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This In Focus 'Offending' edition is dedicated to the work of the many local organisations who work to reduce offending, reoffending and promote rehabilitation.

There are also organisations who work tirelessly supporting local families to cope emotionally and practically with the imprisonment of a loved-one such as Sussex Prisoner's Families which was set up in 2013 to support families in Brighton, West and East Sussex to cope with the emotional and practical issues which can arise when a family member is imprisoned.

The Home Office estimates that nationally 0.5% of offenders commit 10% of offences; in addition 10% of offenders commit 50% of offences. A significant proportion of crime is committed by a relatively small group of persistent or prolific offenders who cause harm and distress to individuals and to our communities.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together locally.

The Integrated Offender Management Scheme

is a cross-agency response to tackle persistent offenders who keep committing crime. It is estimated that approximately 10% of the offending population are responsible for half of all crime and a very small proportion (less than 1%) being responsible for one in ten offences.

The aim of IOM has been to manage the small amount of offenders who cause a disproportionate amount of crime. In the main the IOM cohort has been made up of serious acquisitive offenders.

Building on the success of the IOM scheme across Sussex all offenders are now in scope, including domestic violent perpetrators, those who have a history of serious acquisitive and or violent offending and those involved in serious organised crime, including exploitation.

The Key Principles are intended to reflect the essence of Integrated Offender Management. Local models will vary to reflect local circumstances and priorities, but the common elements are:

- All partners manage offenders together
- To deliver a local response to local problems
- With all offenders potentially in scope
- Facing up to their responsibility or facing the consequences
- With best use made of existing programmes and governance arrangements
- To achieve long-term desistance from crime



INTEGRATED OFFENDER
MANAGEMENT
MANAGEMENT
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Further information on these key principles can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406865/HO_IOM_Key_Principles_document_Final.pdf

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is supported by the Safer East Sussex Team, made up from Community Safety staff from Sussex Police and East Sussex County Council

The Safer Communities Partnership are supporting the process of bringing all offenders into scope by collaborating with key agencies to bring a greater understating of the refreshed cohort and their needs in order to improve engagement and outcomes of the programme.

The success of IOM has been achieved through the commitment of shared resources from all agencies involved and working collaboratively to swiftly engage individuals who often leading complex and chaotic lives.

East Sussex Integrated Offender Management Hub

Police, National Probation Service and Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company work closely together with a wide spectrum of other local statutory, private and voluntary sector agencies to reduce crime and repeat offending and maintain public safety by reducing the threat, risk and harm offenders pose by the repeated commission of crimes.



Whilst the key criminal justice partners are co-located within the East Sussex Integrated Offender Management Hub, a variety of agencies come together to share information and identify offenders causing harm within the East Sussex boundaries. The offenders are mostly subjected to Community sentences or released from prison on statutory licences, reporting to the Probation services.

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The IOM approach offers a rehabilitative package of support balanced with swift consequences for non-compliance or re-offending.



Under IOM arrangements Service users are seen more regularly than standard cases and generally would have up to four appointments a week including at least one Supervision session with their Probation Officer and a Home Visit.

Initially upon release from custody IOM service users would also have nightly curfews and other restrictive

measures put in place. If an offender engages well and responds to the package of support in place then the team can work towards relaxing some of the restrictive measures to reflect their progress. This combination of close monitoring, restrictive measures and rehabilitation has the aim of reducing the offending of those who pose the most harm to the Community.

Once the offender is identified and adopted onto the scheme the multi-agency IOM panel will agree how best to intervene, manage and support the individual in addressing the areas that underpin their offending behaviour and the likelihood of re-offending. Fortnightly multi-agency meetings ensure that information is shared across the relevant agencies involved and actions set to monitor and manage the offender's risk. A package of intervention is designed specifically for the individual that challenges attitudes, changes behaviour and supports the development of skills required to live a productive crime free life.



For example; an individual may be required to complete a cognitive offending behavioural programme, attend their local substance misuse agency for drug treatment and be referred to employment and training services. Part of the rehabilitative package might also include working with the individual and Children Services to support child protection procedures or other family arrangements.

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Case Study:



Jennie has a long history of acquisitive offending to fund her drug misuse. Due to her substance misuse and chaotic lifestyle, living on family member's sofas, Jennie lost the custody of her children whom were taken into care.*

She was adopted onto the IOM Scheme and referred to the Fulfilling Lives Project which provides intensive intervention and support to individuals that are hard to reach. Jennie was also referred to the local substance misuse agency, STAR.



On a weekly basis Police and Probation completed a joint home visit and also saw Jennie at the local probation office. Initially Jennie was resistant to supervision due to a lack of trust towards professionals however over time her Probation Officer managed to build a positive working relationship with Jennie, which allowed them to explore and identify the factors underpinning her offending behaviour. This

enabled her to take responsibility for change and find self-belief and the motivation required to turn her life around.



To support this work Jennie had been allocated a female probation officer and worked with other female staff with the different agencies involved. Through the support she was given Jennie disclosed a history of domestic abuse which resulted in the perpetrator being arrested, successfully prosecuted and sentenced to a substantial prison sentence.



Jennie subsequently managed to secure temporary accommodation and continued to engage well with all the agencies involved and her prolific offending greatly reduced.

**name changed to protect privacy*



Integrated Offender Management

‘IOM works, sometimes it just takes time, patience and a different outlook’

Charlie Connaughton- IOM Co-ordinator East Sussex Division talks to us about his role, work and life in Integrated Offender Management

“My primary role as the IOM Co-ordinator is to ensure the smooth, effective administration and delivery of the IOM scheme in East Sussex. I work very closely with both the dedicated Police Officers and Probation Officers who work together on a daily basis, supporting the offenders with the common goal of reducing re-offending”.

“I also maintain regular contact and an open dialogue with both Senior Probation Officers from the National Probation Service and the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Community Rehabilitation Company. I maintain regular contact with the Chief Executive of Reformed East Sussex Services a Community Interest Company who support offenders in finding employment and improving their opportunities of employment. We refer as many offenders as possible to this scheme which has seen some great success stories. I also work closely with my colleagues from Investigations and our community policing teams providing a single point of contact for all IOM related matters”.

“I am responsible for the timely completion of referrals to the IOM scheme where a comprehensive report is submitted together with a risk and vulnerability assessment to help gauge whether or not an offender should be adopted onto the IOM scheme. It is a well-known fact that ten per cent of the offending population are responsible for committing half of all crime. Therefore, a key part of my role is to promote the IOM scheme and seek referrals for those offenders who present the greatest threat and risks to our community.”

“Our IOM Cohort has been subject to a significant review with a clear focus on threat and vulnerability, keeping vulnerable people safe. As such we are working closely with our colleagues from the safeguarding teams with a particular focus on domestic violence”.



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“Working with the Safer East Sussex Team, there is some early foundation stones being laid in looking at how to support both victims and perpetrators across East Sussex with additional funding from the Strategic Partnership. The levels of vulnerability and risk relative to domestic violence cannot be underestimated. Whilst this work is in its very early stages, I am confident that we can make ‘a difference’ through this joined up working and look forward to progressing this over the coming months.”

“I know that IOM can and does make a difference. The IOM teams have a unique type of professional working relationship with the offenders and are able to make a difference, where perhaps some would consider there is no hope. For example; recently a domestic violence offender had generated 33 calls to the police over a six month period.

Through this unique relationship the IOM team worked with the offender and a number of interventions took place which saw a complete reduction of calls over the following 6 months. Whilst this represents a significant time and cost saving, more importantly this reduced the risk and vulnerability to the victim and other members of the community.”



- **Any agency can refer into the IOM Hub using the new referral form.**
- **The referrals are presented to the IOM multi-agency meeting for discussion.**
- **If it is felt that the service users meet the criteria for IOM then they are adopted onto the scheme.**

For any queries please contact:

Head of Resettlement, Samuel Newbould,

Kent Surrey, and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company.

E-mail: Samuel.newbould@ksscrc.scc.gsi.gov.uk

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Reducing women's offending using an innovative new programme of Whole Systems Approach

The Sussex Criminal Justice Board, led by Katy Bourne, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, will be focusing on a Whole Systems Approach (WSA) project focusing on women in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) with their Project Manager Sam Sanderson. Sam has over twenty years' experience in the CJS at various levels through her employment with Witness Service, the Police and Probation Service. Sam also has a good working knowledge of the key community partners linked in with this field of work.

What is the historical context for the WSA? How have we got to where we are now?

- **1987 to early 90s** only a very small number of projects working with women in CJS
- **Early 90s** some expansion of service provision but little concept of gender-specific practice
- **1995** inspection of HMP Holloway suspended due to "appalling conditions" *Thematic Review of Women in Prison*
- **2000 onwards** : Wedderburn (2000); Fawcett Society Commission on Women and CJS (2003 onwards); Corston (2007); Fawcett Society Provision for Women Offenders in the Community (2007) Women's Justice Taskforce (2011); Justice Select C't *Women offenders: after the Corston Report* (2013) and follow-up March 2015

The project will focus on a multi-agency approach to addressing the complex needs of often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged women in society being processed through the CJS. The aim of the project is to use existing resources differently to target support more efficiently, avoiding gaps or duplication in service provision and supporting women to access provision successfully so that they can turn their lives around.

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The Whole Systems Approach (WSA) to women's offenders is to assess need at first contact with the CJS and to provide holistic support throughout her justice journey.

Women's offending generates significant fiscal, economic and social costs well beyond the direct costs to the Criminal Justice System. The WSA model consolidates agencies merging together to use existing resources more effectively, to share information and to coordinate women's access to services, improving the chances of successful outcomes in and out of the CJS.

This project will aim to focus on three core areas of the Criminal Justice System and impact on women offenders namely:

- **Point of contact with Police** - to establish an enhanced pan Sussex Women's Diversionary project. To also expand the diversion processes at an early stage prior to arrest, with Police making key decisions about disposals available. Therefore reducing the number of women going to court and targeting resources to address women's needs at an early stage;
- **Post charge** – to consolidate resources and having a county wide data base accessible to all sectors of the CJS particularly at court stage. Thus targeting resources for complex and high need women;
- **Post release** – to promote service delivery and enhance communication amongst women's Prisons. To set up a mentoring system to bridge the link between custody and community. To target support for complex and vulnerable women offenders more effectively and reduce recall rates.

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So why focus on women?



- The number of women in prison has more than doubled since 1993. There are now nearly 2,300 more women in prison today than there were in 1993.
- On 16 June 2017 there were 3,994 women in prison in England and Wales.
- 8,447 women were sent to prison in the year to December 2016, either on remand or to serve a sentence.
- Most women entering prison under sentence (84%) have committed a non-violent offence.
- Theft offences accounted for nearly half (48%) of all custodial sentences given to women in 2016.
- As a result, most women entering prison serve very short sentences. 70% of sentenced women entering prison in the year to December 2016 were serving six months or less.
- This has grown significantly since 1993 when only a third of women were given these very short sentences.
- 53% of women in prison reported experiencing emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child, compared to 27% of men.
- There were 12 self-inflicted deaths of women in prisons in England and Wales in 2016, the highest number since 2004, the year before Baroness Corston was commissioned to review the sharp rise in female deaths in custody.
- The recent significant and rapid increase in women's deaths in prison is under investigation.

(above figures obtained from The Prison Reform Trust, Prison: The Facts Summer 2017)

Next steps for the project?

- Profiling of current women in the CJS;
- Researching demands and current practices;
- Completing a gap analysis;
- Setting up steering groups/action learning sets with key partners.

For further information please contact Sam.Sanderson@sussex.pnn.police.uk

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Brighton Women's Centre
Empowering women since 1974
womenscentre.org.uk



Ruth Britsch – A Day in the life of a Women's Support Worker for BWC's Inspire Women's Diversionary Project.

I love my job as I am able to offer practical and emotional support to some of society's most vulnerable women, many of whom have come into contact with the Criminal Justice System due to being overwhelmed by social disadvantage including poverty, domestic abuse, childhood trauma, mental health issues and subsequent alcohol or drug use, leading to uncharacteristic actions or reactions to further stressors.

I cover East Sussex and work in the community and from Eastbourne custody suite.



I start my day at 8.30am checking emails and phone to deal with anything urgent that has come up overnight which may alter my plans for the day. Good news! An email from a supportive Trust stating that they have awarded one of my clients a grant meaning she can pay her outstanding arrears and will not be evicted from her accommodation. I call her to let her know and inform the accommodation provide

I phone the Police Custody Suite. They have three women detained who need Inspire services, so I get there as soon as I can. When I arrive, there are two women for me to meet - one has already been transferred to court. I meet Joⁱ in the observation room rather than a cell due to her vulnerability and level of distress. After introducing myself I let Jo tell me what is going on and listen to her. We will often have only 30 minutes or so to make a connection and get an idea of any support we can offer, following her release.

Jo is in shock and in our short time together I am able to get an understanding of some of the many issues she is struggling to cope with. My role requires me to make a very quick assessment of the most pressing needs clients have and then move onto some of the more deep rooted issues and traumas.

We agree immediate support I can offer around her tenancy and Jo signs a consent form so I can contact relevant agencies. Before I leave Jo gives me her contact details so I can call her when she has been released.

Next is Kay who I have met several times. She remembers me and we have a quick chat. She is working with another agency that offers intensive support and doesn't feel she needs Inspire at the moment, but agrees that I can contact her worker and let her know she's in custody.

I get back in my car and check my phone and emails before going to my first community appointment of the day.

Much of the practical aspect of my role involves supporting clients to access services and advocating for them

I have a voicemail from a support worker from another agency saying that a mutual client, Linda has been badly assaulted by her partner and is currently in A&E with her. She is street homeless and has nowhere to go tonight. I start phoning emergency accommodation and Refuges. The only Refuge space available for women with Multiple Complex Needs today is in Birmingham. I call Linda, but Birmingham is too far from her support and children. Linda does not want to go there.

I have several more community appointments. One of my clients has recently moved to the area and is quite isolated. I have given her information about local activities, arranged an appointment for her and am taking her to meet the provider. She is very low in mood and had considered cancelling, but the meeting is successful and she signs up to go Horse Riding next week.

I receive an up-date from another worker that a mutual client, who has been out of contact with all professionals for a week is at the Substance Misuse services. I head there and join her appointment with her new Recovery Worker. The client is in a low mood and disappointed as her perceived lack of engagement has set back her treatment.

I contact Crawley open house who advised they may have a space for Linda. I do a phone referral. The referral is successful and a space is held for her, although Linda is anxious, that Crawley is too far away but she agrees to meet her support worker in an hour to go to Crawley.

.My last appointment today is with Jean who has been served notice by her landlord and needs to find a new property to rent by next week. Jean is 62. While we are waiting to be seen by a Housing Officer, it becomes clear that Jean's situation is far more complex than she had initially told me.

As with 80% of our clients, she has a history of Domestic Violence which has left her in considerable debt. Jean is embarrassed and emotional about her situation and I spend time reassuring her that I am not judging her, while trying to get as much detail as we will need to find a solution for her.

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Jean is not eligible for emergency accommodation however I tell her I will apply for some grants to assist with a deposit. I get back to my computer, email Jo's Housing Association and start writing a grant application for Jean.

Just as I am about to leave work I receive a message from Linda's other support worker stating that Linda didn't turn up to meet her as agreed and that her phone is now switched off.

Ruth works for Brighton Women's Centre in the Inspire team.

(All names have been changed)



Inspire supports women with multiple vulnerabilities at all stages of involvement in their Criminal Justice journey. Inspire was established in 2009 as a direct response to the Corston report and exists to deliver positive alternatives for women. Inspire recognises the challenges that multiple vulnerabilities can present for women and offers a flexible and responsive service where women are at the centre of their recovery.

In 2014, Inspire rolled out services across East and West Sussex. The Women's Diversionary Project (WDP) is an initiative to divert women with complex needs away from the Criminal Justice System at the earliest possible opportunity and prevents women becoming entrenched in the justice loop. Inspire work with police, probation – NPS and CRC, NHS as well as community and voluntary sector partners.

For further information please visit www.womenscentre.org.uk/services/inspire

Or contact either ruthbritisch-inspire@womenscentre.org.uk
Or sophiegibson@womenscentre.org.uk

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Reformed East Sussex Services C.I.C

Reformed East Sussex Services

Reformed East Sussex Services provides innovative solutions to the problems of social exclusion and works with offenders and recovering addicts to support them turn around their lives, become self-sufficient and resilient and find employment in the long run. The support is provided by workers who are “*experts by experience*” and services are aimed at all those who are in recovery and/or have been subject to the criminal justice system. They work with people on a one-to-one basis and build relationships, which are long-term as this is a proven way of achieving success and improving the circumstances of this group of people.

Reformed currently provides support to members of these groups to either find employment and/or increase their employability. They offer accredited training, working with clients on their presentation, interview skills and developing their CV. The organisation also sources opportunities with local businesses for clients – these are often voluntary in the first instance and will give clients a chance to build their self-esteem, work based skills and become used to being back in a place of employment or for some, being in a workplace for the first time. Reformed support clients through this process by managing expectations and showing them the benefits of being in employment, whether they be financial or other benefits



Recently a 26yr old man has been attending Reformed for four months, an offender and drug addict, prolific with non-engagement with other services and someone who has never been able to sustain employment has now completed the CSCS training (leading skills certification scheme within the UK construction industry), and now in employment which he has sustained for 3 months now.

He told *Reformed* that without their support he felt he would still be offending and misusing drugs. He said “*I really enjoy working, I feel a purpose to get up in the mornings and it's changed my life*”.

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SUPPORTING THE OFFENDER FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Sussex Pathways delivers the 'through the gate' mentoring scheme to work alongside individuals leading up to release from prison. Their volunteer mentors will begin supporting people in prison approximately 6 weeks pre-release and will meet with them at the gate on the day of release and continue to provide weekly support in the community for up to six months.

They also train and support their volunteers to achieve the effective resettlement into the community for people leaving prison and directly provide a range of services, as well as mobilising the support of partner organisations.

The mentoring programme promotes progression towards education, training and employment. It supports the development of life skills such as improving personal relationships, interpersonal and communication skills as well as helping to integrate into the community.

Please see the video below to find out more about Sussex Pathways



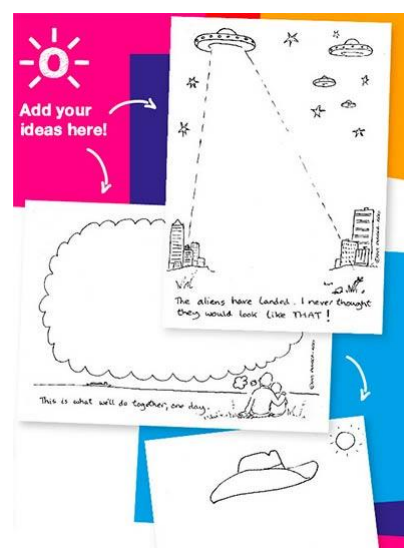
<https://youtu.be/LinuoYKv5pE>

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Sussex Prisoners' Families is a community interest company which supports local families to cope emotionally and practically with the imprisonment of a loved-one. We offer support and advice to families, as well as training and awareness-raising for professionals so that they can better meet families' needs.

In partnership with Guy Parker-Rees (a Brighton-based award-winning children's book illustrator) they have created a set of DoodleCards which have been specially designed to help children stay connected with loved ones during a separation. Prisoners and families at HMP Lewes have been using the DoodleCards to share ideas, spark memories and dream about the future.



Sussex Prisoners' Families run two training courses which help practitioners consider the needs of prisoners' families when planning their services.

- **Hidden Sentence** which explore the ways in which families are affected by imprisonment
- **Working with Families of Sexual Offenders** Which examines particular issues facing this vulnerable group.

Both courses are suitable for

- Probation and CRC staff
- Teachers and school/nursery staff
- Prison staff
- Health professionals
- Youth and community professionals
- Youth offending teams

www.sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk/about-us/

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Surrey & Sussex Criminal Justice Partnerships



“A joined-up modernised quality criminal justice service that delivers value for money for the community and inspires public confidence”.

This is the joint vision of The Surrey and Sussex Criminal Justice Partnerships (SSCJP).

- Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SCJB) was established in 2003 to provide a structure for strategic leaders to meet, discuss and agree measures to improve the Criminal Justice System for the public. SCJB is a voluntary partnership. It is not governed by statute and is not an executive body. SCJB meetings are not open to the public but observers may be invited at the discretion of the Chair.
- The **Surrey and Sussex Criminal Justice Partnerships** are two Local Criminal Justice Boards based on police force areas across England and Wales. The partnerships allow criminal justice agencies to come together, agree priorities and identify local strategic direction.
- Their aim is for local and national criminal justice agencies to work together across Surrey & Sussex to create a system where they work together to achieve common aims and objectives. They are committed to improving public confidence in the Criminal Justice System for all communities.

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The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) is Chair of the SCJB. Members of the Board include:

- Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner
- Sussex Police
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
- Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
- HMP Bronzefield
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
- Victim Support
- NHS England
- Public Health England
- Legal Aid Agency
- Youth Offending Service
- Citizens Advice – Witness Service
- Brighton and Hove City Council
- East Sussex County Council
- West Sussex County Council
- Defence

The partnership identify priority areas of work through an annual Delivery Plan which can be found here: www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/media/2710/delivery-plan-2016-18-updated-may-2017.pdf

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS SURREY AND SUSSEX

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



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The Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership

The Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (SRJP) brings together all the agencies and authorities with an interest in RJ. The work of this group is being delivered through the Sussex Criminal Justice Board.

The group, which is led by a Strategic RJ Manager from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, includes a diverse range of people including practitioners, criminal justice agencies, community representatives and the voluntary and community sector.

The Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (SRJP) was selected at the Restorative Practice UK National Awards ceremony in London in May earlier this year and won the 'Communities' category.

The award recognises the partnership as a group which has made an outstanding contribution to communities in Sussex through restorative practices.



Some of the outstanding attributes of the partnership were noted as part of the award. They included pioneering a 'victim led approach', the inclusive range of participating agencies within the partnership, an innovative 'cloud based' electronic case management system and the enthusiasm, commitment of senior leaders, managers, coordinators and volunteers.

You can read more here: <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/victims-services/restorative-justice-rj/>

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Sarah Knight – A Day in the life of a Criminal Justice Drugs Worker

My role as a criminal justice drugs worker is a very varied, challenging, demanding and rewarding role.

I manage a caseload of 30+ clients all of whom are either under the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team, are Prolific Priority Offenders (PPO), on Licence after being released from prison or are on Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRR) or Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATR) issued by the courts.

I work at both the Drug and Alcohol Service in Eastbourne and at Eastbourne Police Custody.

It's 08.00hrs on a Friday morning and I arrive at Eastbourne Police Custody for the start of my shift. As I walk through the door the custody sergeant informs me that I am in for a busy morning, as there are four in for Burglary, all of which need drug testing and there is a couple of my known clients in for other offences.

I screen the 16 detainees that are currently in custody, I identify the detainees in for the burglary and the two known clients, and check the risk assessments of the other 10 detainees, for any disclosed drug or alcohol use, but nothing comes to light.

The four in for Burglary have not yet been processed by the custody assistants and have not yet signed to be drug tested, this has to be done by the custody sergeants. I check with the sergeants who out of the 16 detainees can and cannot be spoken to. Two of the detainees in for Burglary have been volatile since their arrest, so we have to wait for the interviewing police officer to attend before they can be processed. Interview time has not yet been arranged, so I complete my cell sweep of the other detainees, apart from my two known clients none of the others want to speak to a Drug and Alcohol worker.

I ask the sergeant if I can get the two known clients out of their cells to speak with them. This is authorised so now with a panic alarm in hand, I proceed back down the cell block with a custody assistant to get the first known client out. I spend the next 45mins checking in with this client, confirm with them the last time they used illicit drugs and picked up their Methadone from the pharmacy.

They are then returned to their cell and I make a phone call to the pharmacy to check when they last picked up their Methadone. This done I inform the sergeant and he logs this on his handover sheet, and as they have been in custody 14hrs and are very likely to be remanded for court, we make arrangements for officers to collect today's Methadone dose from the pharmacy and the custody nurse is called to attend and dispense the Methadone.

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Quick cup of coffee and I am ready to speak to the next known client. I go back to the sergeant who tells me that this client is now playing up, and is trying to eat his polystyrene cup and is threatening to smash his head on the cell wall. I ask the sergeant if he would like me to come down the block and speak to him. The sergeant thinks that this would be very helpful and we proceed to the cell along with 3 custody assistants. I manage to calm the client down and get him to pass me the polystyrene cup and all his other food rubbish out of the hatch to be disposed of. He now wants to talk to me so we agree with the sergeant if he remains calm and behaves himself then I can come back later and speak with him. He agrees.

It's now time to start seeing the detainees in for the burglaries. We get the two out that have not been volatile, get them signed up and processed by the custody assistants. One tests negative for Opiates and Cocaine and states no issues with drug or alcohol use, so no further intervention is required, the other tests positive for Cocaine. An initial assessment of this detainee is now required and paperwork and panic alarm in hand I spend the next hour assessing this detainee. This person needs a follow up appointment, so we make an appointment for the following Monday and he signs for this appointment and is made aware that should he fail to attend and not make contact he will be beached and arrested for failing to attend. He is returned to his cell and I update the custody sergeant.

It's now 10.30hrs I go back to the office to write up all my notes, check my emails and answer the missed calls on my phone.

The criminal Justice Liaison Nurse – Mental Health Team, arrives and we discuss and cross reference the detainees in custody over a cup of coffee. I then go and speak with the known client that was trying to eat his polystyrene cup earlier.

He is brought out of his cell and I spend the next 30 mins checking in with him. He is recalled to prison, a call is made to his pharmacy to check his last dispensed date and dose of Methadone, officers are called and asked to go and collect today's dose and I call the prison clinical team to inform them that he is waiting for prisoner transport to collect him and he will be coming back to prison later today, I also confirm his current Methadone dose with them.

It's now 12.00hrs and time for me to leave and go to the drug and alcohol service.

12.30hrs I arrive back at the drug and alcohol service, I pick up more messages from reception, from clients and probation officers and make my way up to the office.

13:30hrs I receive a phone call from a hospital stating that one of my clients who was admitted a couple of days ago, is currently undergoing surgery but may be discharged later this evening or tomorrow. They will dispense her Methadone to her today, but a prescription will be needed for her over the weekend. Numerous calls

later, and discussion with the drug and alcohol service doctor and a prescription is issued, now I just need to get it to the pharmacy.

14:30hrs my client who was released from prison this morning and was booked in for a Medical with our doctor has failed to attend. I get back on the phone and locate him at Eastbourne Custody. He has been arrested shortly after release and is being remanded to appear before the Magistrates Court the next day (Saturday), another discussion with the doctor, another script issued, more phone calls made and another script to get to the pharmacy.

It's now 15:30hrs and I am due to finish my shift in 30 minutes, I write up my notes for the afternoon and leave the drug and alcohol service at 16:30hrs. I deliver the prescriptions to the local pharmacy and head home.

17:30hrs I arrive home my work mobile is ringing and it's one of my clients reporting an incident, I spend the next 20 mins talking to him on the phone and advising him to call the police.

*19:00hrs the client calls me back and tells me that he reported the incident to the police. I arrange to see him on Monday, email his probation officer and the police officer at probation. **Switch my phone and laptop off, now time for the weekend.***



Sarah works for CGL - Change, grow, live – CGL was established in the 1970s by magistrates and former probation officers to support people leaving prison to resettlement in the community.

Today, they continue to offer rehabilitation interventions and services across the country that encourage and enable people to stop offending and regain control of their lives.

Their criminal justice services mainly support people whose drug or alcohol use has got them into trouble with the law. They work with the police, prisons, courts and other health and social care services to provide integrated drug and alcohol treatment interventions that aim to stop reoffending and further harm to individuals and society. For further information please visit: www.changegrowlive.org/what-we-do/our-services/criminal-just

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is supported by the Safer East Sussex Team, made up from Community Safety staff from Sussex Police and East Sussex County Council



The Safer East Sussex Team
would like to wish you a very happy and
safe Christmas

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