

The logo for CLiNKs, featuring the word 'CLiNKs' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'i' is lowercase and has a dot. The 'K' is uppercase and has a unique shape. The background of the logo is a dark blue square.

CLiNKs

Supporting the voluntary sector
working in the criminal justice system

Flexibility is vital

**The role and value of the voluntary sector in supporting
older people in the criminal justice system**

Acknowledgements

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Research was undertaken through a literature review, case studies conducted by phone interviews and visits to projects and a consultation seminar. Organisations consulted include:

- Age UK North Tyneside
- Circles UK
- HM Prison & Probation Service
- Homegroup
- Langley House Trust
- Macmillan Cancer Care
- Ministry of Justice
- Nacro
- Prison Reform Trust
- Recoop
- Restore Support Network
- Safer Living Foundation
- Salvation Army
- St Giles Trust

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Photo: © Andy Aitchison / www.prisonimage.org

Introduction

People aged over 50 are the fastest growing group in the prison population. Meeting their needs, both in custody and after release, is one of the most pressing challenges facing the criminal justice system. The aging prison population will present an increasing challenge for the criminal justice system as a whole.

The issue of an aging prison population has been widely discussed and addressed in recent years through research, inspections, good practice guidance and policy documents. These make clear that, despite examples of effective practice, service provision in many areas is struggling to keep pace with the escalating scale and complexity of demand.

What has not been explored is the singular contribution made by the voluntary sector. The focus of this report is on the role and the value of the voluntary sector working in the criminal justice system in meeting the needs of older people and how, as the need grows, this value might be maximised.

The voluntary sector

The already acute and escalating needs of older people in the criminal justice system cannot be met without the crucial contribution of the voluntary sector.

The needs of older people have two distinct characteristics:

- **Multi-faceted** – crossing the boundaries of health, social care and criminal justice
- **Always changing** – through the continuous process of ageing, and in moving through the stages of sentence and resettlement.

One of the distinctive characteristics of voluntary sector provision is its flexibility.

Public and private sector organisations tend to assess needs and organise services from specified statutory, contractual and professional perspectives. Voluntary organisations are usually less constricted, more often user-led, and more able to respond to whatever needs they come across.

This flexibility of response gives the voluntary sector a clear and distinct advantage when meeting needs that are multi-faceted and always changing.

However, flexibility also brings significant organisational challenges – in specifying services, evidencing outcomes and securing longer term funding, for example through commissioned contracts and philanthropic support. As a result, the exceptional services being delivered by many voluntary organisations have uncertain futures, whilst many prisons and communities have little or no such provision at all.

For the voluntary sector's impact to be maximised and made consistent across the country, a **strategic approach** is needed, including:

- A framework of **values and principles** shared across sectors, acknowledging the distinctive, flexible role of voluntary organisations
- New, more flexible models of **commissioning** and a joint commitment to attract long-term philanthropic funding
- Innovative, multi-faceted models of **evaluation**.

The key to making the most of voluntary provision for older people in the criminal justice system is to recognise that flexibility – in design, delivery and funding – is vital.



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Facts, figures and recurring issues

"People aged 60 and over are the fastest growing age group in the prison estate. There are now more than triple the number there were 15 years ago."

Prison: The Facts, Bromley Briefing, Prison Reform Trust, summer 2018

"One in six people in prison (16%) is aged 50 or over – 13,616 out of 82,773. The number of over 50s in prison is projected to increase by 11% by 2022, while the number of over 70s is projected to increase by 31%."

Prison Population Projections 2018 to 2023, Ministry of Justice, 23 August 2018

"45% of men in prison aged over 50 have been convicted of sex offences. The next highest offence category is violence against the person (23%) followed by drug offences (9%)."

Prison: The Facts, Bromley Briefing, Prison Reform Trust, summer 2018

"Physical infrastructure will remain a challenge in our ageing prison estate, but these limitations can be mitigated through careful, planned adjustments to

environment and regime. Older prisoners are more likely to suffer health problems and even die in custody, have higher rates of disability and mobility difficulties and can struggle to access activities and services. They also risk being isolated by a physical environment designed for younger men... or access a regime that has not been designed to take their needs into account."

Model of Operational Delivery: Older Offenders, HM Prison and Probation Service, May 2018

"Approved premises are in principle the right place to hold older prisoners who have no home to go to following a long sentence for serious offences because they provide accommodation from which they can begin to rebuild their lives. The difficulties which are faced in securing accommodation are particularly acute for sex offenders; problems are compounded by limiting places in approved premises to high risk offenders and licence conditions and housing agency policy limit options for where older prisoners can live. It is a matter of concern that approved premises may be unable to receive older prisoners because they are not compliant with disability requirements. Probation trusts must take steps to ensure that all approved premises meet disability and age equality requirements... Older prisoners are unlikely to be seeking employment. They are also taken as a category and with some

exceptions, the least likely subgroup of the prison population to reoffend; their resettlement needs are distinct from the younger population and commissioned services must reflect this."

Older Prisoners, House of Commons Justice Committee, 2014



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“There is no comprehensive national strategy for the provision of social care in prisons. Without such a strategy it is hard to see how the requirements arising from local prison assessments of social care needs and the projected growth in groups likely to require help with those needs will be met...

There was wide variation in the delivery of social care packages. In effect a ‘postcode lottery’ operated where prisoners could receive a poor, satisfactory or very good service based on which prison they were sent to...

In a number of prisons the provision of social care by competent peer support workers was very good and well supervised, but in some places we were not assured that peer support workers were appropriately trained, supervised or monitored. This placed peer supporters, and the prisoners they supported, at considerable risk.”

Social Care in Prisons: A Thematic Report, HM Inspectorate of Prisons and Care Quality Commission, October 2018

“The most important thing to me is feeling good in myself, being independent and not to be a burden on others.”

An older prisoner consulted in Good Practice Guide: Working with Older Prisoners, Recoop, 2017



The Lobster Pot, an over 50's day centre established and run by RECOOP at HMP Leyhill

Photo: © Recoop / www.recoop.org.uk

Voluntary sector case studies



The Lobster Pot, an over 50's day centre established and run by RECOOP at HMP Leyhill

Photo: © Recoop / www.recoop.org.uk

"Here I am at 71:
Suddenly my freedom's gone.
Had my birthday in December –
Not a good one, I remember."

"Here I am at 51:
Suddenly I'm a creative one.
In the group I've learnt some knitting;
On the wing I'd just be sitting."

"Prison makes you tense and nervous;
Making things provides a purpose."
"This is a space that's safe from harm."
"I just like the peace and calm."

"Here we've come from every nation,
Much better for us than Education."
"Me, I like the company
And the real mugs for the tea."

"Rubies sparkle like the sun.
Alma is our Number One."
"Prison blues? – you can shove it:
I'm a Ruby and I love it!"

Written for this report by the Rubies Group of prisoners aged over 50 at HMP Eastwood Park with their Recoop worker, Alma, March 2018

The following examples of good practice illustrate a range of services being delivered by the voluntary sector through a variety of organisational models.

The list is not comprehensive or exhaustive. The voluntary sector has many other examples of excellent provision in this area. See also Clinks' online Directory of Offender Services* for details of voluntary organisations working in the criminal justice system across England and Wales.

Regrettably, many prisons and localities have little or no such provision.

These examples indicate how the level and quality of provision could be made consistent across the country. On an operational level, they exemplify some of the key characteristics of effective practice. For strategic planning and commissioning, they make the case for the voluntary sector's distinctive role and value.

* Clinks' Directory of Offender Services, www.clinks.org/directory

A specialist charity working in prisons

“We are like the glue that gets the other parts of the system to come together around the individual prisoner.”

Recoop Service Manager, HMP Leyhill

Recoop is a national charity that specialises in working with older people who have offended. Its governance and management structure supports projects funded by contract and adapted to the needs of specific prison and community settings.

In **HMP Eastwood Park**, a women's prison in south Gloucestershire, the core Recoop service is the Rubies Group, a weekly session for women aged over 50. It is attended by around a dozen women at a time, referred by prison staff or identified by Recoop on outreach visits to the residential blocks.

The sessions are organised and facilitated by a Recoop member of staff, supported by a prison orderly. A focus for activities is provided by crafts such as knitting and sewing, with women often teaching each other these skills. It is clear that the health, social and educational value of the sessions derives mainly from conversations, some as a whole group, some in small groups or one-to-one.

In a session observed for this report, the member of staff demonstrated high levels of skill in enabling both light and more serious topics to be explored where prisoners aired their concerns about prison life and resettlement, before moving on to come up with solutions together. Topics included offending history, family contact, relationships with prison staff and other prisoners, health care and resettlement plans. Prisoners referred to the group as a life-line, and jointly composed a poem to be included in this report (page 8).

In **HMP Leyhill**, a men's Category D resettlement prison in Gloucestershire, Recoop's provision is delivered in the Lobster Pot building, a drop-in service offered every day in the centre of the open prison grounds. This is run by two members of Recoop staff, together with orderlies and input from a range of other visiting professionals.

The services range from providing a day centre space for older disabled people with early dementia to do jigsaw puzzles, through to group information sessions, and one-to-one casework frequently focused on resettlement plans.

The blend of informality and professionalism in the workers' relationships with the prisoners is clearly a crucial asset to the prison, as it repeatedly leads to disclosures of need not uncovered by the statutory providers, for example a prisoner who told Recoop about health symptoms which resulted in a cancer diagnosis.

More information: www.recoop.org.uk

Some key service characteristics

- Building group identity and peer support
- Developing practical and intellectual skills
- Relieving pressure on prison staff
- Early identification of needs
- Informal activities as a gateway to specialist services
- Skilful staff respected by prisoners and prison staff.

A specialist charity working in the community

“There’s no judgement when I work with people coming out of prison, because I’ve been in prison myself. So we start from a place of trust, and the other issues open up from there.”

Restore Support Network Volunteer Mentor

Restore Support Network is a small user-led national charity specialising in support for people aged over 50 who have offended. With branches in **Bournemouth, Exeter and Manchester**, it is run by a central team of paid staff and reliant on a large number of local volunteers, many of them former prisoners offering peer befriending.

Restore Support Network is launching a new work opportunities initiative for peer carers and mentors who have received training whilst in prison.

Restore Support Network has developed a user friendly personalised My Life My Care pathway model which combines individual support with collective empowerment. The approach involves the production of a personalised pathway document, which individuals take with them on release, or transfer to another prison. It is being adapted to address specific needs of older women, veterans and ex-merchant navy, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people.

As the result of start-up funding from Innovation Wessex and other grants, My Life My Care is also being trialled as a demonstration model for use with older people serving short custodial sentences with complex and multiple needs who are resettling in the **South West**



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and **South Wales** Community Rehabilitation Company areas. Subject to evaluation, it will then be introduced to other regions.

Underpinning Restore Support Network’s My Life My Care pathway is the establishment of trust between the peer workers and the individuals they support, grounded in their shared lived experience of the

criminal justice system. The befriending aspect of this is important especially to women, whose family relationships and identity as a carer have often been seriously disrupted by imprisonment.

For those ex-prisoners who demonstrate a clear commitment not to reoffend, the Network offers membership of special interest groups for older people with convictions who are BAME, LGBT, veterans or women. As well as providing a unique degree of specialist peer support, these groups identify and represent issues to policy makers.

The organisation has a policy of not accepting central government funding so that, in the organisation's opinion, it maintains its independence as a voice representing the needs of older people with convictions.

Many group members also become the volunteers who run the peer network, transforming lived experience of the criminal justice system into a significant driver of rehabilitation.

More information: www.restore-support-network.org.uk

Some key service characteristics

- Age-appropriate and educational
- Person-centred and engaging
- Informal activities as a gateway to identification of needs
- Voluntary sector staff with wide-ranging skills
- Commitment from prison management
- Partnership with specialist health provision.



A craft session with a group of women at 4Women (see page 13), part of Home Group

Photo: © Home Group | www.homegroup.org.uk/4women

An older people's charity providing a service in a prison

"In here it's like we get to be individuals, not just numbers. If this was closed down, there would be a lot of distressed and unhappy people on the wings."

Participant in the Age UK session at HMP Northumberland

Age UK North Tyneside is the lead Age UK partner in a North East prisons project. Having started with some pilot projects funded by trusts and foundations, the organisation is now contracted to run services for older prisoners at several prisons across the region. The most established of these is at **HMP Northumberland**, a Category C men's prison, where the service focuses around a weekly half day specialist activity session for around 40 prisoners aged 55+.

The provision is a custodial equivalent to a community day centre for older people, with a range of group and individual activities including games, quizzes and exercise. The service is planned and managed by an Age UK North Tyneside service manager, who is well established within the prison and commands the respect of both prisoners and staff.

The sessions are run in a large room in a building separate from the main wings. Prison officers ensure accountability and security, while criminology students on placement help with the activities and social support. This combination of input achieves a valuable balance of formality and informality.

This was typified at the session observed by the researcher for this project when a member of the prison's senior management team visited and led part of a quiz for the prisoners, demonstrating the management's commitment to their welfare and encouraging them to aspire to learning and attainment.

Health advice and other specialist information is also available during the sessions, and the Age UK Service Manager plays an active role in supporting older prisoners to access more specialist services in prison and on release. This includes liaising with **Macmillan Cancer Care** specialists to provide appropriate support for prisoners who require palliative care.

More information: www.ageuk.org.uk/northtyneside

Some key service characteristics

- Age-appropriate and educational
- Person-centred and engaging
- Informal activities as a gateway to identification of needs
- Voluntary sector staff with wide-ranging skills
- Commitment from prison management
- Partnership with specialist health provision.

A social enterprise providing community support for women who have offended

I “The outcomes for the women are priceless.”

4women member of staff

4women in Norwich is a service for women who have offended, including many older women. It is managed by **Home Group**, a large national cooperative and community benefit society and housing provider, under contract from the Community Rehabilitation Company for the **East of England**.

The service is responsible for supporting and supervising all women released from custody and on community sentence in Norfolk. After referral and assessment, an action plan is agreed with each woman, meeting both individual needs and statutory supervision requirements.

The experienced and committed service manager takes pride in reaching, engaging and problem solving the needs of all female ex-offenders in the county. She has identified two main groups of older women who benefit from support: those who have a history of substance misuse, mental illness, homelessness and offending; and others, usually from more affluent backgrounds, who suddenly come into contact with the criminal justice system after a mid-life crisis which can involve divorce, alcohol misuse, shoplifting or fraud.

The 4women service is able to meet this spectrum of needs by providing a varied programme of activities five days a week based in a city centre

setting. The activities vary both in subject, including arts and crafts, physical exercise, and life skills and in delivery, including facilitated informal group discussion, more formal learning for accredited courses and peer support. The programme also offers individual advice sessions and links with specialist services, for example substance misuse and mental health.

This coordinated range of provision means that women can find their own combination of help and peer support from each other and from professionals. This process of empowerment is a crucial element in supporting individuals towards permanent desistance from crime.

More information: www.homegroup.org.uk/4women

Some key service characteristics

- Accessible community setting
- Safe space for women
- Older women's needs met within all age provision
- Activities balancing structure and informality
- Gateway to more specialist services
- Skilful and dedicated staff
- Positive role models and peer support.



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A specialist charity providing through-the-gate support for people convicted of sexual offences

“So far we’ve started 47 Circles of Support, and no one has committed another sexual offence. I’m proud of that. But the funding is always a worry.”

Safer Living Foundation worker, HMP Whatton

The Safer Living Foundation is a small charity working in the Midlands with people convicted of sexual offences. Projects include a **Circles of Support and Accountability** programme for prisoners aged 55+ who are being released from HMP Whatton, a Category C treatment prison in Nottinghamshire and who are at high or very high risk of sexually reoffending.

Circles of Support and Accountability is an established, nationally recognised practice model that has had an evidenced impact on sexual reoffending. Originally developed for use in the community, it consists of a small circle of volunteers who meet regularly with a person convicted of sexual offences, known as the Core Member,

providing a carefully judged balance of emotional support and behavioural accountability, coordinated with statutory supervision.

At HMP Whatton, the Safer Living Foundation has adapted the model specifically for older Core Members and as a through-the-gate service.

After assessment by the Safer Living Foundation's coordinator, who is skilled in working with both prisoners and volunteers, each prisoner is matched with his volunteers and begins their circle up to two or three months before release. This aims to ensure that the relationships and communication needed for successful rehabilitation are fully established and effective at the point at which the individual re-enters the community and is first at risk of re-offending.

The same circle of support continues for up to 18 months after release, dovetailed with probation and police supervision and with whatever health or social care the Core Member may need. Unfortunately, delays setting up the community care package often prove disruptive to the timing and planning of the circle.

Most of the volunteers are university students. The coordinator believes that much of the effectiveness of the project derives from the cross-generational connection between young volunteers and older prisoners. The fact that a younger person is willing to volunteer their time to help provides powerful motivation and hope to the Core Member.

The pilot project has had its initial funding through time limited grants from a small number of trusts. The project has been evaluated by the

Sexual Offences Crime and Misconduct Research Unit, Nottingham

Trent University. The sustainability of the service depends on findings from the research being available in time to demonstrate impact to funders, and on the continuing support of senior managers in the prison.

More information: www.saferlivingfoundation.org

Some key service characteristics

- Building trust between individuals
- Bridging prison and community
- Use of trained volunteers
- Addressing an unpopular area of need
- Combining supervision with support
- Piloted with trust funding.



Photo: © Rebecca McPhillips / www.allyouneedislovephotography.co.uk

Advantages and challenges

From the case studies, and from the consultation with voluntary sector staff and the individuals they support undertaken for this report, it is clear that voluntary organisations working with older people in the criminal justice system have some distinct advantages over other kinds of provision, but also face some specific challenges.

Advantages of voluntary sector provision

Flexible person-centred and holistic

Often less restricted than the public and private sectors by statutory and contractual requirements, and by professional specialisations such as health and education, voluntary sector provision can be flexible, person-centred and holistic in meeting the interlocking, always changing needs of older people who have offended.

Older people who have offended often have a history of feeling alienated from, or let down by, statutory agencies. The relative independence of voluntary organisations is a significant advantage in rebuilding trust. It means that needs can be identified and addressed at an earlier stage and, instead of just making a referral, a voluntary organisation can make a more personal introduction to another service or facilitate communication between an agency and an individual.

Group pastimes such as arts and crafts, games and physical exercise, are age appropriate and bring intrinsic benefits, such as social skills and mental and physical dexterity. They are especially effective in building the positive identity of people from BAME backgrounds, and other groups, through cultural traditions like storytelling, music making and cooking.

Group and leisure activities are also an effective form of outreach, engaging people and serving as a gateway to more specialist provision. Staff use the informal conversations during these sessions to provide information and guidance and to build relationships for peer support and professional help.

The involvement and empowerment of individuals is fundamental to the culture of many voluntary organisations, through peer mentoring, special interest groups, volunteering and advocacy. Such self-actualisation is crucial for older people who have offended, to enable them to develop resilience to the potential disadvantages of ageism, disability, sexism, racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination and to successfully rebuild their lives on release to be free from offending.

Staffing

Volunteers add significant value, especially in engaging with older people whose offending or imprisonment may have disrupted their own support and social networks. The fact that younger people are willing to volunteer their time to help can be powerfully motivational for older people, encouraging them to make positive changes in their lives.

Paid staff in the voluntary sector tend to be motivated in their work less by professional career structures than by personal energy, passion and hands-on experience. This is a powerful asset in service delivery and innovation, and in engaging with people who may feel too old to engage or to change.

Challenges for voluntary sector provision

Older people who have experience of the criminal justice system often have a range of needs that are complex and go beyond the remit of statutory agencies.

As people who have offended, they need support and supervision to facilitate their rehabilitation and reduce their risk of re-offending, but criminal justice agencies are typically geared towards younger people, with training and employment as the main routes to resettlement.

As older people, they may have high levels of health and social needs, but there are only some local examples of the NHS and local authorities being adept at providing care in custodial settings or in tandem with probation requirements.

Voluntary organisations often find themselves having the best overview of an individual's needs. They are adept at advocating on their behalf to get statutory agencies to act on their responsibilities, reach common definitions of risk and work together.

Systematic ageism

Within prisons, an unintended combination of factors can create a climate of systemic ageism.

For example, older prisons in particular are rarely wheelchair accessible, lack grab rails and have poor lighting. Hospital visits are delayed and put regimes under pressure because regulations require two officers to escort, despite the low risk of older prisoners absconding. Most of the education courses and work placements in prisons are limited to prisoners of working age, which also means

that older prisoners are significantly disadvantaged in the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme. They are more likely than the general prison population to spend more time restricted to their cells, vulnerable to isolation and to bullying.

Voluntary sector organisations frequently identify and challenge numerous barriers to the safety, equality, purposeful activity and resettlement of older people who have offended.

Sexual offences

Among older men who have offended, the most common offences (45%) are sexual offences. This significantly increases the challenge of meeting their needs. For example, they are likely to be held separately within the prison system, to have little or no family support, to have stricter conditions on release into the community and unlikely to be housed near their former home and community, and be unable to access social activities in public buildings and spaces (for example colleges, day centres, places of worship) where there may be children or other vulnerable people present.

Mental health

For many older people their own offending history, and the challenges of resettlement in the community, lead to high levels of anxiety and depression. Many voluntary organisations are constantly juggling emotional support with practical problem solving, which is further complicated with older people who experience confusion or dementia.

Accommodation

For older prisoners being released into the community, there is a shortage of appropriate hostel accommodation and housing. The shortage becomes even more acute for wheelchair users and those with mobility needs, and for sex

offenders with very specific restrictions. This presents voluntary organisations with challenges both to advocate for practical solutions and to deal with the emotional stress experienced by older people dealing with frustrations and delays.

Monitoring and evaluation

The person-centred flexibility of voluntary sector support creates a challenge for monitoring and evaluation. The provision is rarely a standardised intervention of the kind that is required, for example, by the Justice Data Lab in order to measure the difference made to expected rates of reconviction. A one-off piece of advice for one older person may have as much impact as long-term casework for another. The outcome of some voluntary sector interventions could be assessed only through the difference made to individuals by signposting and referring them to other organisations. Or, for people with dementia or terminal illness, the impact may be a reduction in rate of decline rather than a positive improvement.

In all these cases, outcomes could be effectively assessed through consideration of a range of data, including observation and interviews. This type of evaluation can be expensive and may well show results only after the funding for the project has ended.

Funding

Funding is limited both in time and in the range of opportunities available. Most philanthropic sources of funding are not accessible, because older people in the criminal justice system, especially those convicted of sexual offences, present challenges to individual donors or corporate sponsors. Most grant making trusts and other social investors focus their funds on areas of need where they can demonstrate the most evident impact. Within the criminal justice system, many restrict their support to younger people. Some funders have more flexible criteria and have proved to be vital to piloting innovative projects, but very few are able to fund beyond an initial number of three to six years.



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Public sector contracts – mainly from prisons and Community Rehabilitation Companies, occasionally through Police and Crime Commissioners and the NHS – have, therefore, become the main source of funding for most voluntary sector provision for older people in the criminal justice system. These contracts, too, are time limited. Bidding for them places a significant strain on the resources of small voluntary organisations, sometimes competing with large businesses, and the requirements to specify and quantify the service often mitigate against the approachability and adaptability that lies at the core of effective voluntary sector delivery.

Moreover, the holistic, cross-boundary scope of much voluntary sector provision, and its relatively small scale and low cost, mean that it can be overlooked within joint commissioning arrangements. For example, a small local organisation might be able to make a significant difference across health, social care and criminal justice needs, but this would require three different commissioners to make collaborative arrangements for what would probably be a very modest amount of funding. Many such valuable opportunities are missed because commissioning structures are too tightly defined and inflexible.

At the operational level, there is a lack of knowledge about voluntary sector provision among many public sector colleagues. Many voluntary sector projects are reliant on the support of individual managers, especially in prisons, and are vulnerable when these individuals move to new jobs.

The advantage of voluntary sector provision for older people in the criminal justice system is its flexibility – approachable, people-centred, uncovering needs, acting as a gateway to statutory services, able to meet needs that fall outside statutory criteria, or that suddenly or gradually change. But this flexibility is also what makes it so challenging for the voluntary sector to specify and measure its outcomes, and to secure resources within existing structures of commissioning and funding.

Recommendations



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For the government

- The Secretary of State for Justice should provide strategic leadership that recognises and meets the specific needs of older people and to address the combination of factors that result in systemic ageism within the criminal justice system
- Publish information on progress achieved towards priority number four* under the National Partnership Agreement between Ministry of Justice, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, Public Health England, the Department of Health and Social Care, and NHS England.

For Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)

- To meet HMPPS' duties under the Equalities Act (2010), older people in the criminal justice system should be treated as a priority group and the equality impact of any future strategies and policies relating to this group should be appropriately assessed and that equality impact assessment made public
- HMPPS should work with the Health and Justice Data, Intelligence and Evidence Group to ensure that information about the needs of older people is used to drive improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes for this group
- HMPPS should explicitly recognise the role of the voluntary sector in meeting the needs of older people and this should be reflected in commissioning strategies and guidance for prisons and probation

* Improvements to health and social care outcomes for older people and those with serious illnesses (prevention, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care) and end of life care

- HMPPS should require prison governors to have a local strategy for meeting the needs of older offenders, informed by the HMPPS Model of Operational Delivery for Older Offenders and which includes joint working arrangements with local authorities, health agencies and the voluntary sector
- HMPPS should require that probation providers have a strategy for meeting the resettlement needs of older people that includes joint working arrangements with local authorities, health agencies and the voluntary sector.

For health

- The Health and Justice Data, Intelligence and Evidence Group should ensure that they are tracking the health inequalities specifically experienced by older people in the criminal justice system
- Health agencies should use data from The Health and Justice Data, Intelligence and Evidence Group to drive action to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for older people in the criminal justice system.

For commissioners across health and justice, including HMPPS, prisons, probation services and health agencies

- Commissioning strategies should recognise the role and value of the voluntary sector in meeting the needs of older people in the criminal justice system
- Commissioners should work together to ensure joined up commissioning strategies that meet the needs of older people
- Commissioners should be aware that good outcomes for this group are wider than reducing reoffending and should also focus upon health and wellbeing, dignity and end of life care.

For funders

- Trusts and foundations with a focus on health and human rights should consider this group as a priority
- Trusts and foundations with a focus on criminal justice should recognise the changing demographics of people in the criminal justice system, especially the prison population, and reflect their specific needs in their funding programmes.

For the voluntary sector

- Voluntary sector organisations focusing on supporting older people should view people in the criminal justice system as a priority group and consider how best they can work collaboratively with specialist criminal justice voluntary sector organisations to meet their needs
- Voluntary sector organisations working in the criminal justice system should consider how their services best meet the needs of older people in the criminal justice system.

Clinks

- We will continue to raise awareness with stakeholders of the specific and growing needs for this group in the criminal justice system
- Clinks will share good practice and expertise within the voluntary sector and more widely.



Our vision

Our vision is of a vibrant, independent and resilient voluntary sector that enables people to transform their lives.

Our mission

To support, represent and advocate for the voluntary sector in criminal justice, enabling it to provide the best possible opportunities for individuals and their families.

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