



**ACADEMY for  
JUSTICE COMMISSIONING**  
Learn, Network & Share

# Annual Review

1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016





***Simon Marshall, Chair of the Academy for Justice Commissioning reviews the Academy's progress during the past year.***

Delivering effective and efficient social justice services requires innovation and a transformational approach and the Academy strives to support the development of social justice commissioners by offering an increasing breadth of services which bring people together to learn, network and share knowledge, skills and practice.

During the last year, the Academy has continued to drive value from the Academy's budget and at the same time improve our offer and we have achieved some notable successes, including:

- Our membership saw a further year on year increase of 26% to 3,000 members at year end (31 March).
- We have successfully established Academy regional services in the south west so that we now offer services in London, Manchester and Bristol.
- Following a membership wide survey we have set up a voluntary member advisory group consisting of cross sector Academy members whose remit is to support the development of Academy services.
- Evening seminars continue to be at the forefront of Academy services, featuring expert speakers and focussing on topical commissioning themes and in the last year we have held 18 events nationwide.
- Outcomes from our commissioning victims services cross sector learning group offered useful commissioning case studies, a seminar sharing the groups' learning and informative commissioning related documents that are now held on our website.

The Academy could not exist without the support of a wide range of people. As we reflect on this past year I would particularly like to thank Janet Cullinan, the Academy's indispensable Business Manager and driving force behind all that we do. Heartfelt thanks go to those who give up so much of their own time to support our national and regional strategy groups and who shape the academy's vision and programme of activities. I would also like to thank our thought provoking and passionate speakers and facilitators who give up their own time to share their insights and ideas. Finally and perhaps most importantly, I would like to thank the Academy membership whose enthusiasm and support helps us achieve our aim to network, share and learn.

Next year marks the Academy's 10th anniversary and we plan to celebrate with a programme of engagement and events looking back to reflect on our journey this far and looking forward to the exciting journey ahead. I hope you will join us.



# ACADEMY for JUSTICE COMMISSIONING

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## Purpose

**The Academy for Justice Commissioning's vision is excellence in social justice commissioning.**

**Our mission is to bring people together to share knowledge, skills and practice and to promote excellence in social justice commissioning**

## Key Objectives

**To support the development of social justice commissioning we will refresh our services to offer...**

- ... a stronger focus on learning about all aspects of commissioning
- ... a variety of learning opportunities to provoke thought and stimulate discussion
- to utilise the expertise within the Academy membership to offer members practical advice, best practice and case studies
- to be a key influencer and supporter of social justice commissioning capability development and to facilitate practical training to enable this
- to increase understanding of the value of excellence in commissioning
- to expand the Academy's reach to new audiences and regions

These objectives will be met using the donated time of experts who will work collaboratively with the Academy's Business Manager. This strategy ensures we continue to deliver excellent value for money.

## Our Planned Outcomes for 2015/16

- To further develop a product portfolio that offers a wide range of commissioning learning opportunities including seminars, workshops, conferences, debates, learning sets, online learning, etc.
- To improve member participation by utilising their expertise and knowledge via member forums, workshops and other similar services
- To increase membership across all sectors by offering social justice commissioning learning that will appeal to a wide audience
- To enhance understanding of the value of commissioning by offering appropriate services and to measure success through member surveys and feedback
- To establish permanent services in the South West and to then explore offering services in one other region



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## Who We Are

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

Current members are:-

**Simon Marshall** (*Chair*)

National Offender Management Service

**Martin Blake** (*Vice Chair*)

MtcNovo

**Patsy Northern** (*Vice Chair*)

Department of Health

**Janet Cullinan**

Academy for Justice Commissioning

**Christopher D'Souza**

London Borough of Lambeth

**Sally Lewis**

Safeguarding and Criminal Justice  
Professional

**Caroline Marsh**

Independent Consultant in Justice, Health  
and Wellbeing Services

**Jilly Vickers**

Clinks

## Functions

Each of the Academy's service areas are led by a member of the Strategy Group, as follows:-

### Events

led by a strategy group member on a project by project basis

## Capability Development

led by Patsy Northern

## Membership Development & Member Advisory Forum

led by Martin Blake

## Regional Services - North West

led by Caroline Marsh

## Regional Services - South West

led by Sally Lewis

## Communications

Support is provided by Hanna Lewis from NOMS Communications on an ad hoc basis

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

## Supporting Organisations

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following organisations for their support of the Academy during 2015/16:-

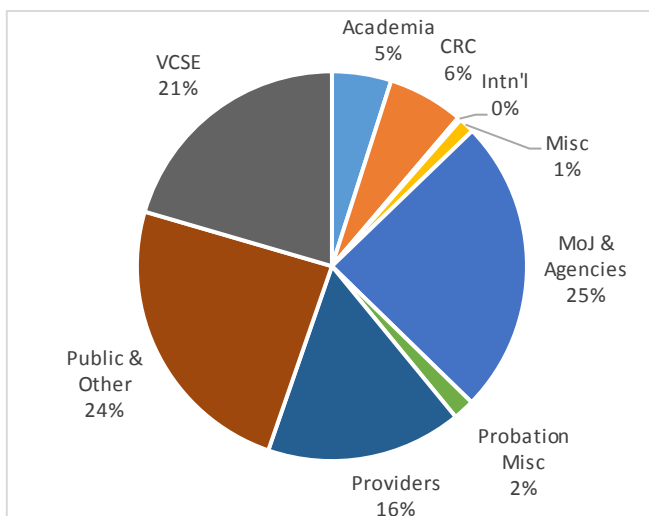
- ▶ National Offender Management Service for their continued sponsorship
- ▶ Legal Aid Agency for their sponsorship during 2015/16
- ▶ The Policy & Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University for providing a venue and delegate refreshments for our Manchester events
- ▶ Burgess, Salmon for providing a venue and delegate refreshments for our Bristol events

## Achievements over the past year

Academy membership is consistently increasing annually, and its services are continuing to grow to offer a comprehensive range of services nationally.

### Membership

- During the year our membership **grew by a further 26% to 3000**
- Strong growth was seen in academia (+82%), local government (+61%) and voluntary, charitable, social enterprise (VCSE) organisations (+43%)
- This chart shows how the membership is split by sector



- Membership for **MoJ and agencies grew by 19%** to 752
- **Public sector** members account for **49% of the membership** (1470)
- **During 2015/16** our monthly average for **new members increased to 48** (+4%)
- Our broad membership stimulated significant networking and sharing of practice across a wide range of commissioners

### Regional Services

- We now hold monthly events in London and bi-monthly events in Manchester and Bristol, all featuring expert speakers and topical subjects

### Seminars

- Seminars remain a key Academy service, and we are proud to report that 89% of delegates would highly recommend our events
- With the opportunity to network with commissioning professionals, attendance averages 50 delegates per London event and 35 delegates per event for Manchester and Bristol
- During 2015/16 the Academy successfully hosted 18 commissioning themed seminars led by expert guest speakers, who included:-
  - ▶ Chris Fox, Professor of Evaluation at Manchester Metropolitan University who offered his thinking on criminal justice in the next 5 years
  - ▶ Lord McNally, Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England & Wales who spoke about commissioning to improve outcomes for young people
  - ▶ Peter Wilding, OBE who discussed devolution and whole system commissioning
  - ▶ Clive Martin, outgoing Director of Clinks, reflected on his 17 years of campaigning on behalf of the voluntary sector and his thoughts on the future for voluntary organisations.
  - ▶ Martyn Underhill, PCC for Dorset and Angus McPherson, PCC for Wiltshire & Swindon talked through the challenges of police and crime commissioning



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- ▶ John Wiseman, Probation Director for the South West Community Rehabilitation Companies who shared his thoughts on working in partnership to transform rehabilitation
- ▶ Stephen Morris from NatCen Social Research who talked though different approaches to measuring impact
- ▶ Professor Kieran McCartan from the University of the West of England who discussed reframing the commissioning of services for child sexual abuse

## Learning Groups

- The Academy hosts self supported cross sector **Learning Groups** each led by an expert facilitator and focussing on one key area of commissioning
- These groups provide invaluable discussion, insight and learning to participants and outputs are shared with all Academy members
- Subjects covered to date include provider development, integrated offender management and commissioning victims services

## Website & online learning

- Our website hosts the Academy's **commissioning elearning course - An Introduction to Commissioning** . This free earning tool offers an introduction to commissioning public services at both national and local level
- The website also offers information on all Academy services, including events, a wide range of commissioning information and signposting to commissioning learning and development training

## News Bulletin

- Our quarterly news bulletin features high profile guest editors with topical commissioning news and views.

## Members and Stakeholder Feedback

**Academy Member Feedback - Stockport, July 2013**

Your chance to let us know what you think

Thank you for attending our events. We would like to know how you enjoyed the event. We value your views on the Academy and would appreciate your feedback. We will use this to improve the Academy.

How would you rate your overall experience of the Academy?

1. How well did the Academy meet your expectations?

Speaker	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Presentations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. How relevant was the content?

3. What was your main objective for attending the Academy?

- Increase my knowledge
- Increase my understanding of commissioning
- Network with others
- Find out more about the Academy

Feedback remains key to the Academy's continued success, to help improve our services and to reaffirm our role and value.

Here are some of the great comments we have received from delegates :-

- *"The speakers and their content were first class. They were succinct, to the point and didn't ramble. Their material was instantly useable and practical, not too theoretical."*
- *"Focused session with knowledgeable speakers and a wide ranging audience making for interesting questions."*
- *"Excellent speaker who obviously knew his brief backwards. Good range of people in the audience ."*
- *"Very good presentation which generated good questions at the end. I was impressed with the variety of professionals that contributed ."*
- *"Well-presented, clear what the evidence was suggesting, right amount of info to digest. V good answers to questions posed."*
- *"The range and scope of the content; the expertise of the presenters; the technical aspects of commissioning. Although the focus was on victim's services, this was applicable to commissioning any service and was an exposition of best practice, including some aspects that are often ignored, particularly contract management. "*

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

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

**Or contact Janet Cullinan on:-**

**Tel: 01733 443 191**

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



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