

## People with Learning Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System

12<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
Notes from the day



### About the event





This was a free event for people that work in or are connected to the Criminal Justice System & Learning Disability Health & Social Care settings. It was organised by the North East Offender Health Team in North Government Office.


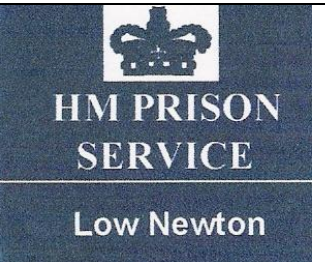
The aims of the day were:

- Introduce the policies & research on people with learning disabilities in the Criminal Justice System.
  - Including
    - ✓ The Bradley Report & Improving Health, Supporting Justice action plan
    - ✓ No One Knows research and report
    - ✓ Valuing People Now
- Help people with different experiences to work together to look at regional and local joint approaches
- Share learning from the pilots of the use of the screening tool in prisons
- Introduce some of the different resources and support that are available.



## These are the speakers

<p><b>Paul Davies – Valuing People Team</b></p> <p>What do we mean by Learning Disability</p>	 <p><b>Valuing People</b> Support Team</p>
<p><b>Jenny Talbot – Prison Reform Trust</b></p> <p>People with Learning Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System</p> <p>The No One Knows Research</p>	 <p>PRISON <b>REFORM</b> TRUST</p>
<p><b>Mark Freeman – Department of Health</b></p> <p>Improving Health &amp; Supporting Justice Plan from the Bradley review</p> <p><b>Jeff Gardner</b></p> <p>Screening Tool pilot in prisons, early results</p>	 <p><b>DH</b> Department of Health</p>
<p>Examples of National &amp; regional Good Practice</p>	

<p>Darron Head from KeyRing Living Support Networks</p> <p>Examples from the Criminal Justice Training</p>	
<p>Teresa Purvis, Learning Disability Nurse</p> <p>Using a screening tool in HMP Low Newton</p>	
<p>Julie Curtis, Learning Disability CAMHS Development worker</p> <p>Examples of Learning Disability CAMHS and Youth Justice services working together in the North East</p>	

**Also people worked together to identify –**

- **What's working & not working**
- **What local actions people can do**
- **What would be good to work on together regionally**

What everyone said is on the next pages



## What's Working



- Opportunities to Share knowledge and best practice
- Use of Community Orders
- Specific Services
- Relapse Prevention Work
- Healthcare Assessments
- Interventions – Adapted, Responsibility, Individual support and more
- Specialist training for prison psychologist
- CPA process on release
- Prospect on future training
- Better treatment in CJS
- Use of suspended sentences
- NE Judges – Good awareness
- Establishment has a LD nurse who is motivated but limited with time
- Growing number of independent organisation providing support
- Training for staff supporting individuals discharged in community
- Increased awareness of need
- Good links with the community learning disability team (forensic)
- Having an event like this has given me the opportunity to gain some understanding around this subject
- Community forensic service with dedicated team
- People access self advocacy
- More treatment programmes available in the community
- Probation support
- More inter-agency working & more tolerance for other agency policy
- Increased choice over support
  - for adults with LD
- Involved in the community

## What's Working



- People are talking about it
- Forensic Nurses
- Desire to change things
- Criminal Justice Liaison Nurses
- Police Mental Health liaison Officers working with LD Community teams, sharing information
- Good prison Education System
- Service specs being developed to include assistance of LD in prison reception
- Strategic offender health
- Some local champions
- Adapted LD treatment programmes available i.e. adopted SOTP
- In all services there are individual 'good' staff who are enthusiastic and interested in improving services and they need to be supported and used
- Pre treatment preparation programmes could be useful in prisons to enable access to treatment programmes
- LD community working info – YOI
- Byker Bridge Housing association tenancy support /supported housing
- We have police and community wardens talking to resident groups and longer groups with Learning disabilities
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- Multi-agency meetings to co-ordinate care
- South Tyneside has a community group which involves adult social care, police, CPS to address issues of LD offenders and also Raised awareness in prisons of people with LD
- support for LD witness

## What's Working



- South Tyneside Involvement worker with the advocacy group has experience/knowledge of prisons to share & inform social care staff initiatives
- Staff commitment and enthusiasm thirst for knowledge
- South Tyneside (Equal people ) are making a Hate Crime DVD with Boldon School
- Sunderland LD Partnership Board been invited to do some work with Phil Shackell (DH) to take forward some work from the Bradley Report
- In Doncaster: Help Card that person with LD carries that identifies them as having additional needs they can show to police.
- Positive Experience of working with court appointed solicitors and support during trial process
- Cleveland's Police liaison officers links with LD Services
- 'IRIS' IT system used by police that can flag a person who has an LD and put on additional information
- Re-examining Roles of custody diversity teams in Cleveland
- Work with the family not just the person with LD
- Regional Events i.e. this event
- Service user involvement i.e. People who are at this event
- Willingness to learn across agencies
- Beginning to communicate
- Focus Groups
- Steering group looking at the Hate Crime & LD
- We know there is a problem
- Training for police – Durham/Northumbria
- Now indentifying Gaps in Service provision
- Pre-reprimand, Disposal pick up assessed needs at reprimand stage – Durham Only

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## What's Not Working



- MAPPA & Safeguarding
- Intergrated IT Systems? Lack of information.
- Adult vulnerability unit in Durham police liaises with social services
- LDSQ May improve practice in prison – But would still need psychology assessments (I.Q below 70) to access community services
- Promote lead person – Who is it and how do we contact?
- Joint training
- Lack of convictions in younger people (infantalisation and “awww”)
- Partnership working is “patchy”
- Improving Transitions – Child & Adult
- Access to self advocacy group, Advocacy and Independent mental health etc.
- Specialist teams becoming “too specialised”
- Improving induction training to new staff ie what services are available
- Catchments and Criteria
- People not identified early enough in the system , Police – Probation – Prison
- People stuck in secure hospitals/provision due to poor provider services & lack of community resettlement provision – to manage risk
- Staff not trained in risk assessment & interventions
- We don't know enough what works to prevent re-offending regarding attitudes
- Workload pressures for criminal justice staff/social workers – Limited time to give

## What's Not Working



- Poor prevention strategy
- Not enough information in different formats
- Not enough trained Prison Officers
- Lack of information for workers about criminal justice processes and systems
- Lack of ownership by criminal justice staff – Due to knowledge /skills and other priorities
- Not enough training for police and prison staff
- Resettlement services don't meet needs or properly manage risks
- More plain clothed police to catch people in the act
- Are there enough advocates?
- Research in “what works” and offence type does not include Learning Disabilities
- Lack of support workers in education
- Areas with a prison think it's not their issues
- Not enough support, help or care in the prisons – sentence length not always long enough
- Domestic violence strategies do not focus on Learning Difficulties – neither do risk assessments and interventions
- Lack of services for people who speak another language and who have a Learning Difficulty
- Not enough community wardens
- People with Learning Difficulty need to be asked what would keep them/make them feel safe e.g. alarms
- People with Learning Disabilities needs to be asked what would keep them/make them feel safe e.g. alarms
- More places of safety & letting people know about them

## What's Not Working



- Not enough know or done to help people who have autism/ADHD
- Probation staff should have an advocate working with them
- Weak commissioning strategy
- Too much shouting and noise in courts – Use of legal speak
- More crime awareness training for people with Learning Disabilities
- The learning disability should be identified long before they go to prison
- Number of young people with Learning disability who end up in custody – Missed lots of doctors appointments to have their Learning disability identified
- Not strong partnerships between police liaison offices and LD services in some localities in North East
- Which may divert them and get services/help involved
- Which may divert them & get services/help involved
- Lack of early reports on young offenders
- We don't know where/who people with learning disabilities are who are in touch with criminal justice system
- We know that we don't know
- Communication
- Funding
- Not identified early enough
- Training
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack knowledge, skills and experience
- Risk of abuse of system ie what they know about test?
- What happened to service users once they had been identified
- Prevention

## What's Not Working



- Victims are also let down by the court
- Needs to be identified before prison ie police stations
- Diversion/sign posting
- Inappropriate referrals
- Referrals on and liaison with appropriate services on prior to release from prison
- People being detained because they don't understand
- Lack of appropriate adults
- Screening tool doesn't take into consideration the persons failure to attend school/education
- Across North East how does each police force 'deal with' MH/LD e.g. in Cleveland very productive
- MH/LD liaison officers who are very well liked with LD services
- Lack of communication between professionals
- Lack of resources for people in prison identified with LD
- Lack of understanding of LD
- No links between departments e.g. social services & probation services
- Joined up aftercare & support
- Prison regime!
- Once we identify someone with and LD what are the pathways? – Not in place and ad hoc at present.
- Needs to be commissioner led – funding is a massive issue
- No current assessment tool in police custody setting
- Identifying people in the community should be a priority (custody suites etc) not prisons.

## What's Not Working



- No clear pathway, police custody staff need LD training – Need LD advocacy in Police stations
- LD training for probation Police Officers – Police on LDPB
- The time it takes to get a Learning disability diagnosis – Funding
- Planning pre-release from prison could be improved – Links to community
- People not eligible for LD services under FAC's not getting prevention support prior to offending
- If a person has 'Forensic' badge community services less likely to engage
- Not a person centred "whole person" approach
- Lack of understanding and awareness – What is LD?
- Long time to get full assessment or report
- Lack of information sharing to inform custody stay of involvement with services
- Signposting/access to appropriate community support as alternative to custody
- Limited out of hours services
- Lack of key information provided to and from agencies
- Appropriate adults
- Use of person centred plans to support prevention of re-offending
- Support after diagnosis
- Lack of understanding re referral processes – sharing of information protocols
- Is 1<sup>st</sup> week detox still happening then is screening in the 1<sup>st</sup> week the best time?
- Lack of awareness/training
- Information sharing

## What's Not Working



- Not enough SW's & community nurses
- Shoplifting awareness
- Assistance at court for offenders
- Communication between agencies
- System could be abused or a person with LD could still slip through the net
- Need to change attitudes
- Lack of LD assessments prior to court
- No referrals from prison to LD team
- Need more awareness training/money some of the legislation is full of jargon and do people know their educational history
- Lack of communication with and between agencies – Information provided people with LD is not always friendly
- Lack of support after release from prison with people with LD
- Training for those that make decisions
- Different interpretations of legislations e.g. mental capacity act
- Lack of understanding of roles within agencies
- LDQ Tool? – Development/use for young people prior to custody
- Feel isolated
- Dont know where to turn
- Time to go through the CJS
- Dont know how to break the barrier i.e. have your voice heard and how to overturn decisions
- Insufficient 'qualified/trained' staff
- Complex dual diagnosis referring to appropriate services
- Feel support is talked about but is not always there
- Fighting against a brick wall in court systems – Judge may say something verbally but nothing is in writing
- Less focus on offenders with LD (awareness to victims)




## What's Not Working




- More training needed for adult social workers when working in CJS i.e. court
- LD masked in prison – No diagnosis and no support as a consequence
- Professionals not working together
- Moving beyond identification/assessment to support
- Lack of Links/communication
- Lack of understanding magistrates

# Local & Regional Next Steps

The results from each group are set out in the tables below  
Group 1

The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about	What we will do in our area of work	Who will do it & who will you work with?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Written info to be made clearer</li><li>2. Greater Learning Disability Awareness</li><li>3. Attitudes</li><li>4. Responses</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Make contacts with Partners</li><li>- Audit Prevalence of Learning Disabilities</li> <li>- Check Paperwork for fitness</li><li>- Share Learning &amp; Awareness</li><li>- Positive practice &amp; positive outcomes</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ LCJB</li><li>➤ Offender Health</li><li>➤ Agency SPOC's</li><li>➤ Service Users</li><li>➤ Specialist LD Services</li></ul> 

Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Regional referral directory</li><li>✓ Interagency SPOC directory</li><li>✓ Standard Procedures</li><li>✓ Standardised Regional information leaflets i.e. One LD police leaflet</li></ul> 

## Group 2

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Getting it right from the beginning
2. Communicating effectively on all levels and with all partners
3. More Training – appropriate and standardised



### What we will do in our area of work

- Training within the courts
- Regional training plan
- Awareness within Social Care
- Feedback to all service users
- Working in Partnership with local police station



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- Ann Attwood & Vyvyenne Rawson
- Jill Dowse
- Lisa Graham & Emma Peart
- Julie Smith/Shaw Trust



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Working with victims with Learning Disabilities if funding allows
- ✓ Early prevention
- ✓ More Focus Groups – Spreading the word – Greater Awareness
- ✓ More Service user involvement



### Group 3

#### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Find out about the pathway for South Tyneside residents who are in prison outside the area
2. Find out what are the links with police custody for our residents (how does adult social care and advocacy know?)
3. Think about what support workers and adult social workers will be doing.



#### What we will do in our area of work

- We are going to research and feedback to the partnership board
- We could offer PCP awareness training to police/prison staff
- We are going to ask YVC what they are doing about providing advocacy for prisoners in south Tyneside



#### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- Equal People
- Talk 2 Us
- Denise Huscroft
- Carole Watson
- Community Groups
- The Police



#### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Equal People could ask at the regional forum for examples of good practice
- ✓ Ask other regions how they are supporting prisoners from different countries with different languages



## Group 4

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Usefulness of Screening Tool – Will people slip through?
2. Does CAF need to happen first for young people? In Pathway?
3. Timescales
4. Barriers to Information – Accessible and Friendly
5. Better Partnerships and communications across services
6. Training and Information should be jargon free



### What we will do in our area of work

- Research local disability team & establish links
- Learning Disability Awareness Training for Staff
- Make sure others are aware of our services
- Train others and share good practice
- Deliver this information to the partnership board



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- Raise awareness to frontline staff



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ More money in pot to pay for training for additionally advocacy workers
- ✓ Better communication across agencies but also with individuals



## Group 5

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Assessment phase/process needs to be in practice in all prisons
2. A greater awareness and understanding of LD throughout prisons and staff
3. Better distinctions between learning difficulties and disabilities
4. Earlier detection of LD via schools/education system



### What we will do in our area of work

- Share this with team and other agencies and work alongside them
- Obtain a directory of all the LD forensic services available to their area
- E-mail training services and ask them to provide further training
- Contact the local prison and ask to see their database re learning disabilities



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- We all need to take responsibility



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Develop a regional co-ordinator for forensic services i.e. website – share ideas /further training/point of contact.
- ✓ There needs to be legislation that ensures that if someone with LD or is suspected of having an LD is supported from the point of arrest



## Group 6

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Information Exchange Protocols
2. Develop sub regional pathways that link into regional overview
3. MDT LD Awareness Training
4. Develop a needs analysis
5. Northumbria working with a CPS
6. Screening tool of needs



### What we will do in our area of work

- We have formed multiagency operational group for offenders
- Pathway – Darlington & Durham need to link into this.
- Diversionary services now in custody suites
- Think about Easy read info



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- Mark Bradley & Rob King – Joint leads for Pathways
- Richard Duhan – CAMS and YOS
- Mike Cleasby to link Darlington into operational group



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Regional Stakeholder event for Mapping
- ✓ Need to develop a regional pathway and steering group (link to Bradley)
- ✓ Malcolm King – National Diversion lead visiting region
- ✓ Attending national event in Birmingham



## Group 7

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Gain more experience/training re court systems
2. Development of forensic LD community service
3. Community based hostel for LD forensic
4. More integrated approach to work with S.U, whether forensic or learning disabilities
5. Complex & multiple diagnosis delays outcome
6. Lack of resources



### What we will do in our area of work

- Discuss in team conflict of interest re pace/app adult
- Link in with probation
- Develop positive working relationships with YOT & LAC



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- S.W & Team



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ More resources, better quality
- ✓ Joined up working and equal Access to training
- ✓ Inter-professional training & education



## Group 8

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Network with YOT
2. Training from spec services
3. Better induction re networking/LD offenders
4. Disseminating information



### What we will do in our area of work

- Attend team meetings (inter-agency)
- Presentations i.e. forensic LD service
- Feedback to own service managers re importance and setting up
- Discuss with line manager how services can do this



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- S.W YOT worker/Front line Staff
- Forensic LD Teams
- Team Managers/commissioners



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Away days/ conferences
- ✓ Newsletter to all professional bodies re what is going on – how do we feedback to all LD services
- ✓ Regional Training



## Group 9

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. More joined up thinking between departments
2. Knowledge of each other's roles
3. Understanding of definition of learning disability
4. More structured training regarding Learning disabilities
5. Less reliance on Mental health teams
6. More awareness of LD teams



### What we will do in our area of work

- Contact local probation departments
- Share information with others
- Network
- Make information more accessible



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- Us and others in the discipline
- You



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ More conferences inviting all disciplines
- ✓ More representation from the police – What are they doing?
- ✓ Presentations from community forensic teams



## Group 10

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Communication between agencies
2. Early diagnosis by police
3. More training/awareness
4. Increase offenders awareness of support
5. Consistency of appropriate person



### What we will do in our area of work

- Prison service – training
- CPS – Early identification with police
- Keeping updated with legislation/sharing information
- Raising awareness
- Sharing Skills



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- Trained psychologist
- Forensic Learning disability team
- Appropriate adult - Training



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Multi agency forums
- ✓ Awareness/training sessions – Sharing skills
- ✓ Interagency shadowing
- ✓ Control information resource – internet/person



## Group 11

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Raise Awareness
2. Communication
3. Full assessment
4. Monitoring



### What we will do in our area of work

- Raise Awareness
- Explore local resources
- Change practice to meet needs



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- Probation/police etc
- Local Authorities
- Government



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Specialised probation/police etc in this field
- ✓ More specialised training to CJS staff etc
- ✓ Need to develop in other areas regarding cultures and physical disabilities
- ✓ Better links between agencies



## Group 12

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Earlier Intervention
2. Improve communication between agencies
3. Pilot LD screener in YOTS
4. LD Awareness Training for YOTS



### What we will do in our area of work

- Increase inclusion with police liaison officer – Redcar & Cleveland/Middlesbrough/Stockton
- Work with LD CAMHS to pilot LD screener in YOT's
- Include LD training & MH – capacity Training in YOT insert programme



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- CLDT's & Police liaison Officer
- Linda Bush & Julie Curtis
- Jill Dolose



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Keyring members to youth justice workforce
- ✓ More outreach work from CAMHS
- ✓ Shorter waiting lists for CAMHS
- ✓ Police training on LD/communication – From keyring
- ✓ Young people carrying cards to explain they have Learning difficulties



## Group 13

### The important things we think need to change or we need to think more about

1. Early identification of LD
2. Resources once LD identified
3. Referral to appropriate service
4. Communication between professionals
5. Development of standardisation assessment tool



### What we will do in our area of work

- Closer inter-Professional working relationships
- Communication between teams
- Teams to develop specialist workers
- Sharing of knowledge and information



### Who will do it & who will you work with?

- All professionals involved in supporting the individual
- Commissioning Teams needed To co-ordination decisions
- Policies and procedures
- Meaningful & purposeful research
- Courts magistrates police etc.



### Next Steps for working together regionally – what would you like to see?

- ✓ Regional Strategies
- ✓ Regional training
- ✓ Network with other relevant professional
- ✓ Clearer identification in professionals relevant roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Feedback on current research
- ✓ Ensure structures are in place in community to prevent re-offending





## Thoughts on the Day

**The comments below is the feedback from those who attended**

- Prison service – psychology to speak up
- Enjoyed it but couldn't hear some of the speakers
- Disappointing that criminal justice system is only prisons. Needed a wider focus on others who have responsibility i.e. courts/probation etc. Also information on Prisons quite inaccurate
- I don't think the afternoon catered for adults with learning difficulties and could have been more user friendly
- I feel the screening should take place well before prison e.g. police/probation
- Mixed messages regarding learning disabilities
- Too much jargon used
- Enjoyed the day
- Good mix of group work and presentations but some presentations were a bit wordy
- This conference was described as accessible but this is not the case
- Useful and informative. Good opportunity to network
- Service user involvement was fantastic
- Gained lots of useful knowledge
- Well structured and enjoyable
- Enjoyed training. Provoked thought around multi agency working. Feel some training would be beneficial 'locally' i.e. with more professionals and agencies
- Very good morning session but the afternoon was very rushed – would have liked to have spent more time on training prison officers
- Good to meet other people from a variety of settings and share ideas/perspectives.
- Great networking opportunity
- Good people with LD taking part makes you aware
- Dont think the Tool was very good

- Good awareness raising. I'll take ideas and information back to the team (probation Newcastle)
- Recognition of peoples requirements within the CJS
- Not very good that people with LD have the potential to fall through the net of the screening tool
- Very good informative day, manage to network with relevant agencies gave me a better insight into this topic
- The topic did seem to slide back to people with difficulties rather than disabilities
- Well presented at a comfortable pace and feedback is as important as the event
- Good buffet. Very warm and comfortable
- Useful to network with a range of people working in a similar field
- I enjoyed the range of speakers and the topics discussed
- A lot of emphasis on the assessment phase and not enough information on what happens next
- I liked the multi agency approach and learned a lot about what is going on in the area
- It would be useful to have the results of ongoing research or to be notified when it's available and where it can be found
- A good informative day. Hope all the plans develop
- Informative.
- Could have had an extra workshop session in the afternoon
- It was good to hear from people who have been through the CJS with an LD
- Very interesting, informative and enlightening. Would love to see another seminar feeding back on how the systems have worked
- Very good and interesting conference – provided me with a lot of useful information to think about
- Could you please send a list around about good practice so we can see how far we are joined up
- Excellent – Very good balance of theory, regional practice and workshop discussion
- Very informative – I learned about people who have LD's in CJS
- Very good day
- Excellent day
- Enjoyed speaking to other professionals
- Very precise presentation. Hopefully we can have more positive outcomes from this
- Received a lot of useful information that I hope to implement once I'm qualified as a dual practitioner
- Very good event. Need another for regional pathways
- Very informative need more similar events
- An interesting day with lots to take in. Good opportunity to network and discuss LD issues
- Good mix of professionals

- Very interesting conference, lots of discussion points to take back locally and nationwide
- Enlightening and it opened my eyes
- Good variety of speakers and a good introduction to projects in prison services & importance of early identification of LD diagnosis
- Inviting service users – more of this is needed
- Very informative. Good use of time and a great opportunity to meet with other professionals
- Generally very useful and good
- Sometimes there is no match between what the speaker is talking about and what is on the screen
- I enjoyed the day
- It was good to be involved with other people