

IAP Meeting - 9 March 2020

9.30am - 2.30pm Home Office

Attendees

Seena Fazel (by phone)
Juliet Lyon (Chair)
Jenny Talbot
John Wadham
Adrian Blake (Secretariat)
Nick Poyntz (Secretariat/co-sponsor. Host and partial attendee)

Apologies

Deborah Coles
Jenny Shaw
Alison Bernard (Secretariat)
Kishwar Hyde (Secretariat)

Panel discussion feedback

The IAP discussed three things:

- gathering information and research – role of panel members and secretariat and scope to commission
- how to work with Ministerial Board to ensure that it is fully engaged, focussed and takes active steps to protect life
- how best the IAP can work, stay informed without creating extra work for agencies and provide independent advice during Covid-19.

Custodial sectors to include current and future work

Immigration:

- JW plans to engage with Home Office regarding paper and production of summary.
- On notification of an inquest into the death of a person in detention – if possible JW would like to attend.
- We would like to see plans for how the Home Office and contracted parties will deal with COVID-19 in immigration detention. Scope for release – particularly for civil detainees

Policing:

- Plan outreach with police and crime commissioners, police chiefs and College of Policing and build on good relations with policy custody forum and Police Federation
- Opportunities to build on/profile good practice including police custody 'no place of safety' campaign'; triage and liaison and diversion services; mental health first aid training – transferable to other sectors?
- Support plans for NHS takeover of healthcare in police custody.

Health:

- Paper to come from DC as a springboard for health work.
- IAP to contribute to mental health white paper following Wessely review.

- Convene meeting with CQC to establish a closer working relationship, clarify recording systems and publication of numbers of deaths and explore assessment of risks of people detained under MHA dying in custody

Prisons:

- Need to make sure that we are both making and showing progress (example see Justice Committee report on prison population)
- JS is progressing natural deaths in custody report with RCN
- JT is working with Magistrates Association to build on survey on use of treatment requirements in community sentencing

Probation:

(JS and DC not present)

- Meeting to be convened with Justin Russell HMI Probation
- JT meeting probation task group set up by Amy Rees to implement IAP/MA recommendations

Keeping Safe conference brief review

- Excellent speakers/presentations
- Over-packed agenda
- Cross-sectoral representation with diverse delegates. Attendance strong.
- Good Ministerial engagement
- Venue friendly and flexible. Limited facilities
- Conference planning good. Administration/organisation sometimes fraught.

Follow up

1. Thanks sent to all speakers
2. Prison Radio podcast
3. Inside Time conference report with action points from IAP
4. Follow up with delegates as stakeholders
5. New section on website

Kate Davies CBE, Head of Offender Health, briefing meeting:

- Juliet welcomed Kate and began by asking about **corona virus**, noting areas of work that the IAP is well placed to support – such as access to international evidence, letters reminding officials and ministers of their obligations and asking co-sponsors about response, but being mindful of not causing extra work during difficult times.
- Kate made the following points:
 - Over the last three months NHS England has been working in partnership with relevant departments to highlight risk and ensure a safe and secure patient pathway
 - One of the biggest risks is staff going into prisons and IRCs because they don't know if they are infected
 - Looking at a reduced operational model to mitigate against staff absence
 - Eamon O'Moore is leading for PHE and is drawing on international work to develop planned responses for when cases are confirmed

- Kate is SRO and part of the response team; Keith Willett is responsible for NHS responses within PHE
- Specific focus is being placed on vulnerabilities within the criminal justice system
- It's an everchanging situation and prisons and IRCs are likely to reflect what happens in the wider community. 30 hospitals are on stand-by for the wider community – what happens for prisoners? Will they be included or will they be treated elsewhere, in prison or IRC, and that has resource implications
- Twice daily reporting of cases – which prisons and IRCs are involved. There are very diligent procedures and testing and testing kits. Really important to get testing to staff and patients ASAP – if negative, life goes on; if positive, self-isolation for 14 days; if things escalate, reassess and possible medical treatment
- Juliet asked about releasing people from prison/IRC and Kate noted that magistrates need strong guidance on non-remand, where appropriate
- Kate continued...
 - When/if HMPPS takes the decision to stop visits, we will need to think carefully about what that means for individual prisoners
 - Local authorities need to be better sighted on the care pathway involving prisons and prisoners
 - Regions are responsible for response to corona virus, including prisons
 - At a practical level, sufficient soap and hand sanitiser is difficult to get in prisons, and there are dirty towels
 - COVID 19 will dominate everything we are doing
- What is the likely timeframe? Kate said according to PHE the peak is around Easter time/late April
- Other points from Kate:
 - Liaison and diversion at 100% geographical coverage from 1 April 2020 – full model covering police and criminal courts. 80,000 people seen in the last 12 months of which 14,000 were children. New model has peer led staff working towards accreditation. Rand Europe are conducting the evaluation, which will look at both health and justice outcomes, and will be available in March 2021
 - Reconnect: nine pathfinder sites
 - CSTR: 10 areas up and running; six more operational soon. Positive working with NPS to ensure information from L and D services is reaching PSRs
 - MH White Paper removes prison as a 'place of safety'
 - MH transfers and remissions: data for the 4th year will be available tomorrow (10 March)

Draft Action Log

- AB or KH to send Family Liaison protocol to Juliet/Panel.
- Joint article for information between IAP, NPS and MA which would go into MA journal and NPS newsletter. They want to develop a national standard about community sentencing options.
- Prison as a place of safety, IAP are talking to PGA about a short survey that will build on MA survey looking at the extent to which prisons are being used a place of safety.
- Gabriel Lee to do a deep dive action research, lasting 12-15 months.
- Pre sentence report – ensuing info about a mental health/disability is included. NPS were waiting for ministerial statement on the purpose of a PSR.

- Communications strategy to be forwarded to Panel by AB.
- JW to go back to Frances at HO to talk about immigration paper.
- DHSC paper to be resent.