

Institutional Discharge: Notes

(NB not all slides have notes)

PART 1

Slide 11 – Critical Time Intervention

The program has three phases, each of which lasts approximately three months. Phase one (“transition to the community”) covers the period before and after discharge from the institution where the caseworker gets to know the client before discharge to assess needs and co-create a transition plan to link the person to services and the community. In phase two (“try-out”), the caseworker monitors and adjusts the systems of support that were developed during phase one and intervenes as needed. In phase three (“transfer of care”), the caseworker helps develop and implement a plan to achieve long-term goals (e.g., employment, family reunification) and finalizes the transfer of responsibilities to caregivers and community providers.

Slide 12 – CTI in Lincoln

Whilst the recent success story is encouraging and highlights the importance of CTI, there is still a long way for the team to go. Currently [CTI Lincoln](#) is a team of three hardworking, dedicated staff however, the sheer number of those who require support is overwhelming. Alongside CTI, there are more agencies emerging that are tailored to this client group, with the aims of supporting inclusion into services in the community. It is clear that the ultimate goal will be achieved as a collective effort across services, with CTI bridging the gap between prison and community teams.

Slide 13 – Reflections on CTI

The characteristics of effective programmes to hold in mind for own implementation: ie collaboration across organisations, holistic approach, continuity of care at point of transition, single point person

Slide 15 – Protocols in Essex

Example from Essex

1. An assessment is made of every offender, who has been taken into custody, as early as possible in the criminal justice process, to establish if they are at risk of homelessness on release.



2. If such a risk is identified, a named person takes responsibility for coordinating action to prevent homelessness.
3. Wherever practical, if an offender is living in suitable accommodation prior to coming into custody, steps are taken to avoid the loss of that accommodation, and to avoid the building up of rent arrears and/or other debt relating to that accommodation.
4. If it is not practical to retain accommodation held prior to custody e.g. because of a long sentence, then such accommodation should be released in such a way as not to build up debt, and where possible to safeguard the offender's possessions which may have been left in that accommodation.
5. If an offender was not living in suitable accommodation prior to coming into custody, or it is not possible to retain such accommodation to return to on release, efforts should begin no less than 56 days before the expected release date, to secure suitable accommodation to coincide with release.
6. If this is not possible e.g. for offenders with a very short sentence with no accommodation to return to, efforts to secure accommodation should begin in earnest as soon as the release date is known.
7. Efforts to prevent homelessness should be coordinated between the relevant parties to this agreement and carried out in a spirit of partnership and cooperation, in order to maximize and make best use of the resources which are available. 3 Detailed and accurate information necessary to support prisoners safely and effectively will be shared between the relevant organizations involved, and any additional consents required to enable this will be sought.
9. All offenders at risk of homelessness within 56 days should be referred to the appropriate local housing authority (LHA) as early as possible in line with the Duty to Refer legislation in the Homelessness Reduction Act
10. Local housing authorities should respond to all such referrals in a timely fashion and agree a Personal Housing Plan between the offender, the relevant agencies (those within in the criminal justice system e.g. CRC, NPS, NACRO, and others including DWP) and the local authority as soon as possible.
11. If it is not possible to secure suitable accommodation in time for release, urgent steps should be taken on release to prevent rough sleeping, where this has been identified as a risk.
12. Agencies will work together to ensure that appropriate support is offered to prisoners subsequent to release.

Slide 16 – Reflections on Protocols

Even with protocols in place there can still be problems if a household is not in priority need under the homelessness legislation or if local connection to a particular area is disputed.



Slide 18 – Harm Reduction Strategies

Harm reduction interventions have been found to lead to decreases in drug-related risk behaviour; and co-delivery of multiple harm-reduction approaches can lead to even better outcomes than single harm reduction interventions. Harm reduction interventions, which vary in terms of evidenced effectiveness, include: a. Managed Alcohol Programmes (MAPs) b. Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) c. Take-Home Naloxone (THN) d. Supervised Consumption Facilities (SCFs)

Slide 25 – Standalone work-skill programmes

From April 2020 to March 2021, 72% of those released from custody were unemployed after six weeks and 96% of prisons scored a “performance is a concern” or “a serious concern” regarding steps to support people into employment.

However, the effectiveness of work-skill programmes remains contested unless they are combined with more holistic motivational, social, health and educational support services to help address other needs that may act as barriers to finding employment (for example, learning difficulties, mental illness and substance abuse). It has also been concluded that vocational training activities without associated links to tangible employment prospects are unlikely to lead to reductions in reoffending.

Other holistic employment programmes such as Individual Placement and Support have had promising results for other populations with complex needs as discussed in our evidence note about Homelessness and Employment. Even if IPS has not been studied extensively among prison leavers, initial findings are promising and suggest better employment prospects.

Slide 28 – IPS employment schemes

IPS has been shown to be more effective the more closely it follows these eight principles:

- It aims to get people into competitive employment
- It is open to all those who want to work
- It tries to find jobs consistent with people's preferences
- It works quickly
- It brings employment specialists into clinical teams
- Employment specialists develop relationships with employers based upon a person's work preferences



- It provides time unlimited, individualised support for the person and their employer
- Benefits counselling is included.

Slide 30 – Through the Gate

Like duty to refer, we aren't saying there is no evidence that through the gate could be effective, but the data isn't conclusive of effectiveness yet.

The 2020 HMIP report, notes that the extent to which this has improved accommodation outcomes is unclear, as performance against the relevant indicator has not yet improved. HMIP also found 'very large unexplained variations in performance between different CRCs. Very few of the service users interviewed, with one or two exceptions, reported good experiences of Through the Gate services.

Slide 32 – SHORE standards

SHORE Standards can be found here:

<https://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Publications/Publication-5363.aspx>

