

**Keeping the *Care not Custody* Promise  
Party Conference Roundtable Event**

**Key facts**

- 26% of women and 16% of men said they had received treatment for a mental health problem in the year before custody.<sup>1</sup>
- Black and minority ethnic groups are 40% more likely than average to access mental health services via a criminal justice system gateway.<sup>2</sup>
- 25% of women and 15% of men in prison reported symptoms indicative of psychosis.<sup>3</sup> The rate among the general public is about 4%.<sup>4</sup>
- 46% of women prisoners reported having attempted suicide at some point in their lives. This is more than twice the rate of male prisoners (21%) and higher than in the general UK population amongst whom around 6% report having ever attempted suicide.<sup>5</sup>
- 20 – 30% of offenders have learning disabilities or difficulties that interfere with their ability to cope with the criminal justice system.<sup>6</sup>
- 7% of prisoners have an IQ of less than 70 and a further 25% have an IQ between 70 - 79.<sup>7</sup>
- Prisoners with learning disabilities are frequently excluded from elements of the prison regime including opportunities to address their offending behaviour.
- Prisoners with learning disabilities or difficulties are five times as likely as prisoners without such impairments to have been subject to control and restraint techniques and more than three times as likely to have spent time in segregation.
- Youth offending team staff reported that children with impairments and difficulties had problems understanding the consequences of failing to comply with court orders and what they needed to do to successfully complete an intervention.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health (2009) The Bradley Report, Lord Bradley's report of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system, London: Department of Health

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Justice (2013) Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners, London: Ministry of Justice

<sup>4</sup> Wiles, N., et al. (2006) Self-reported psychotic symptoms in the general population, The British Journal of Psychiatry, 188: 519-526

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Loucks, N. (2007) No One Knows: Offenders with Learning Difficulties and Learning Disabilities. Review of prevalence and associated needs, London: Prison Reform Trust

<sup>7</sup> Mottram, P. G. (2007) HMP Liverpool, Styal and Hindley Study Report. Liverpool: University of Liverpool

<sup>8</sup> Talbot, J. (2010) Seen and Heard: supporting vulnerable children in the youth justice system, London: Prison Reform Trust

## Care not Custody

The Government has given a commitment to roll out national liaison and diversion services for people with mental health problems and learning disabilities in police custody and courts across England and Wales by 2014. It has given an initial £50 million towards the development of such schemes.

With good progress being made but less than a year to go before the delivery deadline, this roundtable is an opportunity to explore the practical issues that need to be addressed to ensure the Government keeps to its pledge. These include:

- How do we ensure effective cooperation, and pooling of resources, between health, social care and criminal justice agencies, and between national and local government?
- What are the implications of the wider health and criminal justice reforms for liaison and diversion services?
- How can Police and Crime Commissioners, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups contribute to effective delivery and oversight of liaison and diversion schemes at the local level?

The *Care not Custody* initiative was inspired by the tragic death by suicide of a young man with schizophrenia in Manchester prison, the son of a WI member. Since then the Prison Reform Trust (PRT) has worked in partnership with the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) to effect change. The *Care not Custody* Coalition (see below), representing up to two million people across the health, social care and justice sectors and wider civic society, was convened by the WI and PRT to support the Government in keeping its *Care not Custody* promise and to hold Government to account for effective delivery.

### Membership of the *Care not Custody* Coalition

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