

The Young Review

Improving outcomes for young black and/or Muslim men in the Criminal Justice System



Aim

To consider how existing knowledge regarding the disproportionately negative outcomes experienced by black and Muslim male offenders may be applied in the significantly changed environment introduced under the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms.



Key statistics

- There is greater disproportionality in the number of black people imprisoned in the UK, compared to the general population, than in the US
- Black people account for 13.1% of the prison population, compared with approximately 2.9% population recorded in the 2011 Census.
- Since 2002 the percentage of Muslims in prisons in England and Wales has nearly doubled from 7.7% to 13.4%. In comparison, Muslims make up only 4.2 % of the general population.
- BAME representation in the prison population is also heavily influenced by age; there are proportionately many more young BAME male prisoners than older ones, with BAME representation in the 15-17 age group the highest at 43.7%.
- In prison, black or mixed origin service users are subject to higher rates of adjudication than white service users, spend more days than average in segregation and are more frequently subject to the use of force.



Background

- In 2013 Clinks and BTEG convened a roundtable discussion, hosted by Baroness Young of Hornsey, on outcomes for BAME offenders
- The roundtable proposed that a Task Group be convened to further explore and take forward this issue.
- In Autumn 2013 Baroness Young, BTEG and Clinks met with the Secretary of State and agreed that the Young Review would focus on young black and/or Muslim men



Young black and/or Muslim men

- 18-24 year old males who identify as black British; black African; black Caribbean; Muslim or mixed heritage/origin where it includes one of the above.
- Most data focuses on *all* people of BAME origin so this presents a challenge.



Methodology

- Task Group comprising ex-offenders and representatives from the voluntary, statutory, private and academic sectors to advise and shape the Young review.
- Discussion groups with offenders and ex-offenders, in prison and community settings, along with organisations that provide services to them.
- Examination of the available literature and data relating to young black and/or Muslim offenders.



Conclusions and recommendations

- The outcomes for this group of offenders cannot be understood in isolation from the wider contexts of disadvantage they experience and unequal outcomes at the earlier stages of the criminal justice system.
- Nearly all offenders we met said they experienced differential treatment due to their race, ethnicity or faith.



Conclusions and recommendations

- In the context of multiple disadvantage support for this group of young men to desist must provide opportunities for them to build positive identities.
- Politicians and statutory agencies insufficiently understand the implications for resettlement of disadvantage within BAME communities and crude stereotyping.



Conclusions and recommendations

- The voluntary sector has a vital role to play in supporting the development of social capital that can in turn facilitate positive resettlement outcomes.
- Representatives and organisations from BAME communities, working in partnership with the criminal justice system, were found to improve prisoners' perceptions of and relationships with institutions. The review calls for an emphasis on dedicated resources for community engagement.
- Organisations and individuals including offenders and ex-offenders themselves, with an understanding of the lived experience of this group, should play an integral role in the planning and delivery of services.



Next steps

- The Ministry of Justice have committed to work with us to establish an advisory group on improving outcomes for this group that can act as a critical friend and provide support to government and new independent providers.
- We are in discussions with funders about the best mechanisms for taking this forward and ensuring it remains at the top of the criminal justice agenda.
- It is vitally important at this stage to ensure cross party support so that this issue can be tackled now and beyond the 2015 general election.



Thank you

Download the final report at:
www.youngreview.org

