

REHABILITATION AT THE HEART OF TREATMENT



Safer communities
through purposeful lives

The motivation for greater voluntary sector involvement in the delivery of public services should not simply be to replace state sector provision but also to enhance service delivery and generate better outcomes.

C rime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) is a national charity providing criminal justice and social care services. We have a passionate belief in the power of rehabilitation to transform people's lives and improve community safety.

Our charitable roots lie in the rehabilitation of offenders and our expertise lies in delivering evidence-based programmes that engage with service users and challenge offending behaviour. We are skilled at using the opportunities provided through arrest, imprisonment and the enforcement of court orders to motivate people to change.

Our services are flexible, based on the needs of individuals and local communities, and delivered in close partnership with other local agencies. We provide structured treatment programmes, teach life skills, promote social responsibility, and prioritise involvement in education, training and employment.

We work effectively with those who find it hard to access services, such as people from black and minority ethnic communities, refugees, the homeless, street drinkers, sex workers, people with mental health problems and chaotic and unstable drug users.

Our interventions reduce crime. For example, our partnership work with Sussex Police on Operation Reduction has led to a dramatic fall in crimes committed to fund addiction. Burglary has been reduced by 48 per cent, vehicle crime by 45 per cent, robbery by 26 per cent, and reports of anti social behaviour have dropped by a third. Our work with persistent shoplifters in Brighton & Hove has also reduced re-offending



by 45 per cent against a target of 30 per cent.

Service users engage more readily with workers from the voluntary sector. The independence of the voluntary sector can be used to great advantage by skilled staff who encourage the co-operation and participation of the most reluctant and disengaged individuals. Furthermore, the involvement of volunteers and of former service users working as peer mentors and advocates encourages the participation of those who are reluctant to enter treatment or mistrustful of statutory services.

Our most recent innovation has been to drive the establishment of integrated services that bring together clinical, prescribing, counselling, group treatment, housing, education and other services under one roof. Integrated models have opened this year in Brighton & Hove and Hounslow. CRI has pioneered this co-location of services leading to shorter waiting times for treatment and the provision of effective care packages for service users.

The greater involvement of voluntary sector providers in delivering criminal justice and social care services is a positive move and is to be welcomed for its potential to reduce crime and improve community safety. CRI has demonstrated that professional voluntary sector organisations can have a real impact on delivering the crime reduction agenda and improving the lives of individuals and communities. ■

**a passionate belief
in the power of
rehabilitation
to transform
people's lives**

FURTHER INFORMATION: CRI

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