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LOCAL GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION UNIT

Primary Justice
inquiry into justice in communities

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INFORMATION INNOVATION INFLUENCE

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- A thinktank for strong local democracy
- Membership of local authorities from all parties, regions, types of council
- A key link between Whitehall and Town Hall

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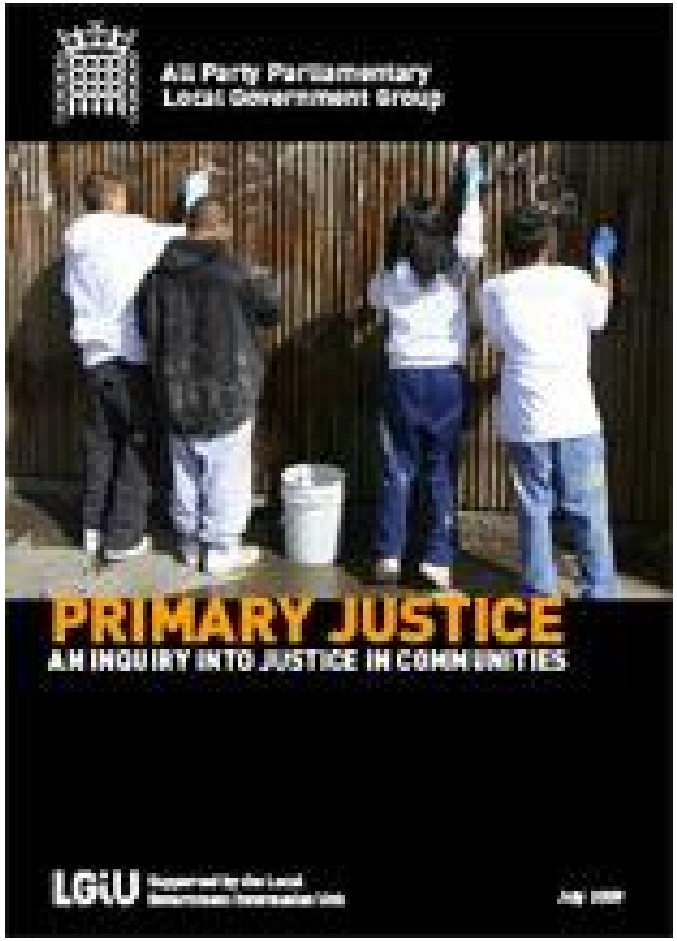
Report of an inquiry



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All Party Inquiry 2009

- 50 submissions
- 3 witness sessions
- Three party panel
- Two shadow ministers
- Launched in houses of parliament with John Denham

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The symptoms

Spending more…(than any other OECD)

Achieving less:

- Recording (around half)
- Detecting (less than a third of the half)
- Re-offending (two-thirds within two years)
- Imprisoning (more than almost all in Western Europe)

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The cycle of crime

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I feel very strongly about the lack of support for ex offenders…f they are unable to perceive how their behaviour impact on others, themselves and society then they are very unlikely to change what they do.

Family member of repeat offender

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75,000 short sentences each year

20,000 prison places at any time

£41,000 average cost

£820 million each year

60% of short sentence prisoners re-offend within 12 months

Highest risk of going on to severe offences

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Needs of victims

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Information – too little, too late

Restorative Justice – under-funded and vulnerable

Access to services – links not made between vulnerability, need and victimhood

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Use of Resources

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The money is being spent…

…But the people delivering much needed services have no incentive to invest

NOMS has not been a success…

…the system is very complex and dysfunctional

And many practitioners are focusing on only a small part of the problem…

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Reducing leakage in London

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Professional distance

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1) Partnership working is sporadic at best
2) Mutual distrust and misunderstanding in all parts of all sectors
3) Strong sense from probation and magistrates that their connection to the public eroded
4) Information sharing deeply problematic
5) System depending on individuals fighting against the tide

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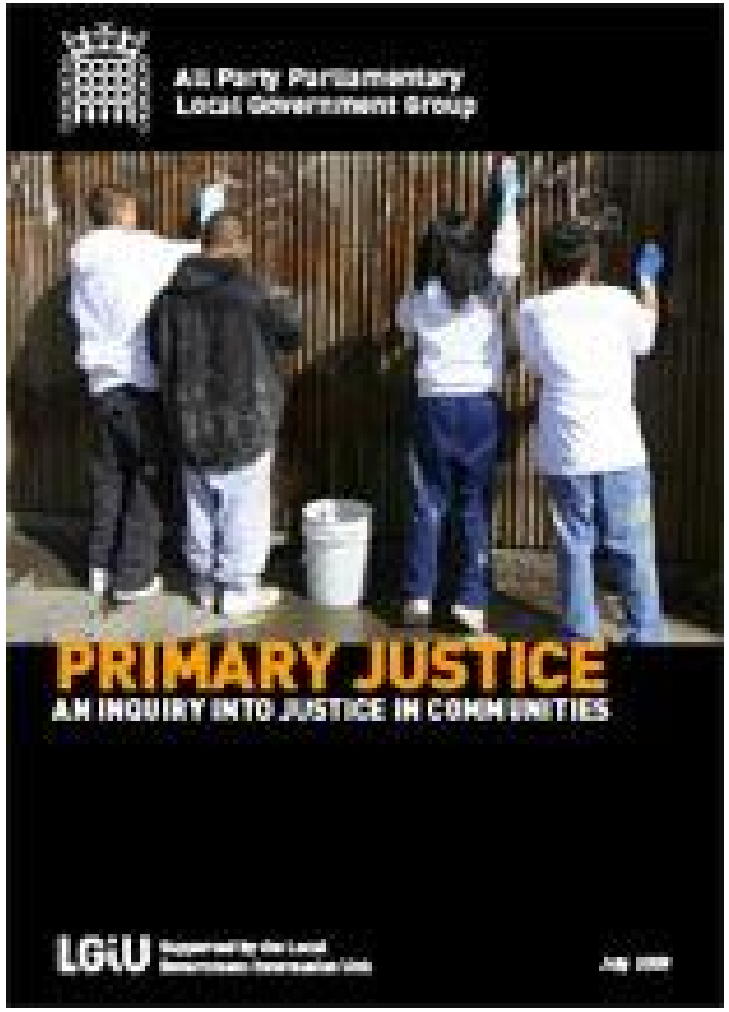
Four pieces to the puzzle



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Justice Reinvestment

The proposal:

- Create a single pot at upper tier (Local Area Agreement level)
- Put in 35% of prison budget – remand, 18 and under, short sentences
- As well as local policing, probation, administration of magistrates courts and relevant local authority spending
- Provide an incentive for the community to reduce prison places and reuse funds for wider community benefit

Meet need, reduce crime

The proposal:

- Clearer accountability and ring-fenced funds to deliver enhanced support in key areas:
  - Housing
  - Mental health, including substance and alcohol abuse
  - Employment, education and skills
  - Family and relationships

Transparency and accountability

The proposal:

1) Information – interactive, accessible, named and personal figureheads
2) Authority – political leadership and debate, know where the buck stops
3) Employment and payback – where consequences and accountability meet

Restorative Justice

The proposal:

- Locally appropriate
- Mainstreamed alongside criminal justice
- Key intervention alongside better services to support victims of crime

What would this mean for RJ?

- Mainstream
- Political
- Public facing
- Evolutionary
- Partnership focused
- Bias towards primary justice target groups

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25 YEARS OF SHAPING THE FUTURE