Lord Bradley’s review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system

Methodology

In undertaking this review I have taken the opportunity to seek contributions from a large number of individuals and organisations:

- Literature reviews,
- Individual meetings
- Focus Groups
- Visits
- A National call for evidence
- A call for evidence to both members of Parliament
- Commissioning a preliminary cost/benefit analysis.
Terms of Reference

• to examine the extent to which offenders with mental health problems or learning disabilities could, in appropriate cases, be diverted from prison to other services and the barriers to such diversion;

and

▪ to make recommendations to government, in particular on the organisation of effective court liaison and diversion arrangements and the services needed to support them.
Issues to consider

- The nature of the problem
- Public protection
- Maintaining public confidence
- The existing policy context
- Existing service provisions
- Defining the population
What the Review found

General findings:

• Lack of agreement on important definitions e.g. what diversion means
• Importance of service user/carer experience
• Emphasis on diversion often too late in system
• Lack of adequate assessment and identification of problems at an early stage
• Poor continuity of care
• Poor information and information sharing
• Lack of joined up services for those with dual diagnosis
• People working in ‘silos’, both at national and local level
• Poor use of existing ‘disposals’ due to lack of awareness and information e.g. community orders
• Need for training, for both health and criminal justice sectors
Early Intervention, Arrest and Prosecution

Key issues:

- Link to social exclusion
- Role of schools in identifying problems
- Focusing on children and young people
- The role of community policing
- Better health services in police custody
- Use of section 135 and 136
- Appropriate adults
- Liaison and diversion at the station?
The Courts

Key issues:

- Supporting judiciary with information and training
- Better use of remand
- Better use of existing disposals, e.g. community orders
- ‘Proportionality’ of court reports
- More effective use of court resources
- Role of specialist courts
Prison, community sentences and resettlement

Key issues:

- Better services for those in custody, e.g. primary mental health care, in-reach services
- Targets for transfers to health services
- Poor use of continuity and resettlement, particularly ‘under 12 months’ group
- Poor use of care programme approach
- Impact of mentoring services
Specific Groups

More work to be done

- Women – building on Corston for gender-specific services
- BME – high levels, but little work done on appropriateness of services
- Children and young people – need their own focus as area of highest impact
My Key Recommendations

- A national, joined-up approach via the creation of a national programme board and advisory group
- New Criminal Justice Health Mental Health Teams to ensure continuity of care
- Reviewing responsibility for health services in police custody
- Early assessment and identification of mental health problems or learning disabilities
- Improved data collection and sharing to inform improved commissioning and planning of services
- National, regional and local partnerships
- Improved training at every stage of the CJS
- Better use of existing resources
What Next?

- 82 recommendations
- Governance arrangements
- Delivering change through partnership
- Leadership at all levels
- Government’s delivery plan
Questions?
Thank you

The Bradley Report

You can find my report at: