

Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Reference Group

Thursday 23rd March 2017

Event Summary

The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Reducing Reoffending Strategy Board is a newly established partnership forum bringing together those who are involved with the criminal justice system to further develop an integrated reducing reoffending strategy. It is exploring how we can continue to develop services across agencies including, how we can actively involve offenders and ex-offenders to inform these services.

In 2014, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) identified that the proportion of offenders in West Yorkshire who reoffend is 26.5%, which is 1% above the average in England. Reoffending rates for those serving sentences less than 12 months is higher (65%), than for those who have served over 12 months (41%).

This event, which was facilitated by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), aimed to identify with third sector partners what the key priorities are to reduce reoffending, how to increase voluntary, community sector and service user engagement and what the PCC can do to support this.

The event was attended by over 50 delegates, including partners working across a variety of the reducing reoffending pathways; housing, substance misuse, domestic violence, education and others.

The event involved keynote speaker Angela Lucas, from CLINKS; a national infrastructure organisation which supports voluntary organisations working with people who are involved in the criminal justice system and their families. She highlighted the Reducing Reoffending Pathways; accommodation, children & families, debt & finance, among others and also provided advice on what service user involvement should aim to be in order for it to be effective.

Ruth Kettle, from Community Links, was the second keynote speaker and discussed her role as a Third Sector Advocate on the PCC's Partnership Executive Group (PEG). She highlighted findings from The Bradley Report, which found that 26% of detainees reported to have mental health needs and that 5% of detainees had been arrested four times or more.

Please see link to The Bradley Report:

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/ProjectsResearch/Mentalhealth/TroubledInside/BradleyReport>

Please see the link to the event presentation slides: https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/media/125816/reducing_reoffending_presentation_final.pptx

Working Together

The delegates were asked to discuss in groups a series of questions. This feedback will be integral to the Strategic Board and will be presented by the Third Sector representative. The following are the key outcomes to take forward from the discussion groups.

Key Discussion Points

Key Priorities

- Providing suitable housing and having placements organised before offenders leave prison
- Taking a strategic approach to securing paid employment opportunities for offenders
- Tackling substance misuse and addictions to drugs and alcohol
- Providing more frequent access to mental health services in prison
- Extending relationships with healthcare services to explore opportunities for early interventions
- Being aware that we need to use 'different tools for different communities', including providing interpreters and encouraging English lessons whilst continuing to promote a positive action recruitment drive

Opportunities for Support

- Coordinating an E-Newsletter focusing on working with offenders in West Yorkshire
- Providing networking opportunities such as breakfast meetings to allow partners to make 'business connections'
- Researching community resolution opportunities to reduce short sentences
- Mapping the services which currently exist within West Yorkshire to encourage partnership working
- Encourage sustainable paid employment opportunities for ex-offenders as well as volunteering opportunities

Proposals for Ongoing Third Sector Engagement

- Funding streams which encourage collaboration not competition
- Increase service user involvement, consulting with service users and their families to improve services
- Tackle preconceived 'labels' limiting ex-offenders and inhibiting them from gaining employment (and other opportunities) because of the restrictions which currently stand

From these valuable discussions, some points which will help to direct the strategy including exploring the following:

Next Steps:

- Encourage organisations to register with Bluelight for OPCC funding opportunities
- Explore free networking opportunities on social media platforms (LinkedIn Groups etc.)
- Identify dates for future meetings on a quarterly basis
- Appointment of a third sector representative to sit on the Strategy Board

To Find Out More

Please contact David Smith, the Third Sector Advisor at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Call 01924 294000 and leave a message, or call him direct on 07595 006087.

To email please contact David.smith@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk .

Delegate List

Name	Organisation
Abdul Hannan	Leeds University Union
Alison Mitchell	BASH
Alison Robinson-Rowe	Well Women Centre (Evolve)
Andrina Dawson	Voluntary Action Leeds
Angela Lucas	CLINKS
Ann Ramsden	Rosalie Ryrie Foundation
Anne Hadfield	Foundation UK
Anne-Marie Douglas	Peer Power
Becky Norton	Change, Grow, Live
Brian Hamill	Wakefield District City of Sanctuary
Bridget Gill	Spectrum People
Carol Gilchrist	Prevent – Kirklees
Chelcey Huxley	
Chloe Duxbury	Pact Futures
Clare Groves	Lifeline Project
Claude Hendrickson	Leeds West Indian Centre Charitable Trust (LWICCT)
David Newell	Specialist Autism Services
Elaine Colleran	3SC
Faye Fox	Circles of Support & Accountability (Yorkshire, Humberside & Lincoln)
Gemma Dyer	Princes Trust
Helen Minett	Fusion Housing
Helen Orlic	Yorkshire Children's Centre
Ivelina Metchkarova-Taylor	DISC – WY-FI
James Burleigh	Health for All
Jim Leyland	Touchstone
Joanne Collins	Together Women
Jo Sykes	WY Police and Crime Panel
Justine Plumb Chief Inspector	Calderdale District
Ken Denton	New Wortley Community Centre
Kerry Hemingway	Catch 22
Laura Kemp	
Lindsey Harrison	Bradford Youth Offending Team
Lutel James	Chapelton Youth Development Centre
Maqsood Ahmed	Muslim Hands
Michelle Monkman	Changes/Community Links

Nick Ireland	Inspector – WYP
Paul Hardman	Foundation UK
Paul Swift	Reflections
Paul Stewart	3SC
Philip Cook	Fusion Housing
Qamar Zaman	Touchstone
Rebecca Carrington	DISC
Rokaiya Khan	Together Women
Ruth Kettle	Community Links
Sarah Divan	Muslim Hands
Satvir Meen	Global Diversity/Positive Action
Sofia Buncy	Muslim Hands
Steven Freer	Tempus Novo
Sue Mcqueen	Victim Support – Wakefield
Usman Ali	Wakefield City Youth & Community Project
Val Johnson	Volunteering Kirklees
Yasmin Khan	Staying Put
Zara Thackray	New Wortley Offender Support Team

Delegates were asked permission at the event to have email addresses circulated.