An Evaluation of Prison Mental Health In-Reach Services
- An Insider’s Tale
Julia Hartley
Senior Prison Custody Officer
Healthcare Centre, HMP Bronzefield
Current research

- Evaluating prison mental health in-reach services
- Reception screening
- Diagnostic interview
- Follow up interview
- Tracking using IMRs, mental health and other records
Benefits to the research of having a secondee

- Practicalities – knowing the prison
- Care about the prisoners
- Access to nurses’ lists
- Contact with other personnel
- Easier access to prisoners and records/documents
- Saves the time of other prison personnel
- Liaison with senior management
Challenges

♦ Unclear line management structure
♦ Ensuring prison will welcome you back as a uniformed member of staff
♦ Frustration of not being able to do more
♦ Unable to directly refer to in-reach team
Rewards

♦ Enjoyment – having more contact time with prisoners
♦ Giving prisoners insight into what to expect in prison and being able to help them on a one to one basis
♦ Learning from research colleagues
♦ Opportunity to see prison from a different perspective
♦ Detox programme project