



**ACADEMY for
JUSTICE COMMISSIONING**

Inspiring dialogue and understanding

Annual Review

April 2014 to March 2015



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1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015



Simon Marshall

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

It has been an exciting year and I am very proud of the great work the Academy has achieved, building on its strengths and improving its offer. Delivering public services has required increasing innovation and a transformational approach and we have endeavoured to support the development of public service commissioners to enhance their knowledge and capabilities by providing an increasing breadth of service.

We are continually striving to improve the value from the Academy's budget and this past year has been a very challenging one but it has proved to be very rewarding with many notable successes including:

- Our membership saw a further year on year increase of 30% to 2,364 members at year end (31 March). This figure was double the percentage increase in membership that we achieved in 2013/14
- The Academy's Introduction to Commissioning elearning course was launched last May and offers an introduction to commissioning public services at both national and local level
- Having successfully established Academy regional services in Manchester we turned to the South West where we have now launched services and are confident of the same success in this area
- Earlier this year we held two intelligent commissioning conferences in both London and Manchester. Both events were fully booked and very well received, with delegates giving high scores for relevancy and for the events overall
- Academy evening seminars continue to be at the forefront of our services, featuring expert speakers and focussing on topical commissioning themes
- Building strong alliances with other government departments to promote the sharing of commissioning knowledge and best practice

It is essential that public service commissioners have the expertise to innovatively commission valuable public services that meet public needs and the Academy remains committed to offering relevant learning opportunities that share best practice and can make a real difference to the way public services are commissioned and delivered.



Purpose

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

By developing commissioner capability and bringing people together in a cross sector community to share knowledge and best practice we will enable improved understanding and support the transformation of social justice services.

Academy Objectives

- Strengthen the reputation of social justice commissioning by driving up standards and increasing value for money
- Identify and share good practice in public service commissioning
- Enable development amongst public service 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
- Promote the accreditation of learning provision in social justice commissioning and related subjects, and the attainment of standards marks by learning providers.
- Strengthening links with other commissioning stakeholders through active networking, collaboration and partnership working.

Future Aspirations

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

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

Luke Taylor / Kevin Venosi

Youth Justice Board for England & Wales

Jilly Vickers

Clinks

Tessa Webb

Independent Criminal Justice Consultant

Kerry Wood

Legal Aid Agency

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 and Tessa Webb

Regional Services - North West

led by Caroline Marsh

Regional Services - South West

led by Sally Lewis

Communications

Support is provided by NOMS

Communications on an ad hoc basis

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

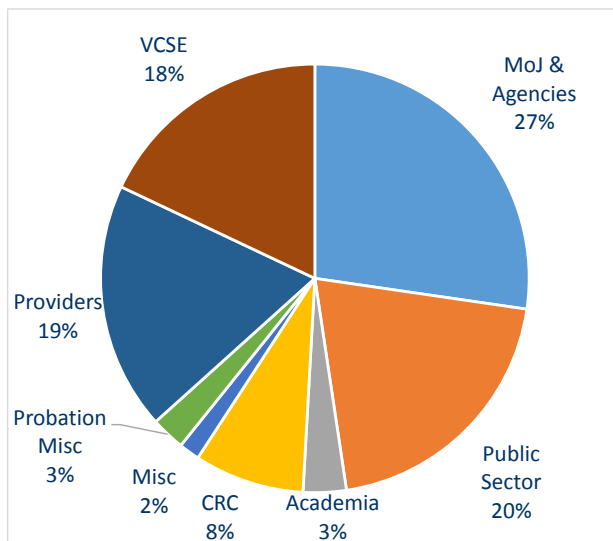
The Academy is managed on a daily basis by the Business Manager, Janet Cullinan.

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 to a national audience.

Membership

- During the year our membership **grew by 30%** to **2,364**, which is double that achieved in the previous year
- Strong growth was seen in academia (+97%), health (+81%), central government (+75%), local government (+68%) and voluntary, charitable, social enterprise (VCSE) organisations (+63%)
- This chart shows how the membership is split by sector



- MoJ and agencies members fell by 16% to 27% of the membership. This drop is due to the transforming rehabilitation agenda and the reorganisation of probation services
- **During 2014/15** we registered an average of **46 new members each month**
- Our broad membership stimulated significant networking and sharing of best practice across a wide range of commissioners

Regional Services

- Regional services are now firmly established in Manchester with events held bi-monthly and featuring expert speakers and topical subjects
- The Academy launched regional services in the South West in November 2014 with an evening seminar in Bristol, which was well received and further events are planned in the coming months

Website & online learning

- Our website hosts the Academy's **commissioning elearning course - An Introduction to Commissioning**. This free elearning tool offers an introduction to commissioning public services at both national and local level
- The website also offers information on 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

Conferences

- Earlier this year we held two intelligent commissioning conferences in both London and Manchester. Both events were fully booked and very well received, with delegates giving high scores for relevancy and for the events overall



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

Seminars

- Seminars remain a key Academy service, and we are proud to report that 88% of delegates would highly recommend our events
- With the opportunity to network with commissioning professionals, attendance is around 65-70 delegates per London event
- During 2014/15 the Academy successfully hosted 15 commissioning themed seminars led by expert guest speakers, who included:-
 - ▶ Colin Allars, NOMS Director of Probation and Ian Blakeman, then NOMS Director of Commissioning who both spoke about commissioning to transform rehabilitation
 - ▶ Paul Holme from Manchester City Council discussed their ground breaking approach to working with troubled families, with a particular emphasis on their innovative use of data
 - ▶ Kate Fleming from the Home Office and Mark Smith from British Transport Police who spoke about commissioning street triage services
 - ▶ Kirsty Scholefield from the Social Justice Directorate at the Department for Work and Pensions who spoke about offenders and welfare reform
 - ▶ The Centre of Excellence for Information Sharing spoke about sharing information to reform public services

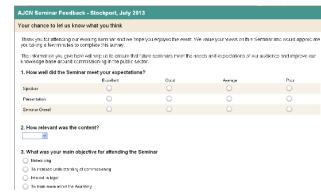
Members and Stakeholder Feedback

Feedback remains

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

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

- *"As always, the selection of speakers was really excellent. I found it a very inspiring conference which gave me lots of food for thought."*
- *"Interesting topic, entertaining speaker, range of people in the room with knowledge of subject so interesting discussion."*
- *"The calibre and breadth of speakers was good. Whole event was very well organised and presented I came away with a much better understanding of commissioning and the issues and innovative ideas being looked at."*
- *"It's great that there is a forum where all sectors - voluntary, statutory and private - can meet and exchange ideas."*
- *"Understandable and interesting content. Nicely presented. Lots of lively discussion. Great venue. Brilliantly organised."*
- *"Excellent topic. Good speakers. Good mix of strategy and operations in practice."*
- *"The presenters were well prepared and their knowledge of their subject was strong. The Q&A was particularly interesting, with many from the audience asking relevant questions drawing out further useful contributions from the speakers."*



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

www.academyforjusticecommissioning.org.uk

Or contact Janet Cullinan on:-

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