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EDITORIAL

Jean Hine, Co-editor

2016 was a challenging year for criminal justice in England and Wales, with issues affecting all aspects of the system at some point. The two most often recurring themes throughout the year were the transforming rehabilitation agenda and the state of our prisons, both of which were highlighting major issues in service delivery. The recent report of the Public Accounts Committee (House of Commons, 2016) identified a range of issues in the Transforming Rehabilitation process, arguing that the reforms were far from complete two years into the process and questioning the ability of the Ministry of Justice to be able to identify whether these changes had achieved the desired objectives. Inspections carried out in five areas by HM Inspectorate of Probation also raised questions about the implementation and establishment of the new structures (Webster, 2016). At the same time, numerous issues have arisen in the prison system, culminating in a series of disturbances and riots in a number of prisons around the country. The MoJ issued its proposals on Prison Safety and Reform (MoJ, 2016) in November, along with assurances of funding being provided for the recruitment of additional prison officers and the introduction of measures to reduce the availability of drugs in prison and increase prisoner and officer safety.

Challenges abound for the year ahead, but these can also present opportunities, and the articles in this issue of the journal offer interesting insights. One of the growing concerns following the referendum on membership of the European Union in June 2016 is increasing lack of tolerance of minority groups and with that an increase in hate crimes. Our first two articles, by Wong and Christmann, and Iafrati and Williams, address this issue. The first of these pieces reflects on the reporting of such incidents drawing on research with communities vulnerable to such events. This paper identifies the wide range of reasons that people do not report hate crime, demonstrating how these can vary between different vulnerable communities and the challenges that this presents to agencies seeking to increase the reporting of such incidents. The authors address the potential of third party reporting centres which have been in existence for some time, being introduced following the McPherson Report in 1999. They identify low levels of awareness about such centres and their role, partly because this reporting was often a supplementary function to the organisation's main purpose and role. The paper concludes with suggestions about how such agencies could enhance this aspect of their work and facilitate increased reporting and support for victims of hate crime.

A detailed understanding of the experiences of one group vulnerable to hate crime, gay men, is addressed in the article by Iafrafi and Williams. Their research highlights how the perceived threat of hate crime affects the behaviour and lives of this group and the little acknowledged geographical implications of this. They argue that behaviour change and avoidance of certain localities based on perceived threat prevents hate crimes from occurring but is unnecessarily limiting for these individuals who are thus unacknowledged victims of hate crime. The authors pose the question of "using the police and criminal justice system to address, in a legalistic manner, a problem that is fundamentally social in its nature." They argue for increased attention on crime prevention rather than crime control to address such issues.

Another concern following the referendum result is calls to opt out of the European Convention of Human Rights, and our third paper by Chris Crowther-Dowey and Marisa Silvestri considers the issue of violent behaviour by men towards women through the lens of the human rights of female victims. The paper argues that the modern drivers of crime control in the UK have had negative consequences in relation to violent behaviour by men against women. The authors propose that human rights discourse is underpinned by the notion that all things are equal between the genders, but that in relation to these particular behaviours this is not the case and should be acknowledged. It is argued that victims do not have formal rights but offenders do, which disproportionately affects female victims of violence, and that austerity measures in the UK are leading to gender inequalities which work against policy initiatives designed to improve the situation.

The Transforming Rehabilitation changes had considerable implications for the training arrangements for probation officers and offender managers. Anne Robinson's thought piece reflects on the changes introduced to the training arrangements for probation officers and offender managers following the recent Transforming Rehabilitation agenda which reduced the role of the Probation Service and introduced Community Rehabilitation Companies with responsibility for the supervision of the majority of offenders in the community. The paper describes these training arrangements, known as Community Justice Learning (CJL), highlighting its substantial differences to the previous Probation Qualifying Framework. Despite the challenges that this new approach presents for trainers, trainees and their host organisations, she is confident that it can be made to work.

Another element of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda was the introduction of statutory supervision for all people following a prison sentence. The article by Christmann and Wong addresses the question of resettlement on release from prison, presenting findings from the evaluation of a project designed to offer additional support to prisoners on release from prison. This work is interesting not only because of the promise of the findings about such an approach, but also methodologically. The paper demonstrates how consideration of the time between convictions and the relative seriousness of further offences can identify impacts that can be missed in a simplistic dichotomous approach to reconviction.

Underlying all these changes is the need for them to be properly evaluated so that we know the impacts, both intended and unintended, of the changes. The final paper, a

thought piece by Dan Ellingworth, picks up the methodological theme in considering the needs of voluntary agencies to demonstrate the impact of their services. Drawing upon his own experience of evaluating such projects he presents a checklist for the delivery of robust evidence of impact because, as he argues, "effective evaluation is central to the design and evolution of high quality service delivery."

We wish all of our readers a peaceful and happy new year and look forward to responding to the new developments for the journal which are outlined in the announcements. It is sad to see the end of the Hallam Centre for Community Justice but its good work and reputation will endure, and De Montfort University looks forward to take over the hosting of the journal.

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INCREASING HATE CRIME REPORTING: NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN POLICY ASPIRATION, VICTIM INCLINATION AND AGENCY CAPABILITY

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Abstract

This paper aims to answer the question: can the aspiration for increasing hate crime reporting contained in the United Kingdom Government's action plan on hate crime (2016-2020) be achieved by local agencies in England and Wales? Drawing on findings from research into the barriers to hate crime reporting and research undertaken by the authors and colleagues in 2012 to 2013 in a county in England, this paper will examine the impact of: victim decision making; and the efficacy of third party hate crime reporting centres on hate crime reporting. It will propose two solutions to facilitate increased reporting in the UK and other jurisdictions: an end to end, criminal justice system, hate crime service framework to more effectively support victims; and a typology of reporting provision which will better enable commissioning agencies to assess the capability and capacity of hate crime services.

Keywords

Hate crime reporting; third party reporting centres; racist crime; homophobic crime; religiously motivated offending; disability hate crime; Gypsy; Travellers.