the criminal justice system had not been mentioned by the Secretary of State recently and asked about the plans for implementation of the Lammy Review once the report is published.

ACTION 6: Jeremy Crook to draft a letter from RR3 to go to a senior MoJ official, requesting information on the implementation of recommendations relating to the Lammy Review (George Barrow to advise and provide information on who to speak to about this).

5. MoJ secondments

- 5.1. The MoJ is recruiting five secondment roles from the voluntary sector to support, challenge and test policy and its implementation. The RR3 and Clinks will be the formal channels for the recruitment. The five roles are:
 - 5.1.1. Two roles in prison reform. One of these will cover drugs and employment.
 - 5.1.2. One role on young adults, focused on capturing work already going on.
 - 5.1.3. Two roles on the Lammy Review to provide support prior to the publication of the report and a focus on implementing the recommendations.
- 5.2. The secondees would be individual advisors rather than representatives of their organisations.
- 5.3. The group raised concerns that people with lived experience of the criminal justice system may not be able to undertake the roles due to the security process for working at the MoJ.

ACTION 7: George Barrow to investigate impact of security vetting on recruitment for secondment roles.

ACTION 8: George Barrow to look at the procurement process for secondment roles and how this can maximise opportunities for smaller organisations to engage.

- 5.4. The group questioned the inclusion of expertise on drugs and employment in one role and suggested that recruitment for this position may be difficult.
- 5.5. The group suggested that some flexibility in the start date of the posts as well as the payment model used would make it easier for a range of voluntary organisations to engage.

ACTION 9: RR3 group to send comments on the secondment process to Oonagh Ryder by Tuesday 21st February.

6. Voluntary sector grants programme

- 6.1. It is not clear what will happen to the NOMS grants programme or whether it will sit under the MoJ or HMPPS. The programme is just under £4 million each year. There are seven ongoing strategic grants and a number of other grant opportunities.
- 6.2. NOMS are consulting with prisons and probation services to find out what the needs are and how these relate to NOMS' strategic aims and objectives. The programme will fund new, innovative pieces of work rather than work CRCs should be doing already.
- 6.3. The group suggested that involvement of the voluntary sector would be useful at the development stage to identify needs and design processes.
- 6.4. One grant will be advertised very shortly to deliver work to provide better outcomes for Muslim people in prison. NOMS are running an event supported by Clinks on this, with about 35 organisations attending. There are 10 – 15 more grants to go out soon. NOMS will work with Clinks on engagement events to involve smaller organisations.
- 6.5. For the 2017/18 grants programme, NOMS are hoping to focus the grants on the community rather than custody. Mental health, learning difficulties and disability are all potential key themes. The programme aims to fund things that can be sustainable in the future.

7. Update on Clinks' trackTR survey

- 7.1. The [trackTR survey is now live](#) and can be completed until 31st March. The work will be complimented with the publication of confidential case studies.
- 7.2. Clinks consulted with the MoJ, NOMS and the National Audit Office on what questions should be asked.
- 7.3. The survey has been opened for a just over a week and has received 55 responses. The last report had a good impact and was used by the Public Accounts Committee, HMI Probation and the National Audit Office. Clinks is particularly keen to hear from organisations who are working with or feel they should be working with the National Probation Service.
- 7.4. Clinks encouraged RR3 members to publicise the survey to their contacts.
- 7.5. Clinks has been working with NOMS to find details of supply chains, particularly for women in contact with probation services. These organisations should have been contacted.

8. New Futures Network

- 8.1. A new entity called the New Futures Network will be launching later this year and is being incubated by the RSA. This will provide support and expertise to empower governors in more autonomous prisons to meet higher level outcomes.
- 8.2. Clinks is engaging with the work to support the network's understanding of voluntary sector needs. Clinks' Development Officer for Prison Engagement, Louise Clark, will lead this. The aim of this is to make sure that there is a good understanding of how prisons can work well with the voluntary sector.

9. Alternatives to custody

- 9.1. The group discussed a clear distinction between providing alternatives to custody for those already in the criminal justice system (e.g. at court stage) and providing diversion from the criminal justice system altogether. The group agreed that diversion from the criminal justice system is the most desirable outcome, but there are positive opportunities in the Secretary of State's interest in courts and community sentences.
- 9.2. The group suggested that as well as engaging with the MoJ on courts and community sentences, it could be useful to engage with the Home Office on diversion from the CJS.

- 9.3. The group considered the [Integrated Offender Management Cymru](#) model as a useful example of diversion from the CJS, starting in the custody suite. This model is nationally-led and co-produced with the voluntary sector.

ACTION 10: George Barrow to discuss voluntary sector input on diversion with Katie Aston at the Home Office.

- 9.4. The group agreed that a caution should not be an aim for diversionary work, as it leaves the individual with a record.
- 9.5. The group discussed the potential pitfalls of using language such as 'alternatives to custody' and recognised the need for strategies to divert people from custody to appear to be sufficiently robust. Diversion from custody could be an area in which national standards would be very useful, to ensure that diversion work is effective.
- 9.6. The group considered the successful diversion from the CJS achieved with children and suggested this could be built on by looking at the evidence on why this worked and how it could be applied to adults. A key factor for this success was the Youth Justice Board holding the funding pot for both community and custodial provision, creating a financial incentive to reduce the use of custody. Currently, in the adult system, the community is being asked to provide alternative provision without any payback for reducing the custodial spend.

ACTION 11: RR3 group to send information/comments on what the group could offer to the MoJ and Home Office around diversion to Oonagh Ryder.

10. Updates on focused work

10.1. Special Interest Group on Commissioning Family Services

- 10.1.1. This group is nearing completion. The commissioning framework was completed on Saturday morning. The group will have one more meeting to discuss completing the whole process.
- 10.1.2. The RR3 group will discuss the possibility of producing a report on the learning from this process with recommendations at the next meeting.

ACTION 12: Clinks to add SIG on Commissioning Family Services report to the agenda for the next RR3 meeting.

10.2. Special Interest Group on Suicide and Self-Harm

- 10.2.1. The group encouraged engagement from organisations who don't have a health or mental health remit, recognising that any organisation working in a prison is likely to engage with at risk people.
- 10.2.2. The group has produced a short paper with a summary of the key messages from the group. The group plan to turn this into recommendations and bring this learning back to the RR3 group to discuss the next steps.

10.3. Women's Networking Forum

- 10.3.1. Women's organisations have expressed concern at a lack of recognition of the need for gendered specific support. Organisations feel that they are having to make the case laid out in the Corston report again ten years later. They also feel disconnected from central government.
- 10.3.2. The South Wales Pathfinder programme achieved positive results and organisations are interested in how to replicate and expand this.

10.3.3. Organisations raised issues around the pooled budgeting approach to prevention, suggesting that this is often cost driven and is in danger of missing out people with high needs further upstream. Housing and accommodation is also seen as a significant challenge.

10.3.4. Sarah Swindley and Clinks are considering how the forums could be used to support voluntary sector engagement with the MoJ women's strategy.

10.4. Special Interest Group on Through the Gate Mentoring

10.4.1. There were lots of applications to join this group, showing energy and commitment around this issue. These were a mix of organisations delivering contracted services and those not in the supply chain.

10.4.2. The organisations in the group felt that resources are being stretched too thinly for meaningful engagement with service users.

10.4.3. There was concern about the definition of through the gate mentoring and confusion for the client around what they are receiving, e.g. short-term transition support or a long-term mentoring relationship? Organisations thought there should be clear quality standards for through the gate mentoring and that the focus should be on building on the success that already exists in this area, rather than looking to fund something new.

10.4.4. Organisations highlighted a lack of support services for mentees to be signposted to.

10.4.5. Organisations struggled to communicate with CRCs and found that commercial sensitivities affected information sharing.

10.4.6. Information originally provided by the Mentoring Offending Foundation on mentoring is now available on Clinks' website. This lists organisations using the approved provider standard. However, this standard is generic and is not justice specific.

10.4.7. The next meeting will focus on condensing these issues into recommendations and key messages.

10.4.8. The RR3 group raised concerns that good quality, effective through the gate mentoring may not be deliverable with the funds available.

10.4.9. The group suggested that some of this information could feed into the MoJ's work on quality standards for community interventions.

ACTION 13: RR3 group to send information to Matt Wall about what good mentoring looks like and what mentoring organisations need from funders.

ACTION 14: Nathan Dick and Matt Wall to discuss issues around minimum standards in through the gate mentoring with George Barrow.



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Max Rutherford – *Barrow Cadbury Trust*
Anne Fox - *Clinks*
Oonagh Ryder – *Clinks*
Nathan Dick – *Clinks*

11. AOB and next steps

- 11.1. **Rehabilitation Forum:** The next meeting will look at employment in preparation for the expected publication of a MoJ employment strategy in September. The following meeting will focus on the women's strategy.
- 11.2. **Housing:** This continues to be a significant issue in the criminal justice system but was not addressed in the White Paper or in recent speeches.
- 11.3. **Lammy Review:** The group suggested that they should pick up on the next steps in relation to the Lammy Review in a meeting after the publication of the report in summer 2017.
- 11.4. **Secondments:** The relationship of the MoJ secondees to the RR3 will be important in helping them to maintain a level of independence. The group suggested inviting them to RR3 meetings.
- 11.5. **Next meeting:** The group agreed the next meeting should look at employment and the Farmer Review of family ties for men in prison if this has been published.
- 11.6. **Prison building roundtables:** There are three MoJ roundtable events coming up to consult the voluntary sector on the design of the new build prisons in the male estate. They will focus on families, through the gate services and services in prison. The events are free and organisations can book to attend on Clinks' website.

ACTION 15: Hanif Mohammed to send Oonagh Ryder dates of Ramadan and Eid to inform date of next meeting.