



Reducing Women's Imprisonment

Developing Strategies at the National Level and
Responding to the Needs of Female Offenders in the
Local Community

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Wednesday 16th November 2016

10:15am – 4:30pm

Central London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.

Overview

According to the Prisoner's Reform Trust, the female prison population in England and Wales more than doubled between 1995 and 2010, from 1,979 to 4,267. More recently the numbers have declined by 10% – from 4,279 women in April 2012 to 3,841 in April 2015. Across the UK, more than 13,500 women are imprisoned each year, while the Howard League for Penal Reform estimated that 17,000 children are separated from their mothers by imprisonment.

In response to tackling the issues faced by female offenders, the Government has recently reinforced the importance of the Advisory Board on Female Offenders, which was established to deliver the Government's Strategic Objectives for Female Offenders in 2013. In addition, the closure of Holloway Prison over the summer suggested that the Government was aware of the importance of rehabilitation of female offenders and the necessity of providing a suitable environment. This move was generally welcomed, although the Prisoner Governors Association raised concerns over capacity for women prisoners.

Given that women constitute a small minority in the criminal justice system, are often primary carers of children and principally commit non-violent offences (theft was the main indictable offence in 2013), most of the solutions to women's offending come in providing treatment for addictions and mental health problems, protection from domestic violence and coercive relationships, secure housing, debt management, education, skills development and employment. Community sentences enable women to take control of their lives, care for their children and address the causes of their offending.

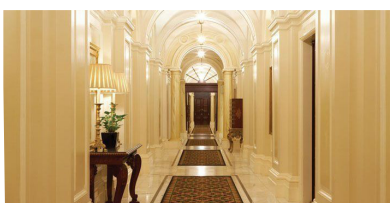
Following the closure of Holloway Prison in July, this timely symposium offers local authorities, criminal justice and legal practitioners, police and probation services, and welfare services the opportunity to examine the main challenges and to discuss the needs of women and girls in the penal system, address the underlying issues, including neglect, abuse, mental health issues and poverty, and assess the importance of gender-specific services in to prevent offending and increase successful rehabilitation.

[Following the closure of Holloway Prison] The opportunity exists to make a radical improvement in the services offered to a highly vulnerable group of women in the criminal justice system in London. Those responsible for commissioning these services, which in practice means the Ministry of Justice, should seize the opportunity set out here, to the benefit of offenders, victims, and taxpayers alike.

- Prison Reform Trust, June 2016

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/M5NUZ/



Why Attend?

- ✓ Assess the latest developments and review progress on implementing a gender-specific strategy to address the needs of female offenders
- ✓ Understand the impact of neglect, abuse and poverty on female offending rates
- ✓ Gain insights into ways to provide more effective support to women with health and mental health problems
- ✓ Examine the importance of providing targeted education, skills and development opportunities to ensure women find meaningful employment after release
- ✓ Review the use of community sentencing as an alternative to custody in helping women to rehabilitate and reduce reoffending rates
- ✓ Learn about the value of and ways to encourage multi-agency working and community engagement in order to provide the most effective support to women
- ✓ Develop strategies to address the needs of women with children in enabling them to stay close to home and manage the issues associated with separation
- ✓ Hear from colleagues on ways to address the main challenges facing women in prison, share best practice and discuss what has already been achieved and what more can be done

Who Should Attend?

- Police Services
- Probation Officers
- Community Rehabilitation Companies
- Judges and Magistrates
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Criminal Justice Practitioners
- Police and Crime Commissioners
- Courts and Tribunal Service
- Appeals Courts
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Central Government and Agencies
- Local Criminal Justice Boards
- Prison and Probation Services
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Women's Centres
- Refugee Organisations
- Domestic Violence Co-ordinators
- Safeguarding Adults Teams
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Children and Young People Services
- Family Services Officers
- Family Protection Units
- Health Service Professionals
- Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinators
- Youth Offending Teams
- Youth Justice Boards
- Offender Management Services
- Legal Advisers and Solicitors
- Legal Professionals
- Community Safety Teams
- Community Support Officers
- Community Cohesion Officers
- Community Engagement Officers
- Community Relations Advisers
- Family Engagement Workers
- Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Teams
- Neighbourhood Renewal Teams
- Social Inclusion Officers

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Programme

09:30	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15	Chair's Welcome and Introduction
10:30	Panel One: Meeting the Needs of Female Offenders – The National Picture <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessing the latest developments in implementing a gender-specific strategy to address the needs of female offenders• Developing strategies and promoting a coordinated approach to understanding the impact of neglect, abuse and poverty in female offending rates• Offering more effective support to female offenders with health and mental health issues – considering how health services could be improved• Understanding the importance of education – providing women with relevant skills, development and training while in prison and after release• Examining the role of women's only prisons – discussing the impact of the closure of Holloway, the problem of prison overcrowding and the need to provide a suitable environment for vulnerable women
11:15	Morning Refreshments
11:30	Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	Panel Two: Engaging in Community Partnership to Support Female Offenders at the Local Level <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluating alternatives to custody – the use of community sentencing to improve chances of rehabilitation and reduce reoffending rates• Bridging the gap between the prison and the community – helping women to make a successful transition, secure accommodation and find suitable employment• Encouraging multi-agency working and community engagement as ways to achieve positive rehabilitation and increase the provision of targeted, local services• Addressing the needs of women with children – allowing women to remain close to home, maintain family ties and cope with the challenges of separation• Discussing the next steps – establishing an evidence-base, sharing best practice and considering ways to best support female offenders in prison and in the community
14:15	Afternoon Refreshments
14:30	Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
15:40	Networking Reception
16:30	Close

** Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice **

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 16th November 2016
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

Forthcoming Events

Working in Partnership to End Forced Marriage and 'Honour' Based Violence
22nd September 2016

Developing Community Services to Deliver Better Outcomes for People with Autism
22nd September 2016



Putting Victims of Crime First: The Next Steps to Transform Victims' Experience of the Criminal Justice System
27th September 2016

EU Infrastructure Funding Post Brexit: Overcoming the challenge of possible funding reduction for local and regional authorities
28th September 2016

Effectively Tackling Air Pollution: Assessing the Impact and Developing Better Controls
29th September 2016

Decriminalisation of Prostitution: Preparing for Change
29th September 2016

Retaining Statutory Responsibility & Meeting Increased Demand: The Future Role of Local Authorities in School Place Planning
5th October 2016

Improving Housing Support for Older and Vulnerable People
6th October 2016

Keeping our Communities Clean: The Role of Local Authorities in Tackling Litter and Fly-Tipping
11th October 2016

Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls: Supporting & Engaging with the Government's Renewed Strategy
11th October 2016

Assessing The National Maternity Review: Transforming Midwifery Services to Improve Quality, Safety and Choice
12th October 2016

Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons in Custody: Minimising the Risk of Death in Detention
12th October 2016

Mental Health and Young People: Promoting a Positive and Healthy Body Image
18th October 2016


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