

Harris Review Meeting 7
10:30 – 13:40, 4 September 2014, Room 5.28
102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ

Present:

Chair: Lord Toby Harris (TH)

Panel Members: Stephen Cragg (SC), Philip Leach (PL), Deborah Coles (DC), Meng Aw Yong (MAY), Graham Towl (GT), Dinesh Maganty (DM), Matilda MacAttram (MM), Richard Shepherd (RS)

The Harris Review Secretariat: Deborah Browne (DB), Robyn Malan de Merindol (RM), Kishwar Hyde (KH)

For item 3: Carol Bond (CB) and Alisa Purton (AP)

For item 4: Sarah Morton (SM) and Rachel Tsang (RT)

Apologies:

None

Item 2: Welcome and Minutes of the meeting 17.07.2014

1. TH welcomed everyone back to the busy schedule of the next few months, TH reminded everyone to fully complete their Declaration of Interest forms as outlined by MP at the last meeting.
2. With the exception of minor typing amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed.
3. The panel were updated on plans for prison visits. DB advised that there would be a session in October where a summary of all visits would be discussed.
4. The panel were updated on recruitment for the Secretariat.

Action 59: Secretariat to amend bullet point under paragraph 9 of the last minutes and further clarify paragraph 8.

Item 5: Action Log

5. The new RAG rating system to help the panel keep up to date with the Action Log was described, and the action log discussed and updated.

Item 3: De-escalation techniques

6. TH welcomed CB and AP from NOMS Psychological Services Group who were giving a presentation about two pieces of work undertaken by the Group. For the first of these they had been asked to look at the increase in Incidents at Height (IaH) to see what lessons could be learned that may help manage or reduce the number of such incidents. CB gave a summary of the types of incidents, the data examined and some emerging statistics. She went on to talk about offenders' motivating factors, including their perception that their needs were not being met. She suggested actions from the research data as well as some areas where amended practice could help to address the number of IaHs.

7. It was not known whether there was any correlation between IaHs and SIDs and there had not been any known deaths as a result of IaHs. The driver for the incidents, however, is often distress and the need to make staff pay attention to the offender and their needs or grievances. It was suggested that these issues could be more effectively dealt with by early intervention, staff understanding, recognition of the bigger picture, pro-social modelling and recognising the potential 'hot spots' for IaH activity.. It was suggested that there might be some cross reference between flags for 'climbers' with the Review's identified flags for vulnerability vulnerabilities. .

8. Interesting areas to cross reference with the Reviews work also included the risk of staff of being de-sensitised to triggers, which may result in a dulled response to early warning signs of problematic behaviour. CB explained the term 'Social Proof' whereby prisoners get 'proof' that unacceptable behaviour gets a response to their needs i.e. the high level security response to an IaH and so there may be a clustering of events. It was suggested that high level crisis response might not be the most appropriate means of reducing these behaviours.

Action 60: CB will send a link to the Review to view 'Aeroplane Behaviour' statistics.

9. AP presented the second piece of work undertaken by the Young People's Group to contribute to the development of specific strategies for dealing with challenging behaviour in 15-18 year olds. Developmentally, adolescence is a time of change and disruption, with development occurring across several domains, including neurobiological, socio-cognitive, emotional and personality. Staff are shown to use the CuSP tower to explore issues and the Popcor model of workplace violence as useful tools for managing behaviour in young people in custody.

10. It was remarked that there was a degree of social interaction with young people which would not be feasible in the adult estate although the principle of the CuSP tower was one which could be applied across the estate as it relates to maturity.

11. Staff resource should be maximised they need to 'buy in' to the idea of having an understanding of a prisoner's underlying issues and then to use this in their day to day interactions so that they are more effective.

Item 4: Research update

12. SM and RT summarised the three strands of the research:

- **Interviews with prison staff:** following a competitive bidding process, it has been decided to award Rand Europe in conjunction with University of Cambridge the contract. They will be conducting interviews with 50 staff from five prisons. It was agreed that the staff list should Prison Service and non Prison Service staff, and should include details of ethnicity and respective ethnicity data for prisoners in the relevant prisons. It was also considered necessary to collect information on whether staff have been ACCT trained. The prisons had been selected for their high incident rates and mix of regimes; staff will be asked about their experience, views, personal support, preparedness etc. around a death in custody, the inquest procedures and follow up after the conclusion of the inquest. An interim presentation will be made by end October with the final report available January 2015.
- **Data analysis:** this was an analysis of deaths in custody dataset from 1978-2014 with particular reference to SID among 18-24 year olds. It would be carried out by MOJ analysts supported by GT and quality assured by NOMS with the final report available in December 2014. The data analysis did include a breakdown for under-18s, though the figures were very small. No information was available about events prior/leading up to the death, simply the location of the incident.

Action 61: Secretariat to send panel examples of Death in Custody notifications that NOMS send to agreed parties.

- **Literature Review:** being conducted by University of Greenwich, this would be a review of empirical investigations of risk and protective factors associated with self-harm and SID of those aged 18-24. As a result of limited published evidence found, the review would also be looking at wider aspects in prisons and the general population. Final report would be delivered in December 2014.

Item 6: Update since last meeting

13. DM offered to talk to the panel about Liaison and Diversion schemes as he has a lead role in this for NHS England.

14. MM asked for a note to be made that the Review had not heard from any BME organisations, particularly those representing the African Caribbean

population who are over represented in the Criminal Justice System. It was discussed that this may be a gap that needs to be filled at a later stage by targeting specific organisations.

Action 62: Panel to let the secretariat know which organisations they would like to be targeted in terms of ensuring sufficient BAME input.

15. It was suggested that other agencies working in the prison should be made aware of the questionnaires for the Young Adult Engagement work. It was agreed that there should be a further question, 'Is there anything else that you would like to tell us?' Question 2 should be simplified. Question 5, the wording should be amended to allow it to be consistently depersonalised. A safeguarding notice should be added to the bottom of the questionnaire.

Action 63: Secretariat to amend questions 2 and 5, add a question 6 to the Young Adult Engagement questionnaire and include a safeguarding notice.

16. The secretariat will explore the option of meeting at the venue before the Public Hearing event on the 25th September, but it was recognised that this might not be feasible. It was agreed that a handout will be available on the day with details of the Review and each of the panel members.

Action 64: Panel to let secretariat know of any organisations that they would like to be invited to the Public Hearing.

17. Dates for the Family Hearings would be confirmed in discussions with the contractors, but there would no longer be a hearing on the 18th of September.