



ACADEMY for  
JUSTICE COMMISSIONING

# Annual Review

April 2012 to March 2013





## Annual Review

1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013



***David Keegan, Chair of the Academy for Justice Commissioning and Head of Complex & High Cost Cases at the Legal Aid Agency, reviews the Academy's progress over the past year.***

*David Keegan*

In this continuing climate of austerity effective commissioning is critical to ensure the public sector delivers outstanding, value for money public services. In support of this the Academy for Justice Commissioning continues to dedicate itself to identifying and promoting excellence in commissioning justice and public sector services and to raising capabilities and standards to facilitate excellent commissioning of public services.

The Academy offers a valuable service to public sector commissioners, which was reflected in sustained membership growth which saw a 24% year on year increase exceeding 1,600 members at year end. Key achievements in the past year include:

- The successful introduction of self directed Learning Groups led by expert facilitators involving 50 cross sector members participating in groups focussing on Provider Development and Integrated Offender Management;
- Our commissioning themed monthly evening seminars continue to be at the forefront of our services, offering cross sector networking opportunities and featuring expert speakers and topics. Topics this year included police and crime commissioning, crime reduction and innovative methods of commissioning public services;
- Offering filmed highlights of seminar speakers on our website giving members unable to attend in person access to learning;
- Ongoing cultivation of links with other government departments, including the Cabinet Office, to share learning and best practice

With public sector commissioners focused on offering superior public services, whilst ensuring they achieve cost effective outcomes, we will continue to offer valuable, innovative learning opportunities to support them as they strive to transform our public services.



## Purpose

**The Academy for Justice Commissioning seeks to identify and promote excellence in justice commissioning.**

**By setting standards and raising commissioner capability we will support the transformation of justice services to deliver best value and enable improved effectiveness and increased public confidence in the justice system.**

## Academy Objectives

- Strengthen the reputation of justice commissioning by driving up standards and increasing value for money
- Identify and share good practice in public service commissioning
- Enable professional development amongst justice commissioners through providing learning and development opportunities
- Seek to provide a challenging learning environment by actively encouraging networking and debate
- Provide easy access to best practice through effective commissioning knowledge management
- Sponsor and stimulate relevant research
- Promote the accreditation of learning provision in justice commissioning and related subjects, and the attainment of standards marks by learning providers.
- Strengthening links with other commissioning stakeholders through active networking,

## Future Aspirations

- To be a key influencer and supporter of the development of justice commissioners capabilities and facilitate practical training to enable this
- To influence understanding of the value of commissioning across the whole of the public sector
- To be widely recognised throughout the public sector as the central repository for all public sector commissioning information
- To expand the Academy's reach in order to offer further support to public sector commissioners nationally



# ACADEMY for JUSTICE COMMISSIONING

## Who We Are

The Academy is led by an Executive Group whose purpose is to oversee the Academy's business and ensure objectives are set and delivered.

Current members are:-

**David Keegan** (*Chair*)

Head of Complex and High Cost Cases, Legal Aid Agency

**Simon Marshall** (*Vice Chair*)

Head of NOMS Health and Wellbeing Co-Commissioning, National Offender Management Service

**Martin Blake**

Head of Corporate Procurement, London Probation Trust

**John Graham**

Head of Learning & Development, National Offender Management Service

**Marios Leptos**

Strategy & Change, HMCTS

**Patsy Northern**

Deputy Director: Business Reform Department of Health

**Mark Ormerod**

Chief Executive, Probation Association

**Hywel Thomas**

Justice Policy Group, Ministry of Justice

**Ed Tullett**

Governor, HMP Brixton

**Tessa Webb**

Chief Executive, Hertfordshire Probation Trust

**Kerry Wood**

Head of Central Commissioning, Legal Aid Agency

## Sub Groups

The Academy has 4 sub groups whose remit is to carry out the Academy's planned objectives during the year. They are as follows:.

**Strategy & Communications**

led by David Keegan,  
Head of Complex and High Cost Cases,  
Legal Aid Agency

**Membership Services**

led by Martin Blake  
Head of Corporate Procurement  
London Probation Trust

**Learning & Development**

led by John Graham,  
Head of Learning & Development,  
National Offender Management Service

**Cross Government Commissioning Capability & Capacity Network Group**

led by Patsy Northern  
Programme Manager: Sector Regulation / Head of NHS Contracts, Department of Health

Each group is responsible for delivery of the relevant Academy business plan objectives to ensure the Academy offers excellent products and services to meet members needs.

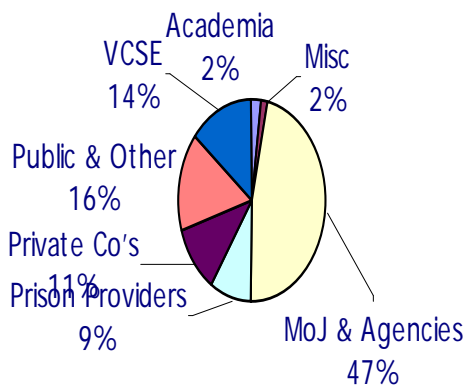
The Academy is managed on a daily basis by the Business Manager, Janet Cullinan.

## Achievements over the past year

The Academy continues to grow from strength to strength growing its membership and improving its range of products and services.

### Membership

- Our membership grew by 24% and now exceeds 1,600 members.
- Membership consists of 47% Ministry of Justice and its agencies, 16% from the rest of the public sector and 37% from other sectors such as charitable, academic and providers.
- Our broad membership (below) stimulated significant networking and sharing of best practice across a wide range of commissioners.



### Learning Groups

- The Academy successfully launched 3 self supported **Learning Groups** each led by an expert facilitator.
- Learning groups focus on one key area of commissioning, engaging a cross sector mix of members who offer extensive knowledge and experience.
- These groups provide invaluable discussion, insight and learning development to participants and learning is shared with all Academy members via the website and news bulletin.

### News Bulletin

- Continuing to feature high profile guest editors in our quarterly news bulletins which cover the latest commissioning news and views

### Website & online learning

- The Academy website offers a wide range of commissioning information and also signposts avenues for commissioning learning and development training
- Our website also hosts the A to Z of commissioning—an online learning tool for those keen to learn more about commissioning

### Seminars

- Seminars are a key Academy service, offering expert speakers and topical themes and we are proud to report that 91% of delegates would highly recommend our events.
- With the opportunity to network with commissioning professionals, attendance steadily increased to an average of 70 delegates per event, with the more prominent speakers attaining over 100 delegates per seminar.
- Filmed highlights of seminar speakers are now offered on the Academy website to offer those unable to attend and opportunity to learn about the topic.



- The Academy successfully hosted 10 commissioning themed seminars led by expert guest speakers, who included:-

**Alan Cave, DWP Delivery Director, who** spoke about DWP’s Work Programme.

**The Rt Hon Nick Herbert, MP (then Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice)**



shared his vision of how the new Police and Crime Commissioners would operate.

**Dr Dorothy Gregson, then CEO of Cambridgeshire Police Authority** gave an overview of the APACE work on helping future policing bodies become commissioning organisations.

**Shell and Virgin Unite** each shared their organisation’s methods for undertaking corporate social responsibility.

**Professor Chris Fox and Caroline Marsh** spoke about Personalisation in social care and how it might transfer in to criminal justice.

**Professor Jonathan Shepherd** talked about the community safety partnership in Cardiff and the information sharing enterprise known as the Cardiff Model for Violence Prevention.

**Darren Tierney, Transforming Justice Strategy & Governance Director, MoJ** talked about the MoJ’s transforming justice strategy and plans for improving the performance of the justice system to deliver better services for less money.

## Members and Stakeholder Feedback



Academy Seminar Feedback - November 2014				
Please choose to set as visible when you finish				
How do you think the seminar went? (Please select one option)				
How useful was the seminar to you? (Please select one option)				
1. How well did the seminar meet your expectations?				
Not at all	Not very	Quite well	Very well	Excellent
0	1	2	3	4
2. What was most helpful to you?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Seminar content <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar format <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar location <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar timing <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar speakers <input type="checkbox"/> Other				

Feedback remains key to the Academy’s continued success, reaffirming its role and value within the government offering

Here are some of the comments we have received over the last year :-

- *Thank you very much for another really good seminar.*
- *“A very engaging speaker and the Q&A session was invaluable. I also enjoyed the opportunity to network before the seminar.”*
- *“A very helpful way of keeping abreast of key issues in commissioning.”*
- *“Thanks for another great event - really enjoyed it and I look forward to the AJC seminars for both the quality of the event content, the shared interest of the people attending and the always friendly organisers.”*
- *“It’s great that there is a forum where all sectors - voluntary, statutory and private - can meet and exchange ideas.”*
- *“It is a good way to network and also to increase my understanding of commissioning as I have recently moved into this area.”*
- *“I think the range of organisations in the audience is great and the opportunity to engage in an interesting debate is very rewarding.”*

**For more information on the  
Academy for Justice Commissioning  
please visit our website:-**

**[www.academyforjusticecommissioning.org.uk](http://www.academyforjusticecommissioning.org.uk)**

**Or contact Janet Cullinan on:-**

**Tel: 01733 443 191**

**Email: [academy@noms.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:academy@noms.gsi.gov.uk)**

