

Mental Health and Addiction Interventions Within Probation Services Post Pandemic

ACJRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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Overview

Mental Health & Addiction issues in the Criminal Justice System: What does the evidence tell us?

Impact of the pandemic on those within the Criminal Justice System with complex needs: What is the learning?

Problem Solving Mental Health & Addictions within the Criminal Justice System: Investing in Treatment to prevent reoffending.

Mental Health: A Public Health Issue in Northern Ireland

Highest rates of
mental health in
UK

Affects 1 in 4
people in N.
Ireland

1 in 9 children
experience
mental health
problems

50% of 18-25 year
olds experience
mental health
problems

Highest rates of
self-harm in UK

Highest suicide
rates in UK

Spike in drug-
related deaths

Mental health is
leading cause of
work-related
absence

Highest cost of
anti-depressant
prescribing

Conflict and
trauma related
problems

Complexity of Mental Health & Addictions in the Criminal Justice System

Prevalence of
MH & co-
occurring
disorders in
the offender
population

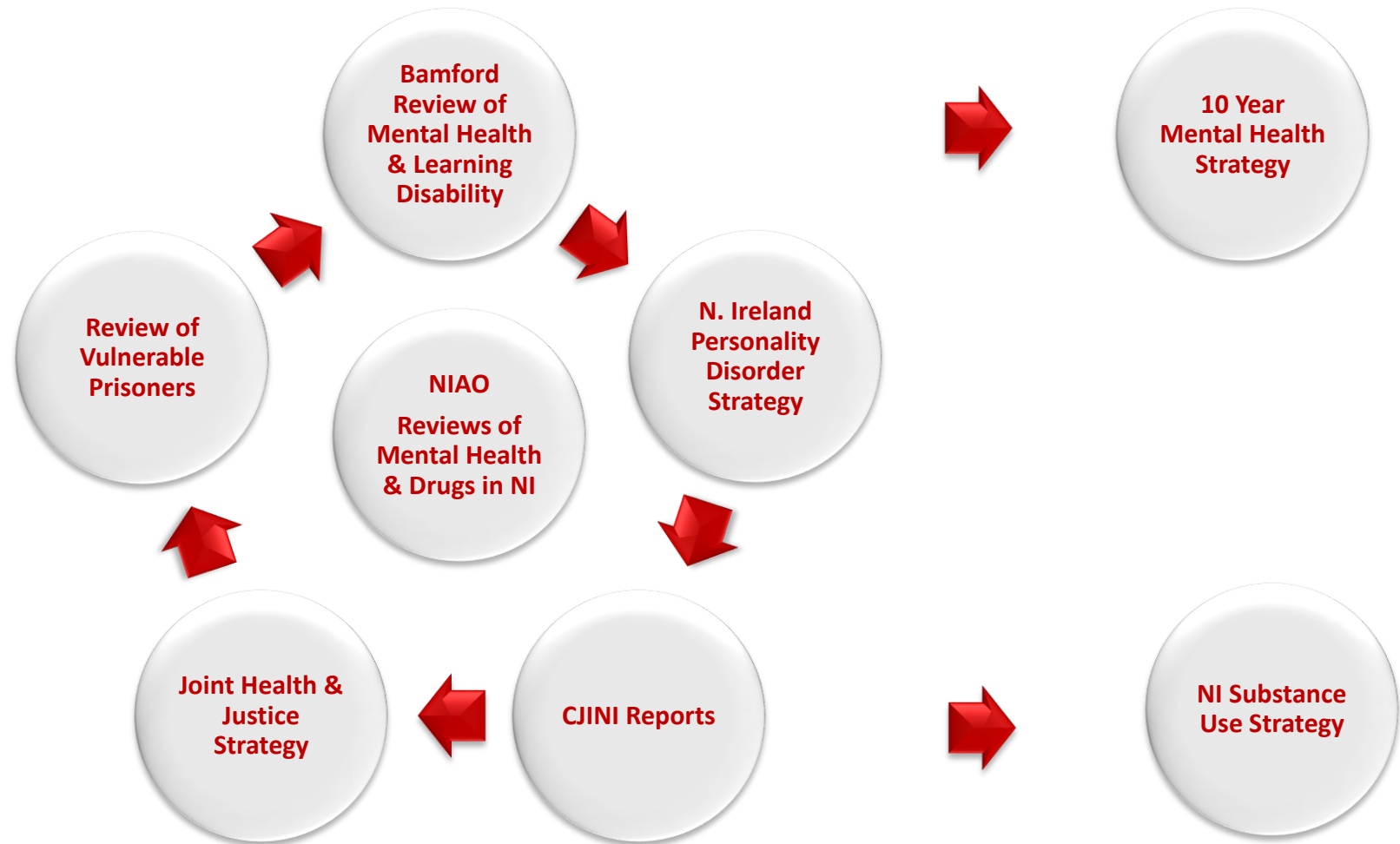
Rates of
suicide &
self harm

Other Mental Health
Needs, ie
Personality Disorder
Learning Disability
Substance Misuse
Communication
Difficulties
Brain Injury
Trauma

Access to
Mental
Health
Services in
the
Community

Sentencing
Options

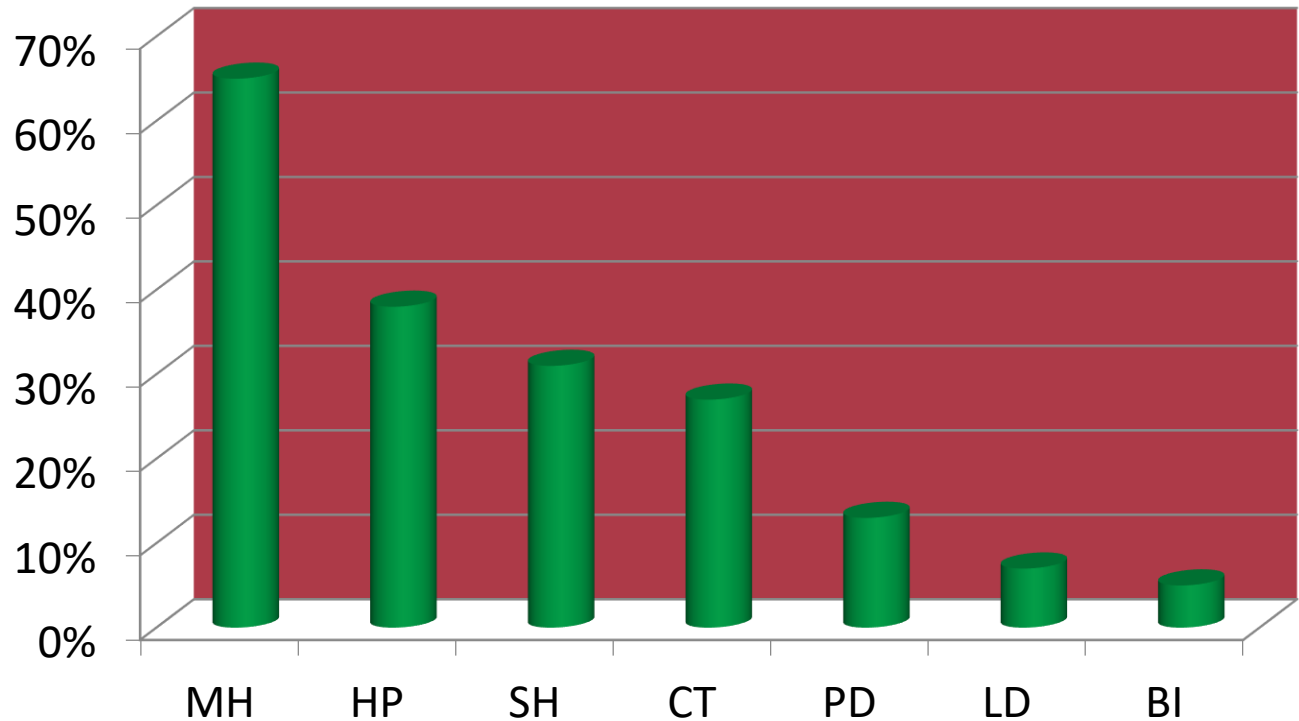
Strategic Reports on Mental Health & the Criminal Justice System: What is the learning?



Impact on Service Users in PBNI

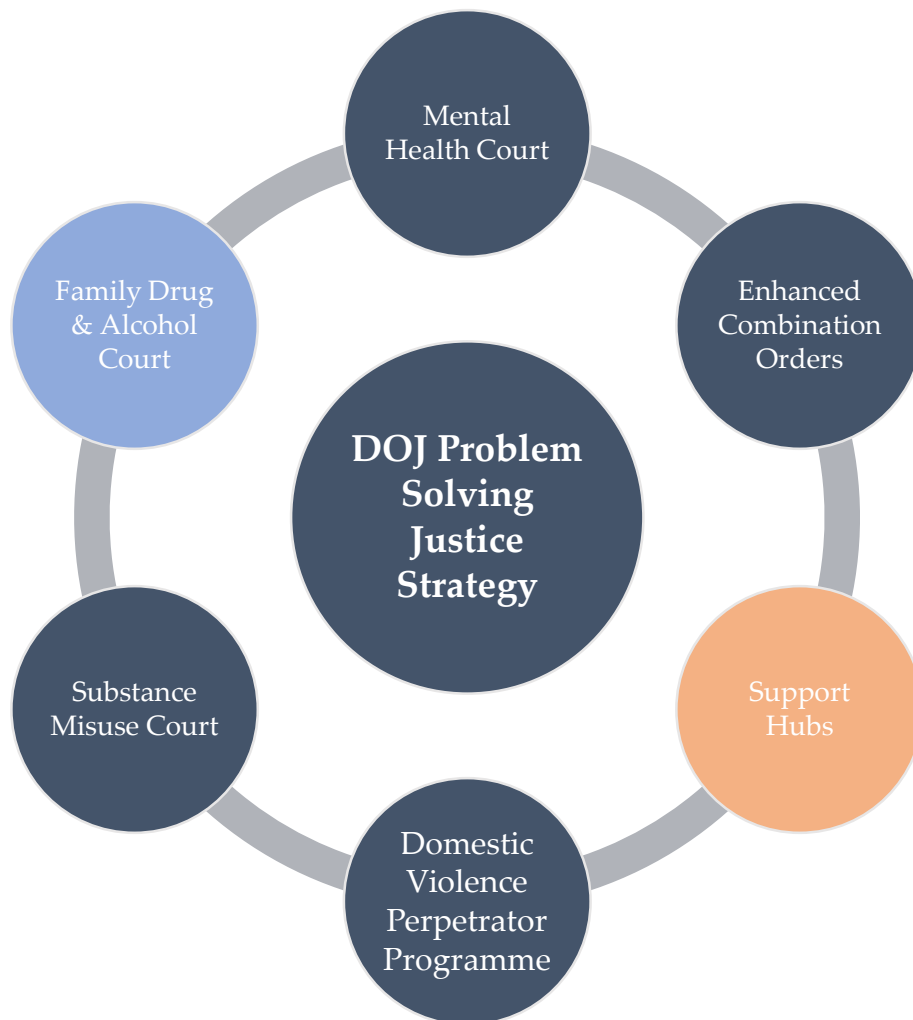
Consultations & referrals to PBNI Psychology Services increased 200% in the first 8 weeks of pandemic

- MH Mental Health
- HP Feelings of Hopelessness
- SH Self-harm
- CT Childhood Trauma
- PD Personality Disorder
- LD Learning Disability
- BI Brain Injury



Problem Solving Justice in Northern Ireland

Problem Solving Justice/Problem Solving Courts in Northern Ireland



Outcome 7

We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other

Indicator 1: Reduce crime and the harm and vulnerability caused by crime (prevalence rate)

Indicator 38: Increase the effectiveness of the criminal justice system

Indicator 39: Reduce re-offending

What is Problem Solving Justice/Problem Solving Courts

- **Problem Solving Justice is an international model being developed in NI, taking learning from a number of CJ Systems across the world**
- **PSJ tackles the root causes of offending behaviour and reduces harm and vulnerabilities within families and the community**
- **The ultimate aim of PSJ is to prevent re-offending and reduce further victims, through early intervention**
- **Problem Solving Courts refer to a judicial process or criminal justice approach which addresses underlying root problems that contribute to criminal behaviour**
- **Based on concept of therapeutic justice:**
 - offender engagement**
 - specialist court**
 - PSJ judge at centre of rehabilitation**
- **Origins in USA late 1980's**
- **4000+ Problems Solving Courts**

Why Invest in Problem Solving Justice?

What are the proven outcomes for investing in PSC's

PSJ
Addresses
the root
causes of
offending

Innovative,
early
interventions

PSC's
alternatives to
imprisonment/
Reduces
prison
population

Treats the
individual
risks & needs

Judicial
Supervision
and Review
of Treatment
Outcomes

Reduces
recidivism
and increases
treatment
engagement

Improves
mental
health.
Reduces drug
use and
violence

Improves
health
outcomes for
individual
and CJ
Organisations

Joins up
justice &
other key
services to
achieve the
same goal

Fewer
victims and
increases
public safety

Cost Effective

Public
Confidence
in CJS

=

Public
Safety

Why Invest In Treatment Courts?

Improves
Mental
Health and
Wellbeing,
Drug Misuse
and Violence

Increases
Treatment
Engagement

Reduces
Recidivism
during
Treatment

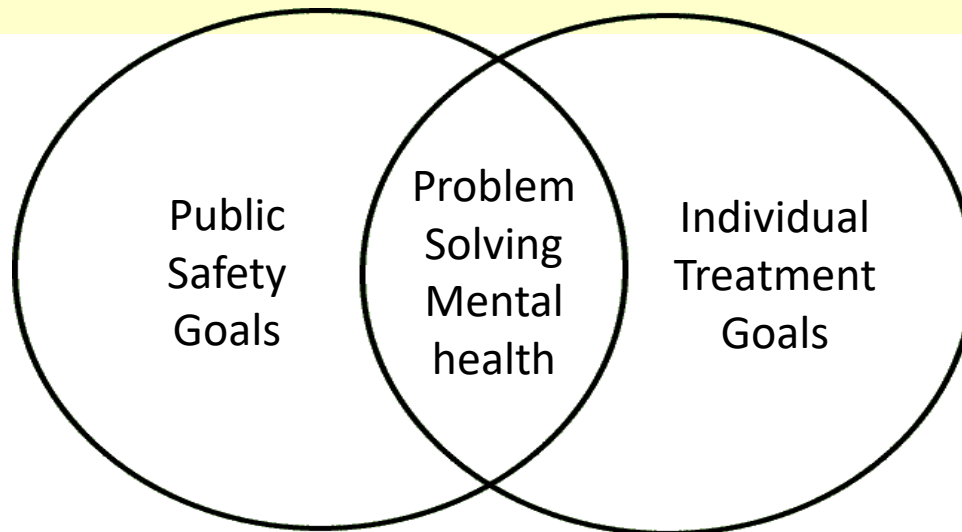
Improves
Connections
to ongoing
Treatment

Judicial
Supervision
and
Treatment
Outcomes

Reduces Self
Harm and
number of
Assaults in
Custody

Increases staff
Awareness
and Wellbeing

Public
Safety



Principles of Problem Solving Courts

1. Enhanced Information
2. Community Engagement
3. Collaboration
4. Individualised Justice
5. Accountability
6. Outcomes

These principles look beyond the offence of the courts & seek to address the circumstances that contributed to the offending behaviour

Procedural Justice: Dimensions

	Voice	
	Respect	
	Neutrality	
	Understanding	
	Helpfulness	

Relationship between Judge and Defendant is key

What is the Evidence Base for PSC's?

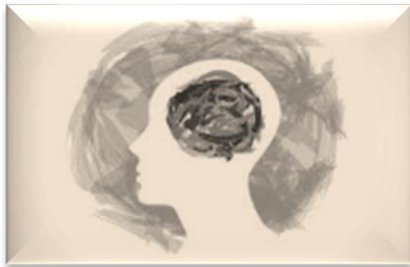
Evidence from meta-analyses:

- Lower rates of re-arrest
- Lower rates of reconviction
- Lower rates of substance misuse/domestic abuse/mental health problems
- All categories of offenders have improved outcomes across a range of PSC's
- The increased cost of PSC's (particularly Drug Courts) is paid back by reduced cost of imprisonment and further offences

Problem Solving Mental Health and Addictions

Mental
Health

Drugs



Why a Substance Misuse Court in Northern Ireland?

£900m Estimated cost of substance misuse in Northern Ireland

£33m Estimate of annual cost of A&E attendance for alcohol misuse

200 Hospital beds daily for substance misuse patients

203% Increase in drug misuse deaths in the last 10 years

284 Deaths due to alcohol misuse (2018)

980% Increase in deaths related to Pregablin (2014-2018)

£84m Cost to Criminal Justice System

Changing nature of substance misuse in Northern Ireland

Substance Misuse Court Evaluation – What does the Northern Ireland evidence say?

- **Reduction in re-offending**
- **Reduction in drug use**
- **Treatment engagement and completion**
- **Legal buy-in**
- **Improved Mental Health**
- **Training and Employment/Family Stability/Stable Accommodation**
- **Procedural Justice**
- **MDT Effective**
- **Improved Health and Justice Outcomes**
- **Public Safety and Public Confidence**
- **Cost Effective**

Mental Health Problem Solving Courts

**Higher rates of
MHC completion**

Reduced over-arrests and prison time

Therapeutic Alliance: Engagement with treatment

**Focus on MH Court is treatment
adherence**

Promotes a recovery model

Procedural Justice and Mental Health Courts: effectiveness

MHC's & perceived PJ vs. Traditional Courts

- **Washington DC Mental Health Court Diversion Programme**
- **MHC group & comparison group**
- **Both received same case management**

MHC Participants

- **Fewer arrests**
- **Fewer re-arrests**
- **Compliant with medication**
- **Engagement in treatment**

Even short-term judicial interaction had significant impact on behaviour & public safety (Hiday, Wales & Ray, 2013)

Outcomes

❖ **Criminal Justice and Health Outcomes**

❖ **Reoffending Rates**

❖ **Treatment Engagement**

❖ **Cost Effective**

❖ **Individual – Family - Communities**

❖ **Evaluations**

❖ **Investing for the Future**

Challenges and Opportunities for CJS

❖ Health Partners/Waiting Lists

❖ Criminal Justice Solution to Health Problems

❖ Mental Health & Drug Profile in Northern Ireland

❖ Improved CJ Outcomes/Rehabilitation

❖ Safer Northern Ireland

Are Problem Solving Effective at ...

1. Reducing recidivism during treatment?	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Reducing recidivism after treatment?	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Reducing time in prison?	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Improving connections to treatment?	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Save Money?	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Hope

Hope for the
individual

Hope for
community &
victims

Hope for the
family

Hope for the
Criminal
Justice System



Thank you