

Dear Members,

What a lot has changed since July! Here is my regular update from the CJA outlining progress on our 'Connecting for Change' strategy and our plans for the coming months:

Election time

I was very happy to co-sign an open letter along with the Howard League and some other CJA members calling for party leaders to temper their language when discussing issues around crime and justice. We submitted a response to the Labour Party Justice Consultation and responded to various government consultations throughout the year. We look forward to working with our members to ensure the new government delivers a fairer and more effective criminal justice system.

International good practice sharing

I am excited that we are helping to launch the Incarceration Nations Network (INN), a global movement to end mass incarceration, build safer communities and reduce recidivism. I met Dr. Baz Dreisigner as part of my travels as a Churchill Fellow in 2018 when I was researching prison university partnerships. I hope this marks the starts of a flourishing partnership with the INN, enabling CJA members to share their good practice globally and enabling us to learn from other members of the network overseas.

We are hosting an event with INN and the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, as I hope we can work with the WCMT to enable our members to travel and visit projects they have learnt about from the INN. This month also marks the start of an Erasmus Plus knowledge exchange programme where the CJA will work with organisations from the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Italy to look at how we build successful alliances to make positive change in criminal justice. We will welcome the other organisations to the UK in February.

CJA Awards 2019

I am delighted that we received such fantastic nominations this year for our Outstanding Organisations and Individuals. Due to the strength of the Outstanding Individual category we have introduced a cash runner up prize for the first time. We also opened up our Outstanding Journalism award for nominations, drafted new criteria developed by an expert group and introduced an award for Outstanding Digital Champion. Congratulations to all our shortlisted nominees and a big thank you to our judges and The Hadley Trust.

Effective Scrutiny and Accountability

Following our *Stop & Scrutinise* report, the College of Policing consulted on the revised Authorised Professional Practice on scrutiny of stop and search. We responded to this consultation and spoke at a conference on community scrutiny to encourage others to respond. A new evaluation by LSE of a community scrutiny panel we highlighted as good practice has shown effective scrutiny can improve outcomes in the use of stop and search. We are aware of several forces using the report to review their community scrutiny panels and West Yorkshire have recently announced they are setting up a scrutiny panel.

Following two letters to the Home Secretary requesting copies of the Equality Impact Assessments regarding the decisions to make it easier to authorise suspicion-less s.60 searches, they have now published them. We will take further steps when the new government is announced. We had the first meeting of our scrutiny expert group and are taking work forward looking at community scrutiny of police custody, court custody and

prisons. We are also meeting with HMI Probation and the HMPPS Service User Advisory Group to explore what an effective local scrutiny model for probation might look like.

A Restorative Criminal Justice System

Following the launch of our report on Restorative Justice we responded to the Victims' Code consultation and continue to press for a renewed national action plan on RJ. We held our first expert group on restorative practices and are working to bring together a range of case studies showing how restorative practises are being used across the criminal justice pathway from prevention to prisons. Following a roundtable we held with CJA members and the MoJ Race Disparity Team discussing the needs of BAME victims in the summer, the MoJ drafted guidance for PCCs on commissioning victims services for BAME people. The CJA have commented on a draft of this guidance, which strongly reflects the discussions of the roundtable.

Fit for purpose and diverse workforce

We are launching our new report 'Change from Within: Insights from people with lived experience working to improve the criminal justice system'. With special thanks to George, who contributed significantly to the work whilst on a ROTL placement and to our lived experience expert group for their guidance and advice, in particular in developing the recommendations. We look forward to working with them to ensure they are implemented. We will now focus on building on our roundtable earlier in the year with an expert group of members looking at ways to increase the recruitment, retention and progression of BAME people in the criminal justice workforce.

Police & Crime Commissioner Election 2020

Working with an expert group of CJA members and the Centre for Justice Innovation, we developed a briefing for PCCs and PCC candidates ahead of the May 2020 elections setting out innovative ways they could address issues such as serious violence, supporting victims and improving trust and confidence in the police. With the support of the Barrow Cadbury Trust we launched this at two well attended events at the Labour and Conservative Party conferences. We will continue to promote the key messages until the PCC election in May and work with new PCCs as they formulate their police and crime plans.

Other CJA news

Communication strategy: We have developed a sub-group of trustees to help develop a CJA Communications Strategy and we will be reaching out members in the new year to be involved in this. We are also delighted to have secured funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Porticus UK which has enabled us to begin recruitment for a Communications and Engagement Officer.

New members: We approved 2 new members who we welcome to the CJA: Project 507 and Khidmat Centre Muslim Women in Prison project.

Crime and Justice Learning Fair - 18 March 2020: We are working with CJA trustee Dr. Kevin Wong at Policy Evaluation Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University to hold a Learning Fair with guest speaker Justin Russell, the Chief Inspector of Probation.

Staffing: We are sad to announce that our Policy Officer Peter Keeling, who has worked at the CJA for five years, is leaving. He will remain in the sector taking up a campaigns role with Collective Voice, a national alliance of drug and alcohol treatment charities. The Board and I would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the CJA.