



## The *Care not Custody* Coalition

This briefing paper draws together some of the many and varied activities that members of the *Care not Custody* Coalition are engaged in and progress made. It has been produced for a reception of the *Care not Custody* Coalition and other guests, on Thursday 10 July 2014. We are pleased that the reception will be addressed by the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Theresa May MP.

### Background

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) has called consistently for the diversion of people with mental health needs from custody into treatment and care. Its *Care not Custody* initiative was inspired by the tragic death by suicide of a schizophrenic young man in Manchester prison, the son of a WI member. Since then the Prison Reform Trust (PRT) has worked in partnership with the NFWI to effect change.

In March 2011, at a reception hosted by the NFWI and PRT, the Secretaries of State for Health and Justice jointly announced their commitment to developing liaison and diversion services in police custody suites and criminal courts across England by 2014, and the investment of £50 million to support this initiative.

The *Care not Custody* Coalition was convened following this reception and comprises a wide range of allied professional groups and charities. The Coalition represents 34 different organisations and professional bodies, and almost two million people across the health, social care and justice sectors and wider civic society. Together, we show the breadth of support that there is for the development of effective liaison and diversion arrangements for people with mental health problems, learning disabilities and other support needs caught up in the criminal justice system.

In January 2014 a further £25 million was committed to the ongoing development of liaison and diversion services and ten trial sites were announced. These sites will trial and further develop a robust model for liaison and diversion, and data will be collected and evaluated. National coverage for liaison and diversion services is set to increase year on year, with full rollout now scheduled for 2017.

The organisations and professional bodies in membership have agreed to work together to support the government in keeping its ‘care not custody’ promise and to hold ministers to account for effective delivery. The Coalition is well placed to monitor the implementation of liaison and diversion arrangements, offering support for positive steps and raising concerns where they arise.

## Membership of the Care not Custody Coalition

Membership of the Coalition continues to grow. As at July 2014, the following organisations have committed to ensuring the government keeps its promise of ‘care not custody’:

Action for Prisoners' Families	NHS Confederation, Mental Health Network
The Advocacy Training Council	National Appropriate Adult Network
Association of Directors of Adult Social Services	National Federation of Women's Institutes
Association of Members of Independent Monitoring Boards	Probation Chiefs Association
Bar Council	Police Federation of England and Wales
British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy	Police Foundation
Centre for Mental Health	Prison Governors Association
Office of the Children's Commissioner	Prison Officers Association
Clinks	Prison Reform Trust
Criminal Bar Association	Rethink Mental Illness
Criminal Justice Alliance	Revolving Doors Agency
The Howard League for Penal Reform	Royal College of Nursing
KeyRing Living Support Networks	Royal College of Psychiatrists
The Law Society	Together: For Mental Wellbeing
Magistrates' Association	Victim Support
Mencap	Women's Breakout
Mind	Women in Prison

Members of the Coalition are routinely engaged in a wide range of activities that support ‘care not custody’. These include, for example, providing services and support for individuals living in the community and those in custody; encouraging and enabling self-advocacy; providing professional guidance and training for their members; undertaking research, and working to support and hold the government to account for the delivery of liaison and diversion services.

- **Action for Prisoners’ Families**

We raise the importance of mental health and criminal justice agencies working in partnership with families as supporters and advocates for their relatives in our work with the Department of Health, NHS England, Public Health England and the Ministry of Justice. We also raise this in special interest groups such as the Bradley Group and Veteran Offenders Working Group.

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- **The Advocacy Training Council**

The Advocacy Training Council (ATC) is responsible for providing leadership, guidance and coordination in relation to the pursuit of excellence in advocacy. The ATC was established by the Council of the Inns of Court (COIC). The ATC comprises barristers, judges and others drawn from the Inns of Court, Circuits, the Bar Council of England and Wales, Specialist Bar Associations and from other representative bodies and organisations.

The ATC’s primary role is to oversee the development and delivery of advocacy training and the pursuit of excellence in advocacy for the Bar of England and Wales. The ATC is also often asked to assist in advocacy training overseas including most recently, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Hong Kong.

*The Advocate’s Gateway* is a website ([www.theadvocatesgateway.org](http://www.theadvocatesgateway.org)) designed to give advocates easy internet access to practical guidance for working with witnesses and defendants with communication needs, and to provide trainers with resources to use when teaching advocates about the handling of vulnerable witnesses and defendants.

The aim of *The Advocate’s Gateway* is to promote excellence in the justice system’s approach to vulnerable witnesses and defendants, to develop collaboratively, research-led best practice and to deliver education and training. The site provides a central source of information such as toolkits, legislation, articles and other guidance related to this subject. The aim of the toolkits is to set out the common problems encountered when examining vulnerable witnesses and defendants together with suggested solutions.

The main area of activity that relates to *Care not Custody* is a project entitled, ‘Vulnerable Defendants: Liaison and Diversion, and Participation in Court Hearings.’

This project will be carried out by a working group of *The Advocate's Gateway* management committee. The aims of the project are as follows:

- Researching the views of intermediaries for defendants and gathering a wealth of first hand practice examples, both good and poor.
- Drafting a toolkit that covers liaison and diversion services and the effective participation of vulnerable defendants in court.

Contact: Professor Penny Cooper Chair of The Advocate's Gateway Management Committee, P.Cooper@kingston.ac.uk; Sarah Clarke, Vice Chair, Advocacy Training Council, Training and Accreditation.

- **Association of members of independent monitoring boards**

The Association of members of independent monitoring boards (AMIMB) is a membership organisation. We support our public appointee members in prisons and immigration detention centres across the UK, who monitor the treatment of people in custody. All too often we see people with mental health problems who are in prison but who would be better cared for in units specialising in mental health.

Mental health concern is one of the top five issues raised in IMB Annual Reports. These observations of concern tend to be around:

- time taken for a mentally ill prisoner to be transferred to a more appropriate setting
- segregation units being used for prisoners with mental illness
- lack of expertise amongst prison staff when dealing with severely mentally ill prisoners.

There are some observations where proactive mental health initiatives are having a positive impact, for example, HMP Bronzefield, and many boards report an improvement in mental health services. However, a recent concern has been the length of time taken by prison staff to find an escort for prisoners transferring to a more appropriate location, given the budget cuts leading to less staff.

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- **Association of Directors of Adult Social Services**

Every community is affected by crime and the harm it causes. Many of the people who offend most frequently are also some of the most vulnerable people in our communities who need support from a number of different local agencies. The role of adult social care in supporting these individuals has been little recognised, yet directors and lead members of adult social care services are in a unique position to offer leadership to local efforts to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens and their families. Since joining the *Care not Custody* Coalition we have worked with three other coalition members - the Centre for Mental Health, Revolving

Doors Agency and the Prison Reform Trust - to produce a briefing paper highlighting the pivotal role of adult social care services in supporting vulnerable offenders, setting out ways in which social care can make a lasting difference to their lives and the communities in which they live.

In response to recent changes in legislation, brought about by the Care Act 2014, we are directly involved in developing guidance for social care and justice agencies, as responsibility for adult social care in prisons and approved premises shifts to local authorities in 2015. We are also engaged with NHS England at the national and the local level as they work to deliver liaison and diversion services by 2017.

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) has a broad remit, of which 'care not custody' is a small and important part. Being attentive to the needs of our most vulnerable citizens, of all ages, is not an optional extra for adult social care services, and the Care Act 2014 further clarifies our role in helping to prevent offending by vulnerable people and ensuring their wellbeing.

We are pleased to have recently joined the *Care not Custody* coalition, and look forward to our continued involvement as we work towards implementing the associated requirements of the Care Act 2014.

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- **British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy**

The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) co-ordinates a Criminal Justice Expert Reference Group which advises on the role that counselling and psychotherapy can play in building resilience and alleviating distress for those in contact with the criminal justice system, with a current focus on psychological therapy services for women. BACP has recently funded and undertaken a small scale research project which assessed access to psychological therapy services in women's centres, and which made recommendations about standardised demographic data collection and outcome data collection, as well as the need for further qualitative research with those women accessing counselling services. BACP is currently seeking matched funding for this next stage of the research.

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- **Centre for Mental Health**

Centre for Mental Health is an independent charity that seeks a fairer chance in life for people with mental health problems. Our research and development work aims to inform policy and improve practice in services working with people who face or live with mental ill health.

A major focus of our work is to improve mental health support in the criminal justice system for both adults and children. We have been a member of the *Care Not Custody* Coalition since its formation and since 2008 we have been developing the evidence base for effective diversion for people with mental health problems who come into contact with the police, courts and prisons.

As a partner in the Offender Health Collaborative we are supporting NHS England's national liaison and diversion development programme to help expand these services to all police stations and courts. The programme follows work by the Centre to develop a model for diversion for children and young people in contact with the police, which is now incorporated into the national 'operating model' for liaison and diversion services.

In June we published the *Bradley Report five years on*, an independent review of the implementation of Lord Bradley's 2009 report on the experiences of people with mental health and learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. The report, produced for an independent Commission whose members included Lord Bradley, Jenny Talbot, John Lock and Cmdr Christine Jones, found that significant progress is being made in the development of liaison and diversion services but that a greater focus was needed on mental health training for criminal justice professionals and on improving transfers for prisoners to and from secure hospitals.

The Centre has also reviewed the elements of good practice for liaison and diversion services. Our report, *Keys to Diversion*, found that meeting people's basic needs, for example for money and shelter, was as important as offering mental health support, and that diversion services need to link people into a range of local services and be available to people who need extra support.

The Centre is currently reviewing people's experiences of Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act in support of a review by the Home Office and Department of Health into the operation of these provisions.

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- **Office of the Children's Commissioner**

The Deputy Children's Commissioner, Sue Berelowitz, leads on all of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's (OCC) Youth Justice work. The OCC is the only organisation that has a right of entry to all three types of the secure estate: secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offenders' institutions. We thus have a unique perspective on the strengths and weaknesses of the different models in which children are placed. We are members of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and Sue chairs the NPM Children's Sub Group. We undertake unannounced visits to at least one secure setting on a monthly basis. The purpose of these visits is to identify whether children in custody are being cared for in accordance with their rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and

to fulfil our NPM obligations. Both concerns and good practice are identified and recommendations made for changes or improvements where this is considered necessary. Some significant changes to both practice and environments have resulted from our visits.

The OCC has a statutory duty under the Children Act 2004 as amended by the Children Act 2014 to provide support, assistance and representation for children and young people in care or in receipt of social care services. All children on remand fall within this remit and the OCC therefore has a particular interest in children in care and on remand within the secure estate.

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- **Criminal Bar Association**

The Criminal Bar Association exists to represent the views and interests of the practising members of the criminal bar in England and Wales. At this time of unparalleled challenge to our survival the Criminal Bar Association is providing the credible leadership necessary to ensure an independent, excellent and strong source of specialist criminal advocacy. We run educational events for our members and are concerned to ensure that vulnerable people are properly represented in court.

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- **Criminal Justice Alliance**

In November 2012 we produced a joint report with the Centre for Mental Health on Mental Health Treatment Requirements (MHTR) and their ability to address a root cause of offending behaviour. The report warned that proposed changes to community sentencing in the Crime and Courts Bill may mean that the emphasis in sentencing will no longer focus on addressing root causes of offending and the MHTR will remain underused. The report made a number of recommendations, including that training and information on mental health and the MHTR should be made available to criminal justice staff and that health professionals should have more information on the MHTR and their role in delivering it.

We regularly circulate information about issues affecting offenders to all our members including those working with people who are mentally ill and those with learning disabilities. Where relevant, we include in our responses to government consultations and briefings to politicians the impact policy or legislative changes may have on those caught up in the criminal justice system who have mental health problems or learning disabilities. A recent example of this is the proposals in the Courts and Criminal Justice Bill to increase the use of electronic tagging on those released from prison.

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- **The Howard League for Penal Reform**

The Howard League has brought several legal challenges to ensure children in prison are treated appropriately. In 2002, we brought a judicial review against the Home Secretary which held that the Children Act (1989) should apply to children detained in YOIs and that duties owed by local authorities continue to be owed to those children, including requirements to carry out mental health assessments.

The Howard League built on this through litigation that brought about a change of policy towards segregating children, ensuring that segregation is used as a last resort and not as a punishment. Further litigation provided clear guidance that in order to ensure effective and coordinated care by local authorities of homeless 16 and 17 year olds, it was necessary to have a joint protocol between the local housing authority and children's services to assess needs and make sure that the most appropriate agency took responsibility.

Despite our litigation, it remains the case that resettlement plans all too often fail to take into account the mental health needs of young people leaving custody. In our unreported case of *B v Essex County Council* and others, we assisted a young woman who was initially to be placed by her local authority in a Travel Lodge. We ensured that she accessed a hospital placement followed by joint aftercare services until she successfully found appropriate social housing. That experience illustrated the enormous difficulties that people leaving prison face in accessing appropriate assistance from mental health and social care services.

Crucially, throughout the last 25 years, we have provided legal advice and assistance to a considerable number of children and young people with significant mental health problems who have been inappropriately placed in custody. We have often had to intervene to ensure that they are transferred under the Mental Health Act 1983 to a therapeutic environment and have witnessed how in many cases, once transferred, the medical team have to grapple with unpicking the negative impact of years of inappropriate placement in custody and all the trauma that goes with it. Two of these cases have resulted in independent on-going inquiries to look at what went wrong.

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- **KeyRing Living Support Networks**

KeyRing is a provider of supported living for vulnerable people. A network of people with support needs live in a small geographic area. Facilitated by a volunteer, network members meet regularly, support each other and become meaningfully involved in their community. This model develops the skills and confidence of members while adding value to the community. KeyRing has over 100 such networks across England and Wales. The KeyRing model of support is particularly effective with people who have offended due to a chaotic lifestyle. KeyRing also runs a Department of Health funded pilot network for people recovering from addiction. This aims to prevent relapse by providing regular but tapering support and crisis intervention.

KeyRing and the Prison Reform Trust jointly run the Working for Justice group (a service user group for suspects, defendants and offenders with learning disabilities). KeyRing are also involved in various training, policy and other related projects concerned with tackling the issues faced by offenders with learning disabilities.

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- **The Law Society**

The Law Society of England and Wales is the representative body for over 166,000 solicitors in England and Wales. It negotiates on behalf of the profession, and lobbies regulators, government and others.

The Law Society's Criminal Law Committee has arranged two 'continuing professional development' (CPD) events for solicitors focusing on people with learning disabilities in the criminal justice system, one of which was made available as a webinar. A further CPD event will be run in October entitled *Mental Health and Learning Disabilities in the Criminal Court*. This event has been organised with Rethink Mental Illness and the Prison Reform Trust, with a contribution on liaison and diversion services by NHS England.

Earlier this year, the President of the Law Society hosted a dinner to discuss vulnerable adults in the criminal justice system. The discussion generated a number of ideas that will be further explored, and these include:

- joint events with the ten liaison and diversion trial site areas for defence lawyers and the Crown Prosecution Service, which would seek to develop models for effective communication and working practice
- including vulnerable adults and liaison and diversion services in the 2015 Law Society manifesto
- ensuring individuals on the autistic spectrum are routinely considered in discussions about vulnerable adults.

We have worked with other members of the *Care not Custody Coalition* including, for example, the National Appropriate Adult Network on the provision of legal advice for children and vulnerable adults when such advice is considered by the Appropriate Adult to be in their best interest.

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- **Magistrates' Association**

The Magistrates' Association (MA) is a voluntary association of magistrates which was formed in 1921 to promote the sound administration of the law including, but not restricted to, educating and instructing magistrates and others in the law, the administration of justice, the treatment of offenders and the prevention of crime.

The MA has worked closely with the Prison Reform Trust (PRT) and Rethink Mental Illness, with support from the Judicial College and Justices' Clerks' Society, to develop an information resource for magistrates, district judges and court staff on mental health and learning disabilities in the criminal courts. We continue to work with PRT to promote the resource and to raise awareness amongst magistrates.

The MA is in the process of appointing Mental Health Champions at our 60 branches across England and Wales to ensure an appropriate link between our membership and the liaison and diversion schemes currently being piloted. This, it is hoped, will ensure a greater awareness of these services so that defendants and offenders can be dealt with appropriately.

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- **Mencap**

*Raising Your Game* is a five year lottery funded programme supporting young people aged between 14 – 25 with a learning disability or communication difficulty, who have either offended or are at risk of offending. The project is led by Mencap in partnership with I CAN and Nacro, bringing together expertise in learning disability, communication difficulty and the Youth and Criminal Justice System.

The project was in response to evidence that identified:

- many young people involved in offending have a learning disability and/or communication difficulties, which is often hidden
- there are barriers to them being actively involved in the organisations and activities designed to support them making crucial life decisions.

The project helps young people:

- build the skills and confidence they need to become actively involved in making key decisions about services that affect their lives
- improve their employability and life chances.

The project also delivers training to organisations, raising awareness on learning disability and communication difficulties and the link with offending, with practical ways of giving young people more positive experiences.

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- **NHS Confederation, Mental Health Network**

The Mental Health Network represents providers from across the statutory and non-statutory sectors. We work with government, regulators, opinion formers, media and the wider NHS to promote excellence in mental health services, and the importance of good mental health.

We help shape and challenge national policy and legislation affecting our members. We make sense of the broader political and policy environment, and provide members with up to date news and analysis. We also work to identify and spread good practice and innovation in the mental health sector. We are working to spread good practice across the NHS about what good liaison and diversion services look like.

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- **National Appropriate Adult Network**

Under the PACE Codes of Practice, the police must secure an Appropriate Adult (AA) whenever they detain or interview a child or an adult they suspect might be mentally vulnerable (such as having a mental illness, learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder). The decision to call an AA must be made by the custody officer and the AA must be contacted as soon as possible.

Thousands of people, often community volunteers, spend countless hours in police stations undertaking the unique role of an AA, providing the support, advice and assistance necessary to ensure fair treatment, effective participation and guard against false confessions.

As the charity and membership organisation for practitioners, the National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) supports AA schemes through national standards, professional development, guidance and informing policy.

We are particularly concerned about the high numbers of mentally vulnerable adults not receiving an AA. This creates risks both to vulnerable individuals and to police, as interviews may be rendered inadmissible at court. Unlike AA services for children, which are provided for on a statutory basis, there is no statutory provision for vulnerable adults. The consequent patchy provision of AA services for adults means police often cannot find one despite significant time spent searching. These concerns are shared by many others, including many Police and Crime Commissioners.

NAAN advocates the placing of provision for adults on a statutory footing as it has been for children since 1998, something that will be increasingly important as liaison and diversion schemes improve identification rates.

NAAN is discussing with NHS England how best the role of AAs is properly recognised, understood and integrated with liaison and diversion services.

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- **National Federation of Women's Institutes**

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) is the UK's largest voluntary organisation for women with some 215,000 members across 6,500 Women's Institutes (WIs) in England, Wales and the islands.

The NFWI has been working on the *Care not Custody* campaign since our annual general meeting in 2008 when members passed a resolution calling for an end to the inappropriate detention of people who are mentally ill in the criminal justice system.

In the years since the resolution was passed, members have been committed to raising awareness of the scale of the problem and making the case for change at local and national level. WIs have been involved in a range of activities from lobbying their MPs for better and more consistent provision of diversion and funding for women's centres as an alternative to prison, to calling for the resources for the recommendations set out in the Bradley Report (2009) to be delivered, and visiting prisons and women's centres. Members have documented their experiences and seen at firsthand what life is like in the criminal justice system for people with mental health problems.

A number of WI members have become more directly involved by training as volunteer mentors at a Women's Centre with vulnerable women who are at risk of falling into the criminal justice system. One WI has opened in prison.

On a national level, we have met with health and justice ministers and, working with our campaign partner, the Prison Reform Trust, we have hosted a series of platform events to make the case for adequate funding and provision of liaison and diversion schemes, and a higher level of co-operation between the health and justice sectors.

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- **Prison Governors Association**

The Prison Governors Association (PGA) believes that too many people are in prison; many of these are serving ineffective short sentences when they could be better dealt with by a community sentence.

There are too many vulnerable prisoners who have mental health issues or learning difficulties that should be diverted from the criminal justice system and prison.

There are about 1,000 ISPP (indeterminate sentence for public protection) prisoners with tariffs of less than two years who were sentenced prior to 2008 still in custody. This is unjust.

These are some of the headline issues that the PGA has taken up with the Prisons Minister.

Working with the Prison Reform Trust, the PGA plans to survey its membership in the autumn to gather information, opinions and solutions to the current misuse of custody for people who are mentally ill and those with learning disabilities or difficulties.

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- **Prison Reform Trust**

Since 2009, the Prison Reform Trust (PRT) has been pleased to work with the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) on 'care not custody'. We were instrumental in establishing the *Care not Custody* Coalition in 2011 and, together with the NFWI, continue in our efforts to support the government in keeping its 'care not custody' promise and in holding ministers to account for effective delivery of liaison and diversion services. We were disappointed that the initial commitment for national roll out of these services by 2014 was not met, but understand the need to develop a robust model, and the significant task doing so.

Our Care not Custody work is chaired by Lord Bradley, PRT trustee, and we routinely work with Coalition members on areas of shared interest, some of which have been reported by them in this briefing. Over the last 12 months we have worked closely with Rethink Mental Illness, the Magistrates' Association and KeyRing Living Support Networks (Working for Justice Group) to develop an information resource for magistrates, district judges and court staff. The resource, *Mental health and learning disability in the criminal courts*, is available in hard copy and online ([www.mhldcc.org.uk](http://www.mhldcc.org.uk)), and is routinely used by a much wider group of professionals and practitioners including defence lawyers, probation staff and nursing and social care staff working in justice settings. We were invited this year to make presentations at each of the annual training events for district judges and their deputies, organised by the Judicial College, and members of the Working for Justice Group made powerful presentations at four of the six events. We ran two workshops at the Magistrates' Association 2013 annual general meeting, following which we continue to be invited to run similar sessions for local Branches. We are pleased that Magistrates' Association mental health champions are now being appointed by local Benches to help raise awareness and, in particular, to engage with local liaison and diversion services.

Our work on reducing women's imprisonment has enabled a focus on the particular needs of women and the importance of gender specific services within the justice system, including liaison and diversion services. A recent report, *Brighter Futures*, highlights areas of concern, good practice case studies, and makes recommendations for change.

In partnership with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Centre for Mental Health and the Revolving Doors Agency we produced a briefing paper, *Making the Difference*, highlighting the role of adult social care services in supporting vulnerable offenders. We will draw on this work to help inform the implementation of the Care Act 2014 as it relates to prisoners and offenders with social care needs.

We are routinely in contact with parliamentarians, ministers, senior officials and third sector stakeholders in our efforts to drive forward the ‘care not custody’ agenda, and have arranged a number of oral briefings, for example for Police and Crime Commissioners and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Penal Affairs. We regularly produce written briefings for parliamentarians and respond to government and other consultations. We are pleased to have helped secure cross-party support for liaison and diversion services.

Current work and future plans include an informative study on community alternatives to custody for people with mental health or learning disabilities and family member focus groups to help inform the development of liaison and diversion services.

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- **Rethink Mental Illness**

Rethink Mental Illness is committed to improving diversion for individuals with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system.

Rethink Mental Illness runs an Advice and Information Service, based in London, which is able to help anyone in England by telephone, email or letter. Within the Advice and Information Service there is a full-time Criminal Justice Adviser who works to advise and support individuals with mental illness, their carers and families on all aspects of the criminal justice system.

The Adviser undertakes casework for clients. The focus of this is on diversion from the criminal justice system. The Adviser frequently advocates on behalf of clients on the need for diversion to magistrates, judges and legal representatives.

The Adviser also produces and maintains a number of factsheets on criminal justice and mental health. These are self-help tools aimed at individuals, their carers and families. They aim to empower the reader to take action to push for diversion for themselves or their loved one.

Awareness raising and training also form a large part of our commitment to diversion. In partnership with the Prison Reform Trust we have produced an excellent training package for magistrates, district judges and court staff to raise awareness of mental illness and learning disabilities within the criminal justice system, see [www.mhldcc.org.uk](http://www.mhldcc.org.uk)

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- **Revolving Doors Agency**

Revolving Doors Agency exists to transform the lives of women and men with multiple and complex needs, including poor mental health, who are caught in the revolving door of crisis and crime. We work with partners to improve services and systems by influencing policy and commissioning and by improving frontline practice. We involve people with direct experience of the problem in everything we do.

Revolving Doors is a member of the Bradley Report Group, which brings together over 40 member organisations to provide independent advice and critical friend support to the government's health and justice programme. Our chief executive, Dominic Williamson, is co-chair of the group and in this capacity attends the government's cross-departmental Liaison and Diversion Programme Board.

Revolving Doors is also part of the Offender Health Collaborative (OHC) which is supporting NHS England to implement the liaison and diversion programme. The OHC, which also includes the Centre for Mental Health, NACRO and the Institute of Mental Health at Nottingham University, helped develop the national operating model for liaison and diversion and is now supporting the ten trial sites across the country to transition to the new model. Over the next two months Revolving Doors will be running a series workshops to test the model and its implementation with service users.

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- **Royal College of Nursing**

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) remains committed to the *Care not Custody* Coalition.

We were delighted to host a *Care not Custody* stakeholder supper in November 2014. This was attended by Norman Lamb, Care Services Minister and other key strategic stakeholders. Headline themes from our discussion included the need for pooling budgets and sharing good practice.

The RCN Criminal Justice Services forum has focussed its attention on the development of an e-resource which underpins the RCN 'principles of nursing' work. This has provided an opportunity to support practitioners in all justice settings to consider dignity of care, safety, respect and associated practice priorities; see: [www.rcn.org.uk/development/communities/rcn\\_forum\\_communities/prison\\_nurses/nursing\\_in\\_cjs\\_principles\\_of\\_nursing\\_practice](http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/communities/rcn_forum_communities/prison_nurses/nursing_in_cjs_principles_of_nursing_practice)

This e-resource has been promoted widely, including:

- through collaborative working with the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Secure Environments Group, and a planned joint seminar at the forthcoming RCGP annual conference in October 2014

- o a joint RCN/RCGP event in Wales, supported by the Welsh Assembly Government
- o the 2013 European Public Services Union (EPSU) prison network meeting in Bucharest. We will be hosting the next meeting in London in February 2015, with an emphasis on healthcare and nursing.

The RCN annual congress, held in June 2014, debated the care needs and support of prisoners, and people held in police custody and other justice settings. This debate will create an opportunity to focus on prioritising work initiatives through 2014/15 and will be reported on at RCN Congress in June 2015.

The RCN nursing adviser, Ann Norman, has contributed to the NHS England Health & Justice Clinical Reference Group and has participated in a number of 'task and finish' projects. These include the development of guidance on Tramadol use in prisons; involvement in the clinical review of police national service specification; RCN submission to Lord Toby Harris' review of self inflicted deaths; and RCN work on the development of Department of Health (DH) guidance on restrictive practices.

We are delighted to see the many good examples of nursing staff working in creative and innovative ways in prisons and police custody. For example, with Johanne Tomlinson, Nursing Standard 2012 winner for her work with prisoners at HMP Stafford, we have highlighted the link between high quality nursing care and positive outcomes for prisoners.

The needs of people with a learning disability within justice services have been a particular focus for us. We have supported DH and other organisations/services to prioritise this particularly vulnerable group, and to ensure that people with a learning disability receive the necessary adjustments to their care.

The RCN is supportive of liaison and diversion services. Many of the good working practices have a strong nursing element, and we know that our policing colleagues are positive about the new and emerging collaborations. The RCN are increasingly working with the College of Policing and are considering a number of shared opportunities.

This short synopsis provides a sample of the work that the RCN is currently involved in with our nursing membership. We consider the excellent working relationships that we have with all of the organisations, services and agencies cited here to be a very supportive and productive way of working.

Contact: [Ann.norman@rcn.org.uk](mailto:Ann.norman@rcn.org.uk)

- **Royal College of Psychiatrists**

The Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Office of the Children's Commissioner convened a roundtable on 13th March this year to bring together influential clinicians, academics and policy makers to discuss how we might lever change for children and young people with brain

injury who are over-represented in the criminal justice system, and potentially to develop a community of interest to influence better outcomes. Research by the Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Barrow Cadbury Trust has demonstrated the prevalence of brain injury and the impact it has on young lives, in particular on young people who offend.

The aims of this event were to consider specifically how we can influence:

- changes in practice to enable practitioners to recognise problems early and respond appropriately
- inclusion of the needs of brain injured children and young people and those with neurodisability in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies for which Health and Wellbeing Boards are responsible
- how commissioners can support better outcomes for this group through their commissioning activity
- the development of a public health approach to ensure the early identification, education, support and community integration of children with neuropsychiatric conditions and early-life brain injury in the criminal justice system.

Contact: Sue Bailey, Sbailey@rcpsych.ac.uk

- **Together: For Mental Wellbeing**

Together: For Mental Wellbeing is a national charity working alongside people to improve mental health and wellbeing. In everything we do we are inspired and guided by the hopes and wishes of the people we support.

We are recognised as a high quality and robust provider of criminal justice mental health services through the work of our Forensic Mental Health Practitioner (FMHP) Service, which has been delivering mental health liaison and diversion services within London Courts and Probation Service for nearly 20 years. Over the last two years, this work has expanded to include the support of vulnerable people within police custody suites. The overall aim of our liaison and diversion services is to divert people away from custody when appropriate and to identify and lever support from services in the community

From April of this year, Together, in partnership with three London NHS Trusts, has been leading on the implementation of the Liaison and Diversion trial site for London as part of the Department of Health's National Diversion Programme. Across nine boroughs, the services being delivered are taking an all-age approach to include younger people as well as developing screening and assessment practices to ensure that, along with mental health needs, all potential vulnerabilities are identified including learning disability & difficulties, autism, personality disorder and substance misuse. New liaison and diversion services are also being developed in the Crown Courts within the locality. The trial site is being supported by a high level Strategic Advisory Board with members including the Youth Justice Board, NHS England, National Probation Service, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service and the Metropolitan Police Service.

All of our services have developed practices that address the needs of specific service user groups including women and people from BAME communities. We currently deliver dedicated women's liaison and diversion services across three sites in London and have been working with housing providers, such as St Mungos, to identify accommodation to support the diversion of women away from custody.

To support frontline criminal justice staff as they come into contact with vulnerable people with mental health needs, we have also published mental health guides, including one focusing on the needs of women:

- [www.together-uk.org/uploads/acommonsenseapproach.pdf](http://www.together-uk.org/uploads/acommonsenseapproach.pdf)
- [www.together-uk.org/download-form/](http://www.together-uk.org/download-form/)

Together is also a member of the Bradley Group, which brings together organisations to support and encourage implementation of the Bradley Report.

Contact: Linda Bryant, Head of Criminal Justice Services, [Linda-bryant@together-uk.org](mailto:Linda-bryant@together-uk.org)

## • **Victim Support**

In October 2013, in partnership with Mind, we published *At Risk, Yet Dismissed* a report looking at the experiences of victimisation for people with mental health problems. The report found that people with mental health problems were much more likely than the general population to be victims of crime, the crime had a greater impact on these individuals, and they were less likely to report being satisfied with their treatment by the police.

A majority of the participants in the research had some previous experience with the police either as a victim, witness, offender or when being detained under the Mental Health Act. Where these prior experiences were poor, individuals were reluctant to contact the police again.

This highlights the importance of the *Care not Custody* campaign: improving the experiences of victims with mental health problems is dependent on maintaining a positive relationship with the police at all times and regardless of the nature of the contact.

We are campaigning for a coordinated national strategy to better support victims of crime with mental health problems. In addition, we are calling on Police and Crime Commissioners to commission mental health specialists to help provide greater assistance to individuals.

We continue to provide information, practical and emotional support for victims of crime across England and Wales, as well as support for witnesses in every court via the Witness Service.

Contact: [Joe.Allen@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:Joe.Allen@victimsupport.org.uk)

- **Women's Breakout**

Women's Breakout supports voluntary and community sector organisations working with vulnerable women who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system. Our member organisations provide women only, women centred, holistic, community based services that prevent women from becoming socially excluded, and relieve the needs of women who are socially excluded and assist them to integrate into society.

Women's Breakout has:

- Built a membership of 53 organisations, in two years, which has ensured a collective voice for women offenders and those providing services for them. Feedback from members evidences that Women's Breakout has been an essential and highly valued support for Women's Community Projects. In particular, members' value:
  - being part of a national, collective voice to embed gender specific, community based services for women who have offended and those at risk of offending
  - the provision of highly targeted, relevant and timely information
  - the translation of policy and information into their language with explanations of what that means for their practice
  - the support in their local situations to engage with their local providers at the right level
  - sharing good practice and fostering innovation.
- Influenced decisions with regard to funding of Women's Community Services which has ensured that significant numbers of women receive services that work.
- Ensured that the expert and collective voice of Women's Community Services was still heard during major reorganisation of government departments, by developing relationships and influencing opportunities as the new structures have emerged so that the specific needs of women are raised at all stages of service transformation and design.
- Captured the voice of 100 women *Experts by Experience* and recruited 15 to become accredited lay assessors.
- Clearly articulated an offer for prime providers that has resulted in further conversations with nine potential primes to position Women's Community Services for meaningful places in contractual relationships post 2015.
- Clearly articulated a case for a Social Investment Bond and established an impressive working group to take forward our proposal, with interest from potential funders which could result in sustainability for our member organisations.

Contact: [Jackie.russell@womensbreakout.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.russell@womensbreakout.org.uk)

*My son did not cope well in prison. Care for the mentally ill should be therapeutic and in surroundings conducive to peace and recovery – not the barred, noisy, stressful and gardenless prison. Those of you who have visited prisons will be aware of how unpleasant and entirely unsuitable a place they are for the mentally ill. My son was not a criminal; he was in prison because there was no alternative place of safety.*

Norfolk Federation WI member talking about the death of her son in prison, which inspired the *Care not Custody* campaign.

**For further information about the *Care not Custody* Coalition contact:**

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- Jenny Talbot, director, Care not Custody programme: [jenny.talbot@prisonreformtrust.org.uk](mailto:jenny.talbot@prisonreformtrust.org.uk)

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