Introduction

In June 2014, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland (HMCIPS), David Strang, presented his annual report for 2013-14. During the year, three full inspections (HMP Low Moss, HMP Edinburgh and HMP Inverness) were completed along with two follow up inspections (HMP Barlinnie and HMYOI Polmont).

In his report, HMCIPS observes, “The vast majority of those currently detained in prison will return to the community in which they lived before they were imprisoned. For some, this will be in a short time; for others it may be in several years’ time. Many will be described in terms of the challenges and problems they have faced – broken relationships, substance misuse and addictions, mental health problems, unemployment, lack of educational achievement, offending background and harm they have caused to others.

But all are human beings with potential; people capable of change and growth. The challenge for society and for the prison service is to identify that potential and to prepare them for responsible citizenship after their sentence is served.”

(HMCIPS, 2014, p9)

Whilst the annual report covers the broad spectrum of areas which the Inspectorate has gathered evidence on, this briefing focuses on the main findings which are likely to be of interest from a third sector service provider perspective. Where relevant, we have also drawn on other recent evidence, such as individual prison inspection reports and academic research, and included case study examples that illustrate the contribution that the voluntary sector is making to meeting this challenge and supporting individuals with their transition from custody back into the community.

Recent changes within prisons in Scotland

HMCIPS noted four significant changes for prisons in Scotland over the past year:

- Changes to the prisons estate, with a new establishment (HMP & YOI Grampian) replacing HMP Peterhead and HMP Aberdeen

- The SPS Organisational Review, which was published in November 2013. A CJVSF briefing on the findings of the review can be found on the CJVSF website.


2 www.ccpscotland.org/cjvsf
- **Turnover of senior staff**, both in prisons and at SPS Board level
- **The introduction of the Public Social Partnership model.**
  Further detail about HMCIPS's comments around PSPs are discussed under the 'Links to Third Sector and Partner organisations’ section of this briefing.

**Inspection findings**

The inspection findings focused on safety, decency and opportunity.

**Safety: Security, good order, protection from harm**

Whilst individuals in prison "generally report feeling reasonably safe", HMCIPS identified the first few hours and days in custody as a time when individuals are likely to be particularly vulnerable. He also highlighted the need for relevant information to be shared in a timely manner.

The voluntary sector can play an important role during the early stages of custody. HMYOI Polmont, for example, has recently changed its induction programme to include sessions from a wide range of service providers including The Wise Group, Action for Children, Access to Industry, Caledonia Youth and Mentor UK. A recent inspection report of HMYOI Polmont highlighted the involvement of this broader range of organisations as a positive step *(HMYOI Polmont Inspection Report, 2014, p21)*.

**Decency, Humanity and Respect for Legal Rights**

The overall quality of relationships between staff and individuals in custody was praised by HMCIPS: "A key factor in the treatment of prisoners is the relationships between prisoners and all staff who work in the establishment. Overall, I have been impressed with the quality of these relationships.” *(p5)*

Previous research has also highlighted the importance of relationships between individuals and staff in contributing to desistance (e.g. Social Work Inspection Agency, 2005; McNeill, 2009). Again, the third sector can play a key role here, with McLaughlin (2012) identifying ‘trust and relationships’ as one of the key attributes of the third sector that makes it particularly effective at delivering services that contribute to a reduction in reoffending.

HMCIPS recommendations for SPS focused around the issues of overcrowding, separation and dirty protests.

**Opportunities for self-improvement and access to services and activities**

**Purposeful activity**

The report notes that there is a range of purposeful activities currently available in prisons and that the SPS Organisational Review set out an intention to further strengthen these opportunities. The recent Justice Committee Inquiry into purposeful activity in prisons also emphasised the need for such activities in supporting rehabilitation and stated that "any strategy for delivering purposeful activity must recognise the valuable role that a range of third sector organisations..."

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Further information is available at: http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/57752.aspx
play in reducing reoffending” (Scottish Parliament Justice Committee, 2013, p2).

The HMCIPS Annual Report reiterates the need to increase access to purposeful activities for all prisoners and identifies a barrier around a lack of activity places available in some prisons. The report also mentions that a number of prisons are currently conducting timetabling reviews and highlights the need to build on existing good practice.

In previous individual prison inspection reports, HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland has highlighted some of the good practice currently being delivered in prisons in relation to purposeful activity. For example,

- "Some specific new and interesting work is going on and I particularly cite the ‘Paws for Progress’ initiative (where young offenders work with dogs from a dog charity) which is inspirational in its effect.” (HMYOI Polmont Inspection Report, 2012, p6)
- "HMP Low Moss delivers the highest levels of purposeful activity within SPS public sector prisons. This is positive. The range of purposeful activities available, includes industrial work, vocational training, programmed interventions, education, PT as well as some creative, cultural and leisure activities” (HMP Low Moss Inspection Report, 2013, p32)

The role of the Personal Officer in supporting engagement is identified as well, with the importance of appropriate training for this role also highlighted.

**Throughcare**

The HMCIPS (2014, p6) observes that, "There are some good examples of throughcare which supports the transition from the prison to the community.” Whilst the report does not specify the throughcare initiatives, previous research (e.g. The Robertson Trust, 2014; Malloch, 2013) has shown that the voluntary sector plays an important role in supporting individuals with the transition from the prison to the community. A number of CJVSF members are involved in delivering throughcare support throughout Scotland and two examples are provided in the case studies below.

**The Richmond Fellowship Scotland’s Throughcare Service in Falkirk**

The Richmond Fellowship Scotland’s Voluntary Aftercare Service offers support to people following release from prison and to people who are at risk of re-offending. The service, based in Forth Valley, aims to support people prior to their release from prison; on their release day; and during the following critical weeks post release.

The service also supports people who are known to the criminal justice services and who are experiencing difficulties within their community.

All available support encourages person centred outcomes and aids the development of practical coping mechanisms in relation to housing issues, benefits and budgetary concerns, community networking including appointments and meeting attendance and support with on-going addictions.

The future shaping of the service reflects the results of individual feedback of people using this service.

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Moving On is a throughcare support service run by Action for Children in Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Ayrshire and the Highlands. It provides support to young people both during and after custody and enables them to make links to other services to help their reintegration back into the community.

Adopting a youth work approach, project staff first ensure that the basic needs of the young people are met, (such as housing, benefits, and health requirements) and then work with them to build on their strengths and to address issues known to be relevant to offending such as low self-esteem, poor communication skills and employability skills.

Of the young men who registered with Moving On, 95% engaged post liberation. This has resulted in 84% non-return to custody. An evaluation of the service found that "Moving On has established a successful model based on a solution focused, youth work approach. Treating the young people with respect, empathy, understanding, not being judgemental, and being motivated/ able to empower and motivate others were identified by clients as crucial in this" (Nugent & Hutton, 2013, p2).

Individual prison inspection reports have also highlighted the contribution that third sector organisations make to supporting the transition from prison to the community. For example, the HMP Inverness inspection report (HMIP, 2014, p54) noted:

"In addition to NHS addiction services, there is a wide range of further Throughcare services and systems in place to provide the continuation of addiction support from prison into the community. These include organisations and programmes such as Apex Scotland, TAS, SMART Recovery and Turning Point Scotland who deliver referrals, pre-release information and intervention options and who take part in multi-agency discussions as part of case conference arrangements. Staff from support organisations regularly attend the prison in person or make contact through video conferencing facilities to establish a contact with prisoners prior to release. This is an area of good practice."

Supporting an ageing prison population

The report (HMCIPS, 2014, p6) picks up on the challenges that an ageing prison population is creating in terms of higher levels of health and social care needs.

The likely increase in demand for social care services as a result of an ageing population was also identified by the National Prisoner Healthcare Network and a recent SPS bulletin on individuals who are fifty years of age and over and who are in custody showed that a higher proportion of older prisoners reported accessing doctors, nurse and opticians than those aged under 50 years of age (SPS, 2014, p7).

Family contact

HMCIPS (2014, p7) highlights the importance of maintaining family contact and engagement whilst individuals are in prison. He notes that a number of family centres and help hubs are being established to provide support to families. The 2013 Inspection report for HMP Edinburgh highlighted the Edinburgh Visitor Centre as an "area of good practice" (HM Inspectorate of Prisons, 2014).

19. Further details about the centre are provided in the case study below.

**Edinburgh Prison Visitors’ Centre**

The Edinburgh Prison Visitors’ Centre is managed by The Salvation Army and works in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service, Families Outside and a range of other organisations which support families affected by imprisonment. Staff at the Centre seek to provide a supportive, friendly and non-judgemental environment for anyone visiting somebody in prison.

The Centre acts as a first point of contact for families and friends and offers a range of accessible information, advice and support services. This includes information about visiting procedures, parenting support, information and support with prison based issues and support to access health, well-being and education services initiatives. The Centre also has a café and children’s play area.

**Links to Third Sector and partner organisations**

Third sector and partner organisations provide a range of important support services for individuals within Scottish prisons and, in his report, the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland notes, “I have been impressed by the quality and quantity of these initiatives and programmes”. (HMCIPS, 2014,p8).

He also highlights the mentoring Public Social Partnerships (PSPs) being developed, noting that “In their early days there are clear signs of positive results from mentoring and other forms of support.” (HMCIPS, 2014,p8). Further information about the mentoring PSPs can be found below.

**Reducing Reoffending Change Fund Public Social Partnerships (PSPs)**

In 2013, six partnerships of third sector and public sector bodies were established to enable the delivery of mentoring support for women and/or young men who have been involved in offending behaviour.

These Public Social Partnerships (PSPs) are being funded through the Reducing Reoffending Change Fund, a national fund which comprises funding from the Scottish Government, The Robertson Trust & the Scottish Prison Service. The six partnerships consist of two national PSPs and four local ones:

- **New Routes** - a national mentoring service for young men involved in prolific offending, led by The Wise Group.
- **Shine Women’s Mentoring Service** - a national service for women, over the age of 18, from across Scotland who are on remand, carrying out short-term sentences and not subject to statutory supervision. This PSP is led by Sacro.
- **Barnardos/Action for Children PSP** - a PSP delivering throughcare mentoring support for young men who offend, in Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and the Highlands.
- **Include IMPACT** - a PSP, led by Includem, which is delivering a programme of intensive support and mentoring to young people involved in prolific violent and alcohol-related offending in Glasgow.
- **Chance to Change PSP** - a PSP, led by Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire, which is providing mentoring for young people who offend, with a particular focus on employability. Its service covers the South Lanarkshire area.
- **Tayside Reducing Reoffending PSP** - a PSP, led by Tayside Council on Alcohol, which is providing support services for men and women involved in offending in the Dundee, Perth & Kinross and Angus regions.

The individual inspection report for HMP Low Moss also commended the PSP approach being used to deliver the Low Moss Prisoner Support Pathway: "I was also impressed with the ethos of the delivery of the throughcare service in place via a Public Social Partnership (PSP) which has been funded over the next three years by the Scottish Government and The Robertson Trust. HMP Low Moss will work with the voluntary sector local consortium led by Turning Point and the Community Justice Authorities. The core principle of the PSP is the timely delivery of individualised and responsive prisoner support before, during and after liberation. This is to be commended and it

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19 www.salvationarmy.org.uk/esc/PrisonVisitors
will be interesting to see how successful this integrated approach will be.” (HMIP, 2014, p5)  

**Young People’s Strategy**

The report (HMCIPS, 2014) noted the work that had gone in to developing a strategy for young people in custody and highlighted the progress that had been made in creating a ‘learning environment’ in HMYOI Polmont.

Various CJVSF members contribute to this learning environment and, in the annual report of ‘Outside-In Youth Work’, the Governor for HMYOI Polmont commented that, "Youth work is an invaluable part of the delivery of a learning environment in Polmont... Their informal style of delivery is exceptional at engaging those who are most disengaged in activity and helping their sense of inclusion and self-confidence.” (Barnardos et al, 2013, p2)  

Further information about the Outside In youth work service can be found in the box below.

**Outside In Youth Work**

Outside-In is the Scottish Prison Service’s youth work service which operates in HMYOI Polmont and HMP and YOI Cornton Vale. Since 2011, the service has been delivered by Barnardo’s Scotland and Caledonia Youth.

The service aims to enhance social skills and personal development in order to support the reintegration of young men and women, aged 16-21 years, back into the community after they leave prison. It has achieved high levels of engagement with the young men and young women and includes more than 40 different youth work activities, which contribute towards positive outcomes. Examples of the activities offered include peer education activities, emotional health and well-being activities, peer literacy training, music groups, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and fundraising.

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22 Available at: www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/70346.aspx

23 CJVSF (2013) Support for women within the criminal justice system, A CJVSF Briefing. Available at: www.cccpscotland.org/cjvsf/resources/cjvsf-briefing-support-women-criminal-justice-system/
About CJVSF

The Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum (CJVSF):

- Supports voluntary sector providers to continuously improve their own criminal justice services through collaboration and sharing of good practice
- Assists voluntary sector providers to understand, navigate and influence the complex and changing environment in which they operate
- Promotes broader awareness of the activities, value and impact of voluntary sector services within criminal justice.

The CJVSF is hosted by CCPS (the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland) and receives financial support from The Robertson Trust and The Monument Trust. Further details about the Forum can be found at: www.ccppscotland.org/cjvsf

CCPS is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland No. 279913, registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator as Charity No.SCO29199. The company's registered office is at Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh. EH7 5QY.

Further information:

Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum
Laura.Mulcahy@ccppscotland.org
0131 475 2676