

Working in Partnership Conference:

5th and 6th of March 2012

Doubletree by Hilton
Dunblane Hydro Hotel

Which way now?

New directions in evidence based and gender
informed practice



RMA

Risk Management Authority

Working towards a Safer Scotland



The next Working in Partnership

Conference:

Which way now? New directions in evidence based and gender informed practice

INTRODUCTION

Two decades ago it was said that women's offending was little more than an 'afterthought' in the minds of criminal justice players. Then, the imprisonment of women became a matter of political and public interest internationally, fuelled by incidents of unrest, violence and suicide. At the same time, academic efforts increasingly sought to reduce the knowledge gap.

Twenty years on, there have been considerable advances in understanding and responding to women's offending. But despite those advances, the female prison population has continued to grow.

Once again, Scotland turns its attention to this issue: the Cabinet Secretary for Justice has appointed a Commission on Women Offenders, charged with a remit *"To consider the evidence on how to improve outcomes for women in the criminal justice system; to make recommendations for practical measures ... to reduce their reoffending and reverse the recent increase in the female prisoner population."*

The themes of our series of conferences - partnership working, person-centred, evidence-informed and rights-based practice, are of central importance to the work of the Commission and to all who seek to further its aims.

This conference will explore our understanding of women's offending, and explore the very significant advances that have been made by academic and practitioner researchers in:

- Developing a theoretical perspective to underpin our practice that integrates the evidence on reducing reoffending and desistance with an understanding of the role of gender
- Understanding the needs of women who offend
- Evidence-based and gender informed assessment
- Explaining the onset and outcomes of offending and violent behaviour in girls
- Assessing women who offend violently
- Understanding women who sexually abuse

Following on from the positive feedback from our last conference we will continue with the format of eminent key note speakers presenting their research and facilitating detailed practice-focussed workshops. This format was appreciated by delegates and ensured that they left the event with a sense of substantial learning and benefit. Drawing on the feedback from presenters, we have decided to devote extra time to more intensive learning in workshops.

The finer details of the conference agenda will be publicised shortly, but in brief, it will:

Begin with an overview that sets the scene, with presentations by Dame Elish Angiolini on the findings of the Commission; Michele Burman on understanding the drivers, the facts and figures about women's offending and imprisonment; and Teresa Medhurst on the challenges in responding to the variety of risks and needs posed by women in prison.

Thereafter, the focus will be on the research advances in understanding women's offending, grounded in the important and influential work of Kelley Blanchette; and assessing from an evidence based and gender informed perspective, learning from Patricia Van Voorhis on the pioneering work of the University of Cincinnati.

The second day will build on the first day's foundation and explore particular groups that merit special consideration: understanding the particular needs of girls and young women, their violent behaviour and the lessons from research about the outcomes for girls and young women, promising approaches – informed by the lengthy and substantial work of Nadine Lanctot; understanding and assessing the risk of violence posed by women, drawing on the work of Vivienne de Vogel; and Sherry Ashfield will give a challenging presentation for practitioners who work with women who sexually abuse.

On each of the two days, delegates will also have the opportunity to attend a full afternoon workshop, choosing from the following areas of interest:

- Getting to grips with the integrated perspective and its challenges for practice
- Supplementing gender-neutral assessment with gender informed guidelines
- Assessing violence in women: supplementing the HCR-20 with female-specific guidelines
- Understanding women who offend sexually

This format will enable delegates to develop a broad understanding of the issues facing practitioners and policy makers who seek to reduce the imprisonment of women through the provision of sound, responsive resources. It will provide an update on the research advances in understanding women's offending, and further allow delegates to participate in two intensive workshops and increase their skills and knowledge in particular subjects.

We are delighted to confirm the following speakers for this event

OUR SPEAKERS

Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC is Chair of the Commission on Women Offenders set up to examine how women offenders are dealt with in the criminal justice system. Through her career in the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Dame Elish Angiolini demonstrated an enduring commitment to supporting vulnerable witnesses and victims, and was the first woman to be installed as the Solicitor General for Scotland. She was installed as Lord Advocate in October 2006 until April 2011 and whilst in post took forward the most wide-ranging programme of modernisation in the department's history. Dame Elish will inform the conference of the work and findings of the Commission.

Michele Burman PhD is Professor of Criminology at the University of Glasgow. She has a long-standing research interest in violence against women, in particular the criminal justice response to rape, sexual assault and domestic violence. She also has allied research interests in the areas of gender, crime and criminal justice, female sexuality and the law, female offenders, and troubled and troublesome girls. Michele recently co-authored an informative study that examined the forces that may drive the imprisonment of women, and provided valuable up-to-date data on women's offending, its frequency, nature and outcomes.

Teresa Medhurst is Governor of Cornton Vale Prison, the primary establishment in Scotland for holding female offenders remanded or sentenced to prison by the courts. In this demanding role, in the face of recent criticism of Cornton Vale from the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Teresa will speak strongly about the challenges of providing safe and secure care for a diverse group, of maintaining morale in the establishment, and of her view that many women in prison would be better served by community alternatives. She goes as far as to state that prison worsens many of the problems experienced by women.

Kelley Blanchette PhD is Director General of the Women Offenders Sector the Correctional Service of Canada, and a Professor at Carleton University in Ottawa. Kelley has recently co-authored "The Assessment and Treatment of Women Offenders" - a groundbreaking text that explores whether and how the assessment and treatment of women offenders should differ from that of men. This work offers practitioners and policy makers a means to reconcile diverse perspectives and to aim for a gender-informed and evidence-based approach to the assessment and treatment of women offenders.

Patricia Van Voorhis PhD is a Professor at the University of Cincinnati and leads a research team devoted to advancing the risk and needs assessment of women who offend. Her team has developed and tested a series of new risk/need assessments for adult, women offenders in community, prison, and pre-release settings. Her work builds on two perspectives: the considerable research which highlights the importance of assessing and treating dynamic risk factors; and work by feminist criminologists that stress the importance of women's pathways to crime. The resulting approach draws on the importance of both gender-neutral dynamic risk factors and gender-informed needs, enhancing the use of instruments such as the LS/CMI.

Nadine Lanctot PhD is a Professor at the University of Sherbrooke in Montreal, with many years of research committed to understanding the offending and violent behaviour of adolescent girls, and in common with the previous two speakers she is also a long time advocate of the integrated perspective. Nadine has undertaken long term research, designed and evaluated programmes, and conducted interview based studies resulting in many published papers. Nadine will speak on her research on the importance of understanding and responding to girls and young women: their differential experiences of violence; their own perceived needs for interventions; the relevance of meeting the needs of girls to prevent negative outcomes as adults; and the follow up evaluation of an evidence based and gender informed programmes.

Vivienne de Vogel PhD is a Psychologist Researcher in the Department of Research at the Dr. Henri van der Hoeven Kliniek in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Her research interests include the assessment of violence in women. Vivienne will present on the theme of violence in women, and explain the research results that support the development of specific guidelines for the assessment of violence in women.

Sherry Ashfield BA.(Hons) Dip SW, CQSW is a Principal Practitioner with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation in relation to female sexual harm. She is responsible for the supervision of work completed with adolescent females referred to the Lucy Faithfull Foundation via local authorities, the Family Court system and Criminal Justice System. The Lucy Faithfull Foundation is a child protection charity specialising in the area of sexually harmful behaviours. The Foundation provides a range of assessment and interventions services for adult and adolescent females who abuse sexually, and also for child victims, and their carers.

VENUE

We look forward to welcoming speakers, delegates and guests to the Doubletree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro Hotel. Set in the Perthshire countryside 45 minutes from Glasgow and Edinburgh, the Dunblane Hydro has plenty to offer guests. The hotel dates back to 1878, opened as a spa resort due to the mineral wells at Comrie, 17 miles to the north that provided a valuable and therapeutic source of pure water.

REGISTER

The booking form for this event is attached overleaf. In the meantime we would encourage all those interested in attending this event to register their interest via our events mailbox. You can do so by emailing rmaevents@rmascotland.gsi.gov.uk

Booking terms and conditions can be found on our website at www.rmascotland.gov.uk

There is the opportunity for agencies/practitioners to showcase examples of innovative approaches through posters/exhibits. A limited number of places are available at no additional charge. Those interested in displaying poster/exhibits should submit a brief outline to rmaevents@rmascotland.gsi.gov.uk. The RMA will select those most relevant to the conference themes.

Booking Form

To register either:

1. Post this completed form to: RMA, St James House, 25 St James Street, Paisley, PA3 2HQ
2. Email this form to: rmaevents@rmascotland.gsi.gov.uk

Title:	First name:	Surname:
Position:		
Organisation:		
Email:		
Address:		
Telephone:	Postcode:	

Delegate Rate

(a charge is made to cover the cost of this event)

Standard Rate: 2 day conference including lunch and refreshments (excludes accommodation and evening meals; see below for special room rates)	£295
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Signature:
Date:
Special requirements: (e.g. mobility, access, hearing, vision, diet, etc)

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE EVENT TO GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE

Payment (please tick as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> By cheque: Made payable to the "Risk Management Authority"	<input type="checkbox"/> By invoice to the following address: _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> By BACS: Citibank, Sort code: 08-33-00, Account No: 12479656	
AN INVOICE / RECEIPT WILL BE ISSUED FOR ALL PAYMENTS	Purchase Order Number: _____

A special rate for hotel accommodation has been secured for conference delegates. To make a booking contact the Dunblane Hydro Hotel direct on 01786 826 638 (Monday to Friday) and quote the required group / convention code: GRISB
Bed & Breakfast rate £78
Dinner Bed & Breakfast rate £104

I am interested in details of promotional opportunities including exhibition stands

Please note: Workshop choices will be communicated in due course

Working towards a Safer Scotland

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