

**Review of Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) Interventions
in the Criminal Justice sector - September 2012
Executive Summary**

Purpose

This Executive Summary gives an overview of the Review of Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) Interventions in the Criminal Justice Sector (September 2012), outlining aims, methodological approach, and recommendations.

1. Introduction

The London Health Improvement Board (LHIB) commissioned The Centre for Public Innovation and Gecko Social Health Outcomes to undertake a comprehensive review of IBA provision across London in the Criminal Justice Sector (CJS). It identifies the barriers and facilitators to IBA delivery in these settings and provides a set of recommendations for improving implementation. This review was commissioned to support one of the key areas for action, which is to ensure that early interventions are in place to support those most at risk, and help inform programme development and delivery of IBA across different settings in London.

2. Methodology

The review adopted both qualitative and quantitative approaches in order to develop a detailed picture of the issues. These included:

- an online survey that facilitated completion and maximised ease of access for respondents, followed by in depth interviews.
- a literature review and analysis of best practice, which were carried out to determine the evidence-base for the provision of IBA to criminal justice clients in the CJS.
- a mapping of IBA provision in pan-London community criminal justice settings.

2.a Online survey and interviews

The online survey and interviews undertaken across London allowed a strategic perspective on IBA in the CJS. Interviews with a number of key stakeholders, with both a pan-London and national roles, showed that:

- The London Metropolitan Police is likely to engage in a discussion on their wider role with regard to IBA but would need to see a clear business case for their involvement.
- IBA is often misunderstood as being primarily a mechanism for identifying dependent drinkers and referring them to treatment.
- Courts are seen as a good place from which to deliver IBA.

2.b Literature review

The efficiency of IBA has been proven over the last 30 years in 56 clinical trials, with an estimate that one in eight interviewees moderate their alcohol consumption as a result. The effectiveness of IBA should therefore be taken as a given. Further conclusions from the literature review and best practice showed that:

- All components of the CJS have a role to play in identifying problematic alcohol consumption and provision of IBA. Thus, to date, the police, probation and prisons all undertake varying degrees of activity in relation to alcohol.



- Engagement with the CJS is a useful “teachable moment” that can encourage self-reflection on alcohol-related behaviours. Such teachable moments are ideal opportunities to deliver IBA.

2.c A mapping of IBA provision community criminal justice settings

To determine current levels of IBA provision, a short survey was sent to Senior Probation Officers in each of the 33 London Boroughs. The results of the mapping exercise showed that:

- Three quarters of respondents had either commissioned alcohol IBA or provided training with a small minority directly involved in the delivery of alcohol IBA.
- AUDIT was the type of IBA most frequently used.

3. Barriers and facilitators for effective IBA delivery

The survey, literature review and online mapping also identified a number of key barriers that were seen as impeding the effective delivery of IBA. The barriers included:

- Lack of strategic and organisational commitment
- Drop-off in delivery of IBA after training
- Lack of time, resource or incentive

There were also a number of examples of good practice, which can be seen as key facilitators for embedding IBA in non-specialist settings within the CJS. Examples are:

- Contextualising the evidence base so that the Criminal Justice systems sees the benefit of IBA rollout.
- Strategic and organisational commitment to support organisational outcomes and targets.
- Ensuring IBA is delivered in appropriate settings.
- Developing individual workforce champions who can capture the ‘hearts and minds’ of colleagues.
- Quality assurance and follow-up to support IBA trained staff.
- The development of bespoke tools such as screening tools and IBA packs that meet the needs of CJS workers.
- Monitoring performance using the recommended dataset.

4. Recommendations

Maximise the use of IBA during teachable moments in all settings:

- All teachable moments should be maximised through utilisation of the most appropriate IBA tools in any given setting. Teachable moments are self-reflection as to the behaviours that led a person to having engaged with the criminal justice system.
- For example, some of these teachable moments may include adopting a universal approach to utilising IBA in custody suites, and following domestic violence and other incidents where a statement is later required.

IBA delivery to include those who ‘come in contact’ with the system further upstream:

- Focus of delivering IBA should move away solely from those formally engaged in the criminal justice system to consider those who are coming

into contact with the system further upstream. For example, those who have been arrested, brought to the custody suite, cautioned and with whom no further action is taken. This will address a much larger cohort responsible for low level crimes where alcohol may have been a factor.

Develop IBA training package and tools specifically for the criminal justice sector:

- Develop a criminal justice directed IBA training package and set of tools that can be used by anyone in the criminal justice sector.

Establish a Criminal Justice IBA Practitioners Network:

- Establish a Criminal Justice IBA Practitioners Network with formal lines of reporting to the IBA Strategic Leadership Group (SLG).
- The Criminal Justice IBA Practitioners Network to be a standing agenda item on the SLG with the members representing the Criminal Justice agencies report on the work of the Network.
- The Criminal Justice IBA Practitioners Network membership to be made up of Probation Practice Development Managers.

Develop a framework specifically for IBA delivery in the criminal justice sector:

- Develop a framework to incorporate IBA delivery at three stages in the offender pathway – Pre Arrest; At arrest or court; Post sentence. Please see the diagram below:

