

UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

# The Criminal Justice and Health Group: Research Report (2006/9)

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**University of Lincoln**  
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## Introduction

Professor Brooker came into post in January 2006 and with funding attached to his chair had appointed a full time research assistant (CS) and a PhD student on a bursary within four months of arriving. The group has grown steadily and a second RA joined the team in 2008 (CF). Latterly administrative support was offered by Katherine Onion and now Sue Bowler has taken on this role with through funding for the Research for Patient benefit Study. A number of other honorary appointments have also been made notably Fiona Gale, Damian Mitchell and Sara Moore.

The group has sought to maximise research and consultancy income through diverse relationships with stakeholders in the criminal justice system these include: the Department of Health, the East Midlands Regional CSIP Office, local NHS and probation partners, Policy Exchange, the Church of England<sup>1</sup>, and the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health. Our overarching aim has been to undertake work that has the potential to improve the health outcomes for offenders be these adults or children. It is not surprising that mental health has been a major concern but we have been eclectic and have addressed a broader range of health issues particularly those that might be described as primary care/public health in orientation.



**From left:** Katherine Onion, Clare Fox, Fiona Warner-Gale, Liz Hughes, Caroline Coxon, Keiran Fahy, Steve Hutchinson, Charlie Brooker, Coral Sirdifield and Emmie Earle.

The field of criminal justice and health is small but a fast-growing one as the fundamental inequalities for offender healthcare begin to be recognised by the mainstream NHS. Our group has made a significant impact in terms of outputs and in terms of the development of research capacity in this field. We would like to think that we have been a small drum that has beaten loudly.

## The Research Group

The research group consists of the following staff:

- Professor Charlie Brooker
- Coral Sirdifield (Research Assistant)
- Clare Fox (Research Assistant)
- Fiona Gale (0.4 Honorary Reader)
- Dina Gojkovic (Full-time PhD Student)
- Sue Bowler (0.4 PA)
- Graham Pluck (RA from April 09)
- Zoe Elkington (RA from April 09)
- Tracy Smith (CSO from April 09), employed by LPFT as part of RfPB project

In addition, John Flynn has recently joined the group as the Faculty statistician where he is managed by Professor Brooker. Other honorary appointments also make significant contributions including: Prof D Mitchell (DH), Ms S Moore (DH) and Dr J Phull (Rampton Hospital).

<sup>1</sup>The Research Group's relationship with the Church of England owes a great deal to Arthur Hawes, former Archdeacon at Lincoln and former non-executive director of Lincolnshire Partnership Trust. Professor Brooker attended the Church's meeting of Synod in 2007 where Archdeacon Hawes spoke to the plight of seriously mentally ill people in prisons. In December 2008, An invitation was extended to Hawes and Brooker to attend a seminar at Lambeth Palace chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury on offenders and mental illness.

## CJMH and Research Focus

The group broadly pursues health services research in the criminal justice system and its *modus operandi* can be characterised as follows:

- Interest in most health-related research questions across the criminal justice pathway including: the police, courts, probation and prison.
- Eclecticism in approach to research methods using a range of techniques including most quantitative and qualitative and systematic review.
- A close relationship with the health service including policy-makers, commissioners and providers.
- Work with other partners (not exclusively 'academic' partners) who have strengths that complement our own.

## Research and Consultancy Income 2006/9

This has been a most successful period with a series of research and consultancy projects generating significant income, we have also undertaken 'own account' research from within our own resources:

### Funded Research/Consultancy

- **£32,000 (with Sirdifield)** to conduct an impact assessment of the implementation of the Health Trainer role in criminal justice settings.
- **£6,500 (with Sirdifield)** to produce a guide to implementing Health Trainers in criminal justice settings.
- **£20,000 (with Sirdifield)** to evaluate the impact of mental health awareness training for Prison Officers.
- **£20,000 (with Sirdifield)** to implement and evaluate a mental health awareness training package for probation officers in the East Midlands (*funded by CSIP EM*).
- **£20,000 (with Fox)** to conduct a health needs assessment for clients on probation officer caseloads in Nottingham City (*funded by CSIP EM*).
- **£196,000 (with Sirdifield, Blizzard, Owen and Moran)** to examine the prevalence of mental health disorders on the caseloads of probation officers in Lincolnshire *East Midlands Research for Patient Benefit Scheme - NIHR*.
- **£30,000 (with Fox)** to examine the health needs of prisoners serving sentences of 12 months or less *East Midlands CSIP Office*.
- **£15,000 (with Fox)** to examine the health needs of children in secure environments in the East Midlands *East Midlands CSIP Office*.
- **£20,000 (with Belshaw)** to examine the plans on healthcare commissioners in the East Midlands to invest in prison mental health services from April, 2007 *East Midlands SHA/ CSIP Office*.

■ **£20,000 (with East Midlands ROMs/CSIP Office)** to establish the East Midlands Offender Health Research Network and run it from 2007-2009  
**National Offender Health Research Network/ DH**

■ **£100,000 (with Fiona Gale)**. This DH-funded study (2007/9) to examine commissioning for children in secure accommodation has continued this financial year and will show significant research spend.

#### **Own Account – Research and Consultancy**

■ A systematic review of the relationship between health and re-offending (Brooker, Sirdifield, Ferriter, Phull, Ortega).

■ The construction of a data base in order to use multivariate analytic strategies to examine mental health outcomes in prison (Fox and Flynn).

■ The analysis of data obtained from the DH, alongside our own prison in-reach data, to examine patterns in mental health spend in prisons (Shortchanged – see publications).

## **Staffing and Income**

One positive outcome of these combined income streams has been that all staff in the CJMH group have contracts until the Autumn 09 (some in fact until March 10), in addition, as of April 09, all the group's project accounts have been spent according to budget.

## **Publications**

The group have produced a considerable number of high quality and influential publications over the past three years or so. There are listed below:

### **Books**

**Brooker, C and Repper, J [Eds] (2008)**. *Mental Health: from Policy to Practice*, Elsevier

**Dogra, N Parkin, A Gale, F and Frake, C (2008) 2nd edition**. *A Multi-disciplinary Handbook of Child and Adolescent Mental Health for Front-line Professionals*. London, Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

### **Book Chapters**

**Brooker, C and Onyett, S (2008)**. The National Service Framework for Mental health: never mind the quality feel the width? (In Brooker C, and Repper J, [eds.] *Mental Health: from policy to practice* Elsevier, Edinburgh.

**Gale, F (2007)**. Tackling mental health and other forms of stigma in vulnerable children. In P. Vostanis (Ed) *Mental Health Interventions and Services for Vulnerable Children and Young People*. London, Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

### **Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)**

**Sirdifield, C (2006)**. *Piloting a new role in Mental Health – Prison Based Health Trainers*, - The Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice (previously The Journal of Mental Health Workforce Development), Volume 1, Issue 4, December 2006.

**Brooker, C and Sirdifield, S (2006)**. *Mapping the introduction of a mental health awareness in custodial settings self-directed workbook across eight care services improvement partnership patches*, The Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice (previously The Journal of Mental Health Workforce Development), Volume 1, Issue 4, December 2006.

**Brooker, C (2007)**. The Chief Nursing Officer's review of mental health nursing in England: an ode to motherhood and apple pie *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, Vol 44, No 3, 327-330.

**Curran, J and Brooker, C (2007)**. Systematic Review of Interventions delivered by UK Mental Health Nurses *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, Vol 44, No 3, 479-511.

**Brooker, C Bennett, S and Ricketts T, (2007)**. Admission decisions following contact with an emergency mental health assessment and intervention service *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 16, 1313-1322.

**Steel, J Thornicroft, G Birmingham, L Brooker, C Mills, A and Shawk, J (2007)**. Prison Mental Health In-reach Services. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 190, 373-374.

**Ricketts, T Brooker, C and Dent-Brown, K (2007).** Introducing Mental Health In-reach teams to English prisons: An organisational case study. *International Journal of Prisoner Health* , Vol 3, No 4, 234-247.

**Brooker, C Repper, J Sirdifield, C and Gojkovic, D (2009).** Review of service delivery and organisational research for prisoners with mental disorders *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology*, 20, Supplement 1.

**Sirdifield, C Gojkovic, D and Brooker, C (2009).** A Systematic Review of Research Relating to the Epidemiology of Mental Health Disorders in Prison Populations: A Summary of Findings *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology*, 20, Supplement 1.

**Brooker, C and Gojkovic, D (2009).** The second national survey of mental health in-reach services in prisons *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology*, 20, Supplement 1.

**Brooker, C Fox, C Barrett, P and Syson-Nibbs, L (2009).** A health needs assessment of prisoners on probation: report of a pilot study *Journal of Probation*, Vol 56 (1), 45-59.

#### Reports/Training Materials

**Brooker, C and Sirdifield, C (2007).** *New Futures Health Trainers: An Impact Assessment, Department of Health, Final report to the Department of Health.*

**Sirdifield, C Bevan, L Calverley, M Mitchell, L Craven, J and Brooker, C (2007).** *A Guide to Implementing the New Futures Health Trainer Role Across the Criminal Justice System, Department of Health, Final Report to the Department of Health.*

**Brooker, C Sirdifield, C and Gojkovic, D (2007).** Mental health services and prisoners: an updated review University of Lincoln/CCAWI, commissioned by the Prison Health Research Network <http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/cjmh/publications.htm>

**Brooker, C Sirdifield, C and Belshaw, L (2008).** *A Review of Mental Health Service Provision in the Lincolnshire Prisons, University of Lincoln.*

**Brooker, C Sirdifield, C Gardner, M Pollard, S Finch, C and McGonagle, I (2008).** *Mental Health Awareness Training Course for Probation Staff, Trainers Pack.*

**Brooker, C Sirdifield, C Gardner, M Pollard, S Finch, C and McGonagle, I (2008).** *Mental Health Awareness Training Course for Probation Staff, Learners Pack*

**Brooker, C Parsonage, M Fox, C and Duggan, S (2008).** Short-changed: The cost of prison mental health care: towards more equitable provision Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health/University of Lincoln <http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/cjmh/publications.htm>

**Brooker, C Fox, C Barrett, P and Syson-Nibbs, L (2008).** A health needs assessment of prisoners on probation in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire: report of a pilot study <http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/cjmh/publications.htm>

**Brooker, C and Ullmann, B (2008).** Out of sight, Out of mind - The state of mental healthcare in prison Policy Exchange, London Think-tank.

**Brooker, C and Ullmann, B (2009).** Inside out: the case for improving mental healthcare across the criminal justice system Policy Exchange, London.

#### PhD Student Activity

Dina Gojkovic – This PhD has about six months to run of a funded full-time award. Progress is good but has been held back by the NHS Ethics procedures. Professor Judith Lathlean has agreed to be the external examiner in the Summer. Gojkovic is undertaking a cross-cultural study of prison mental health service delivery in England and Serbia.

Steve Hutchinson – This PhD is being undertaken part-time by an NHS employee. Progress has been steady but slow. Hutchinson is looking at the extent to which offenders constitute part of the clinical work of Assertive Outreach teams nationally.

Keiran Fahy – This student is in the final writing up stage and should submit next Summer. Fahy has studied the outcome for service users referred to an Early Intervention Service for Psychosis with a group of matched controls.

Coral Sirdifield – This PhD is based on our RfPB funded study examining the prevalence of mental health disorders (including PD), substance misuse and patterns of service access amongst offenders on probation in Lincolnshire. This study will also include a qualitative element investigating the experiences of both offenders and probation staff trying to access or facilitate access to mental health services – highlighting areas of good practice and barriers to service access in these groups.

## Teaching Activities

Whilst we are predominantly a group that targets research and consultancy income we recognise the importance of maintaining an involvement on teaching both within the University and wider afield and the examples below, illustrate.

- Dina Gojkovic teaches on the Level 3 CBT module alongside Paul Barrett.
- Coral Sirdifield and Clare Fox contribute the equivalent of one day a week to the Social Work programme.
- Sirdifield and Brooker are also responsible for designing, rolling out and evaluating mental health awareness training to probation staff across the East Midlands.

## Significant Achievements 2007/9

- We produced the first ever health needs assessment of those on probation being managed in the community (see publications). The paper, posted on our website, elicited a very positive response from the Chief Constable in Wales. We presented the findings at the annual NACRO conference.

- We have won a prestigious NIHR East Midlands Research for Patient Benefit Grant looking at prevalence of mental health disorder on probation caseloads. The value of this award is £196,000.
- Fiona Gale, Clare Fox and Charlie Brooker spoke at four supra-regional NHS conferences presenting the findings from the interim evaluation of commissioning for secure children's services
- Charlie Brooker has chaired the Partnership Board R&D sub-group which has designed a conjoint research strategy with LPT. Ultimately this will lead to the significant portfolio funding for the Trust (with the award above), three consultant sessions for research, the placement of two CSO's within CCAWI, and 0.2 of a development officer from the EM MHRN hub. This combined with the new statistician will mean we can be much more competitive in the NIHR funding arena.
- Short-changed (see publications), a paper written by Clare Fox and Charlie Brooker, on prison mental health funding, with the SCMh, caused a stir in the Health Service and provoked a ministerial response.
- We wrote a full response to the consultation document from the DH on future healthcare for offenders on behalf of the Lincolnshire community. This led to several 'good practice' acknowledgements in the national summary of evidence.
- A number of us have spoken to international conferences this year including Dina Gojkovic who presented her evidence on prison in-reach services to a large international audience in Dublin in September 08, and will do so again in Edinburgh in March 09. Clare Fox also spoke at an International Children's mental health conference in Istanbul.
- Charlie Brooker and Coral Sirdifield undertook an independent review of mental health service provision in the three Lincoln prisons at the invitation of the PCT. These services will now go out to tender with the new specification including most of our recommendations.

- Charlie Brooker has worked all year with Policy Exchange, a London-based think tank, on the challenges facing mental health service provision in the CJ system. Two reports have been produced the first 'Out of sight – out of mind' (see publications) has been welcomed by all the major CJ charities including Rethink, the Prison Reform Trust, NACRO and SCMH.
- Charlie Brooker was invited to a seminar hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace on offender mental health in December 2008.
- The CJMH group has established the East Midlands Offender health research network on its website. In six weeks we have obtained 50 registered members. CB chairs this group.
- Charlie Brooker has been asked to edit a special edition of the Journal of Psychiatry and Psychology which will focus on mental health care in prisons. It appears in April 2009.
- Charlie Brooker and Laura Belshaw (Nottingham Mental Health Trust) were commissioned by the SHA and East Midlands CSIP Office to review expenditure on prison mental health across PCTs in the East Midlands.