

Evidence Based Practice in Jersey Channel Islands

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Jersey

- 45 Square miles with population of 91,000
- Self Governing since 1204, own Parliament
- Relative prosperity: GNI = \$66K U.S - high expectations – Low Public Expenditure
- Parish system - local solutions
- Probation Service is a Department of the Court
- Political stability – reports to Probation Board (Judges) - sense of shared ownership
- 5,000 crimes pa 35% - 40% detection rate

Evidence Based Practice in Jersey

- £1.6 million revenue budget, (decreasing) 86% staff costs
- £25,000 budget programmes, grants etc
- 600 – 700 reports per year
- Approx 150 -200 Probation Orders per year
- Approx 200 Community Service Orders per year
- Automatic prison through care since 2006.
- Approx 25% take up of Voluntary After Care
- 39 employees (27 Full time equivalent)
- Caseloads under 40
- 12 volunteers



Jersey 1989

- 602 Custodial sentences
- 91% of custodial sentences under 6 months
- 116 Probation Orders made – mostly first offenders
- 64 Community Service Orders imposed

Jersey now

- Custodial Sentences down – From 602 in 1989 to 216 by 1995 and 127 in 2009.
- Sentences of under 6 months reduced to 40 in 2008
- Probation Orders up from 116 to 190 (2009)
- Community Service Orders up from 64 to 218 (2009)

But do non custodial penalties work in Jersey?

- 72% of Probationers reduced their risk of re-offending (measured by LSI-R 2007).
- 74% of highest risk Probationers (LSI of 24+) showed a reduction in their risk of re-offending. (2007)
- Self Report (Pallot 2009) 83% of sample thought Probation had reduced their risk of re offending
- Reconviction study (Miles and Raynor 2009) 34% of Probationers re offend within 2 years, half of these for minor matters.
- Over 17,000 hours of pro social Community Service performed for the Island by offenders who would otherwise have been imprisoned

Evidence based practice Jersey

Probationer profiles

- 90% have previous convictions
- 25% have previously served a custodial sentence.
- Probationers have a higher average LSI- R score than prisoners

Prison “Snapshot” June 2006

- Prison population 222 (250 per 100,000) - But
- Only 3 Prisoners serving sentences of less than 6 months, 8 serving less than 12 months
- 4 of these had breached community sentences.
- 1 prisoner aged under 18 years.

Adult characteristics and reconviction (Miles and Raynor 2009.)

Sentence	LSI_R Mean	% Serious offence	% recon 1 Year	% serious offence	% recon 2 year	% Serious offence
Community Service	11.9	85	12	14	19	47
Probation	25.4	71	19	17	28	42
Bind Over	17.4	47	9	5	18	15
Prison	23.3	78	53	24	67	46

Characteristics and reconviction Children under 18 years

Sentence	LSI- R Mean	% <i>Serious Offence</i>	% Recon 1 Year	% <i>Serious offence</i>	% Recon 2 Year	% <i>Serious offence</i>
Community Service	13.5	81	19	15	35	22
Probation	19	60	38	28	62	22
Bind Over	12.5	58	33	33	47	47
YOI (n=11 so caution needed)	34	100	25	88	73	67

How to reduce the use of custody?

- Successful alternatives to custody
 - “have to be part of a wider initiative to reduce the use of imprisonment and this requires political and judicial support and the absence of negative public reaction”
(Walters 2004)

But in Jersey...

- No big legislative or Policy changes (1994 Young offenders Law; 2001 Community Service Law, BASS strategy)
- No rapid fall or rise in crime rates
- No big shifts in public opinion
- Judges and Magistrates have essentially the same options as in 1989

What did change

- Re design of Probation Service – within existing financial and staffing structures by the staff team.
- Prison doesn't work so not recommending custody. (Though acknowledging role in public protection cases)
- Community Service assessment in all imprisonable cases
- “Fit for Custody, fit for CS”
- Stand Down reports introduced
- Drunk and Incapable Unit
- Promoted non custodial penalties to the Courts – selling our product to increase our market share
- 1992 onwards – “What Works” research and associated practice changes.

Our “tool kit”

- Assessment – LSI-R and other tools
- Targeting – risk, needs and responsivity. Helps workload too.
- Interventions – based on needs identified through LSI-R
- Partnership – working to strengths.
- Continuity – Relationship between Probation Officer and client.
- Pro Social approach throughout.
- Monitoring – Supervision, ICMS / DAISy
- Evaluation – ICMS / DAISY, University of Swansea partnership.
“Culture of Curiosity”
- Virtuous circle between research and practice.
- Success breeds success
- Restorative Justice - parallel track from Parish Hall Enquiry to Custody. Offered to all offenders where there is an identifiable victim.

Targeting

- Low / medium seriousness + low risk = fine, B.O etc.
- Custodial seriousness + low risk = Community Service
- Medium / Custodial Seriousness + medium / high risk = Probation

Critical success factor – a whole system approach

- Components of effective practice are inter related, for example:
 - Without good assessment how can the right people get the right interventions?
 - Without a pro social approach the offender may switch off and the intervention won't work. (Sandwiches(!) Community Service)
 - Without monitoring and evaluation how can we tell how well we are delivering the interventions, respond to any problems and answer any critics?
- So we shape the service to suit the evidence not the evidence to suit the service

Critical success factor; people skills

- We work with people not do things to them (staff and clients)
- Courts are our employers and our customers. We have had to take them with us – they don't have to give us any work (neither do the Parish Halls or prisoners)

Learning and contributing

- Used contacts outside of Jersey extensively
- Researchers in effective practice very approachable and helpful
- Prof. Raynor Swansea University, CREDOS network, Prof Trotter, Dr Ross, Cognitive Centre Foundation
- Links are mutually rewarding – Probation needs research, researchers need Probation
- A lot we don't know yet; so this is a process not a finished job

Jersey Skills study

- Video recording individual supervision interviews
- 100 sessions being analysed by researchers at Swansea University scoring any core correctional practices.
- Results will then be cross checked against the client's LSI-R scores and reconviction information.

Reading, references, contacts

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