March Spotlight: New from PrisonerActionNet

Dear Amy Dunnigan

The first PrisonerActionNet Spotlight will focus on what’s new on PrisonerActionNet, including Gerard Lemos’s lecture, *Civilisation Spurns the Leopard: What makes a good prison?* presented by The Monument Trust, looking at shifts in perceptions of crime and outlining four proposals for engaging offenders in the criminal justice process. We have a new briefing on ‘Transforming Rehabilitation: A revolution in the way we manage offenders’, a Ministry of Justice policy consultation paper outlining the Justice Secretary’s proposed changes to the way in which offenders are managed in the community. We also feature good practice ideas from The Good Prison Award and invite you to contribute to this month’s forum discussion asking ‘How can offenders move on from the perception that they are permanently stigmatised?’

**MONUMENT TRUST LECTURE**

*Civilisation Spurns the Leopard: What makes a good prison?*

‘...Crime has a loud, persistent voice in politics and the media. Prevention of crime and protecting the public has also become an arena of private sector and market-based activity no longer the exclusive preserve of the state, reversing a trend that has lasted more than 150 years. The private management of prisons is one example and there are many others. The market-based infrastructure of crime control has exponentially expanded, for example, the growth of private security forces and ubiquitous surveillance technologies. In an echo of this growth of market-based ways of controlling crime, business-style management techniques have also taken hold in criminal justice, most notably in the government’s recent espousal of the idea of payments by results. The shift to this “culture of control” is not the first seismic shift in society’s thinking and mood about crime and it certainly won’t be the last...’ *(more)*

**BRIEFING**

‘Transforming Rehabilitation: A revolution in the way we manage offenders’ is a recent Ministry of Justice policy consultation paper which outlines the Justice Secretary’s proposed changes to the way in which offenders are managed in the community. These proposals are an attempt to radically overhaul offender rehabilitation in light of reoffending rates deemed by the government to have been ‘far too high for far too long’. Proposed changes focus on the rehabilitation of adult offenders in the community, in order to reduce recidivism and deliver better value for money within offender management services. Groups affected by these proposals include those sentenced to community orders and those newly released from prison, as well as both public and private offender management providers and voluntary, community-based organisations working with offenders and ex-offenders. The following summarises the main policy components. *(more)*
### THE GOOD PRISON AWARD

The Good Prison Awards for holistic achievement by prisons and young offender institutions in delivering person-centred interventions that enhance offenders’ positive identity, relationships and capabilities were presented at an awards event attended by over 80 practitioners from the prison service, criminal justice system and third sector at the Clink Restaurant, HMP High Down. Gold, Silver and Bronze Winners were announced together with Best Single Initiative and Commended Entries.

The Good Prison Framework that formed the entry criteria for the competition is based on 4 years’ research in developing PrisonerActionNet and on a comprehensive review of the literature on desistance and transitions from crime. ([more](#))

### FORUM DISCUSSION

On the forum this month we’ll be discussing: **How can offenders move on from the perception that they are permanently stigmatised?**

Please share your thoughts on the PrisonerActionNet Forum by clicking [here](#).

### RESOURCES

**Arts Alliance Evidence Library**

The Evidence Library is an online library housing the key research and evaluation documents on the impact of arts-based projects, programmes and interventions within the Criminal Justice System.

It is searchable by arts organisations, evaluation organisations, artforms and many more categories: Enter the Library and search the sections for the evidence you want. ([more](#))