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Ministry of JUSTICE
National Offender Management Service

Welcome to the first edition of the new offender personality disorder programme newsletter! This quarterly newsletter will bring you the latest programme updates, alongside stories from our pilot sites, news from our existing treatment units and wider personality disorder developments.

The offender personality disorder programme will re-shape the existing Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) services in the NHS and in prisons and set a new direction for working with this complex group of offenders. It will improve identification and assessment of offenders early in their sentence; increase treatment capacity for those in custody; and improve their management in prison and in the community.

We know that around two-thirds of prisoners meet the criteria for at least one type of personality disorder. For a relatively small number of offenders, in its most severe forms, personality disorder is linked to a serious risk of harm to themselves and to others. For this group of offenders, the programme aims to:

- Reduce the risk of serious harm to others and serious further offending
- Improve psychological health and wellbeing, and tackle health inequalities
- Develop leadership in the field of health, criminal justice and social care, and create a workforce with appropriate skills, attitudes and confidence.

For more information about the programme, please see:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/10/offender-personality-disorder-consultation-response/>

This inaugural edition of the *Pathway Press* is themed around Psychologically Informed Planned Environments (PIPEs), one of the innovative products of the personality disorder programme, currently being piloted in seven locations. Future editions will focus on the women's strategy, community services and workforce development.

What is a PIPE?

Psychologically Informed Planned Environments, or PIPEs, are specifically designed environments which recognise the importance of relationships and inter-personal interactions. Members of staff are trained to have a better psychological understanding of their work, which helps create the feeling of a safe and supportive environment. PIPEs aim to maximise ordinary situations and to approach these in a psychologically informed way. In addition, PIPEs have specifically planned activities which are designed and delivered by the staff team on the PIPE and involve a range of individual and group activities.

It is important to note that the **PIPEs are not a treatment**. Instead they are designed to support and maintain developments achieved in other interventions and to help offenders (some of whom have personality disorder) to progress through a recognised pathway.

For further information please contact the NOMS PIPE project lead, Kirk Turner: Kirk.Turner@noms.gsi.gov.uk

PIPE event

The Queens Hotel in Leeds provided the setting for the first PIPE event earlier this year. Staff from pilot sites and other stakeholders gathered to share good practice, experiences and ideas around the PIPE model. Attendees were also able to meet new colleagues from the HMP Frankland pilot which launched soon afterwards.

The Department of Health's Nick Benefield, joint head of the Personality Disorder team, reminded staff about the 'Good Enough' experience; and Marion Brown, national PIPE supervisor, introduced delegates to some of the more 'unconscious' aspects in and around PIPEs. Dr Susan Williams from the Enabling Environments (EE) project was also on hand to remind staff about EE and encourage their thinking about our overall approach.

Event hosts Kirk Turner and Lucinda Bolger commented on the commitment and interest shown by all the project teams.



Workforce development in PIPEs

One of the plenary sessions during the PIPE event was a workshop on workforce development. Key issues raised included:

- the need to focus the current Knowledge and Understanding Framework (KUF) awareness training more on the criminal justice system
- technical issues with the training modules
- the substantial time commitment outside of work required to complete the course.

The personality disorder team has noted this feedback and we are looking at ways of resolving these issues. This includes a new core training programme, focussed primarily at prison officers, with staff receiving training on site. Local facilitators would deliver the training and the online element would be removed. In the meantime, the three-day KUF training is still available and accessible to all staff.

Thank you to all the PIPE staff who expressed an interest in assisting the DH/NOMS team with development work or becoming facilitators. We have not forgotten about you – expect to hear from us soon!

... Latest programme news...

In recent months, we have:

- Completed the communication, workforce development and user engagement strategies
- Launched a co-commissioning process for community services across the country
- Briefed the Prisons & Probation minister, Crispin Blunt, on our plans.

Our next steps are:

- Piloting a new intervention for offenders with intellectual disability and personality disorder
- Implementing a new personality disorder service for women at Foston Hall.

The PIPE pilots

DH and NOMS are jointly supporting seven pilot PIPE sites: three in male prisons (HMP Hull, HMP Gartree and HMP Frankland), two in female prisons (HMP Send and HMP Low Newton) and two probation approved premises sites (Leicester and Merseyside). **Sally Tilt from the PIPE at HMP Gartree tells us more...**

"The PIPE Progression Unit at HMP Gartree opened in May 2011. With capacity to take up to 60 prisoners we are one of the larger pilot sites; all of our current residents are serving life or indeterminate sentences for public protection.

"The aim of our progression unit is to support men who have made a positive change in their lives or who have reduced their risk having completed interventions.

"Our approach includes group and one-to-one sessions giving staff opportunities to get to know the prisoners better, form positive relationships and provide opportunities to practise new skills. Staff have commented that there are prisoners who they have known for years, but since working with them on PIPE, they have begun to understand and see a different side to them.

"The regime tries to offer more 'normal' and pro-social activities – for example film nights, gardening, debates etc to support progression and personal development. One resident recently commented during a staff and resident football game that they could 'be anywhere now'."

Over to you: We would love to hear your views on the Pathway Press and your suggestions for future editions. To comment on the newsletter, or if you would like to get involved by writing an article, don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing pd@noms.gsi.gov.uk.