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THE EXPERIENCES OF TRANS AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE IN CUSTODY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

A qualitative study to inform policy and best practice

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01. Introduction

Guidance for custody practitioners recognises the need for sensitivity 'when dealing with transgender individuals' (PACE, 1984)

Yet in practice this is often reliant on officer discretion and there exists no clear procedure for the support of trans or non-binary people in custody - a specifically binary-gendered space

We wanted to understand the custody experiences of trans and non-binary people with a view to identifying areas for development

02. Aims

- Use lived and professional experience to explore the implications of current policy on individuals
- Identify potential gaps in current policy intervention
- Develop understandings of best practice

03. Activities

Qualtrics survey of appropriate adults (N=25)
Qualitative interviews with practitioners (N=18)
Thematic analysis of data

04. Key Findings

- Knowledge and understanding of key policy was poor across most practitioners
- There was little/no training for practitioners in this area
- PACE guidance was considered outdated and in need of revision
- Reliance on police discretion was detrimental to both detainees and officers
- Generally, officers wanted to 'get it right' but were not equipped with the awareness, understanding, training and procedural support to do so confidently

05. Potential Impact/Next Steps

Presentation of findings at BSC and National Custody Forum

Production and dissemination of practice report and policy briefing

Development of training for police officers and multi-agency practitioners in partnership with NAAN and College of Policing