

Harris Review Meeting 11

10:30 – 13:45, 4 December 2014, Room 8.29a, 102 Petty France

Present:

Chair: Lord Toby Harris (TH)

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

Secretariat: Deborah Browne (DB), Robyn Malan de Merindol (RM), Graham Mackenzie (GM), Kish Hyde (KH)

For Item 4: Georgia Barnett (GB)

Apologies: Graham Towl (GT), Richard Shepherd (RS),

Item 1: Minutes and Actions from the meeting 20.11.2014

1. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.
2. DB circulated the action log and advised that although some actions had been removed, there were no substantial changes since last week, although many items were progressing.
3. The literature review is due to be submitted on the 12th December. DC asked to be given an opportunity to comment on this version to see that previous feedback was taken on board before the final version is signed off. It was agreed that any comments would have to be returned immediately.

Action 93: Secretariat to circulate final version of the literature review after it comes in on the 12th, but comments need to be back to the secretariat by Tuesday 16th.

4. The Harris Review is now closing for receipt of formal submissions, to allow full assessment of everything received. The exception is the NOMS Submission, which was allowed an extension so that formal questions from the Review could be considered. It is hoped that we will have this by the next meeting.

Action 94: Secretariat will send on all remaining submissions, except NOMS, to the trainee barristers for analysis and summarising.

Item 2: Case summaries

(Secretary's Note: Matilda MacAttram joined the meeting during this item)

5. TH advised that the barristers had compiled case summary papers and bound copies were distributed to members. They had also supplied a top-sheet of key themes emerging from the cases. DC asked whether the background papers could be made available; it was agreed that as background papers

could run into the thousands, panel members would read the case summaries and then request further papers on specific cases if the need arose.

6. The following general comments were made on the summary papers:

- There was a reliance on PPO reports in most cases and less from jury findings.
- It was noted that some of the information recorded was not accurate. It was decided that, overall, there was enough information presented to inform the Review, and that omissions or errors were unlikely to stop decisions and recommendations from being made.
- It was noted that most of the incidents (50 out of 80) seem to have occurred within the first four months of detention.
- It was noted that all deaths were up to and including December 2013. It was agreed that when deaths had reports and details that could inform the Review, they would be included in the analysis, but this would need to be available over the next couple of weeks as the trainee barristers were coming to an end of the work. Other deaths, where appropriate, could be included in the narrative of the report.
- It was noted that medical staff did not seem to be involved in closing many of the ACCT files reviewed.
- It was noted that Chaplains were used by offenders as someone to talk to, irrespective of their faith – this was noted on the visit to HMP Isis.

Action 95: Secretariat will liaise with trainee barristers about the content of the summaries and ensure that Jury findings, where available, were used to inform the summaries.

Action 96: After the Review sees NOMS's submission a decision will need to be made on whether further information is needed on safer cells, including how many there are, how safe they are and whether staff are aware which cells were designated as safer cells.

7. Comments on the key themes paper:

- TH noted that point one was interesting but he was concerned that staff should also not apply their own prejudices.
- Key Theme 10 (medical equipment) was discussed: Prison officers are no longer trained in resuscitation this is left to NHS nurses. Ambulances cannot go into prisons without sufficient numbers of Prison Officers being present at the main gate; in a recent drill at HMP Birmingham ambulance/emergency services staff took 45 minutes to gain entry, which was in breach of the standard as outlined within the published PSI.
- Emerging themes are: discipline, medicine and bullying. It was felt that the Review needs to learn more about anti-bullying arrangements.
- An issue with the ACCT process is that all information should be on file, but if it is, the file becomes unmanageable.

- NOMS has acknowledged that getting more staff in prisons leads to fall in SID rates. It needs to be explored whether this means that NOMS cuts went too far.
- As a provider, NHS England can bring more resources into prisons; they should do so and nurses should be asked to close ACCT files.

8. TH advised all members to read the papers over the Christmas break and they would meet again in mid-January to discuss in more detail.

(Secretariat Note: At this point, Matilda MacAttrum left the meeting)

Item 4: Maturity Tool

9. GB presented the 'Commissioning Strategy for Young Adult Men' paper to the panel and talked through the detail:

- This work was originally commissioned for the 18 – 20 year old group but it is hoped that it will have a wider impact as they are aware that the issues of delayed maturity go beyond this age range; age is often used as a proxy for maturity.
- There is a separate strategy for young women.
- Current work and interventions available to this age group are not working as effectively as they do for older offenders. Prison is a more difficult place for young adult offenders in terms of where they are in their development. The purpose of this work is to identify where lack of maturity might be an issue. Lack of maturity contributes to many problem behaviours noted in this age group.

10. The work is in the early stages and is not costed or finalised yet. There are many potential uses to the work, including identifying specific interventions that might help to improve maturity levels. It is hoped that relevant Deputy Directors of Custody will recognise that commissioning these interventions could really help when there is a large young adult cohort.