

## Seminar 7: Criminal Justice (2) (Floor -1, Room 8)

Chair: **Nicholas Pleace, UK**

**Molly Bishop and Sarah Paul, UK:** The Challenges and Opportunities to Move to Strengths Based Working from Deficit Based Assessment to Prevent Homelessness from Custody in England



*Molly Bishop is the Strategic Lead for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in Greater Manchester Combined Authority, where rough sleeping has been reduced by 57% over the last 4 years. Molly has a background in local government and social housing and is committed to delivering public service reform to see radical changes to bring an end to rough sleeping and prevent homelessness for all. She works with organisations across local government and civic society, including Greater Manchester Probation Service, working closely with the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham to drive a progression programme of reform to impact on homelessness in Greater Manchester and national Government policy.*

*Sarah Paul is the Homelessness Prevention Lead for Greater Manchester Probation. Sarah played an instrumental role in the emergency Covid-19 Trailblazer for safe accommodation of people leaving prison in a public health crisis. This formed the foundations of the regional whole systems approach to the Community Accommodation Service for people leaving prison who are experiencing homelessness. Previously Sarah has implemented the Offender Personality Disorder Strategy alongside health colleagues within local custodial and community settings. She has also co-ordinated regional multi-agency public protection arrangements whilst co-located with Greater Manchester Police Sex Offender Management Unit.*



The challenges and opportunities of moving towards a cross sector collaborative service response to prevent homelessness upon release from custody, founded on principles of strengths based working.

Main body:

- Recognising a transition in practise to strengths based working that has occurred across the homelessness sector in the UK in recent years, this paper explores the challenges and opportunities in realising this with a cohort specific focus on those leaving custodial settings.
- We will comment on experiences of collaboration between core public services (in particular Probation and Homelessness) and wider agencies, in their attempts to prevent homelessness recognising the evidence based prevention outcomes achievable via strengths based support.
- We will highlight specific activity to achieve this and reflect on its impact, including; shared definitions, assessment alignment, support and supervision cultures, shared governance, and recognition of expertise and insight.
- Examples of strengths based system reform, barriers, opportunities and early impacts will be included, with key statistical data and reflections from Communities of Practise groups throughout.
- Highlighting the innovative nature of this work and national spotlight on outcomes in Greater Manchester within the context of English policy making.

Conclusions:

- Key opportunities within the English system to further progress strengths based approaches to prevent homelessness for people in the custodial system, with reflection on how far existing reform approaches can achieve this.

**Hannah Browne Gott, UK:** Making Violence Visible: An Exploration of Linked Homelessness and Police Data



*Hannah Browne Gott is a PhD candidate in Human Geography at Cardiff University, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and Administrative Data Research Centre. Her PhD utilizes administrative data to understand how homeless people suffer from structural violence through their interactions with the institutions of health, housing and criminal justice. Her broader research interests focus on issues concerning poverty, social justice and housing.*

Homelessness is widely suggested to be associated with crime and involvement with the police, and prior research suggests this is a complex interaction. This relationship and its interaction with different forms of discrimination has begun to be explored for those who have experienced homelessness. However, a lack of appropriate data has precluded robust quantitative analysis.

This paper will discuss the interactions of people who have experienced homelessness with the police, drawing on linked administrative data collected by the police and statutory homelessness services. This paper presents analysis of linked data from 6000 individuals who have experienced homelessness and their over 83,000 interactions with the police force.

The findings of this paper draw attention to the high levels of interpersonal violence and crime suffered by those who have experienced homelessness. This problematises with the often held view of homelessness as 'crimogenic'; instead demonstrating a heterogeneous and complex relationship between homelessness and the police force, characterized by the violence experienced by the homelessness service users. This analysis shows the potential of administrative data for defining patterns that allow for early intervention and prevention of homelessness.