PRACTICE

Criminal Justice-Based Effective Drug Treatment. Notes from the London Practice Visit



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SUMMARY: This article presents the criminal justice system of England and Wales, which is unique in focusing on the specific target group of offending problem drug users. The system is based on the early assessment of problem drug users among accused offenders, early intervention, the continuity of services, and inter-agency liaison. The criminal justice system uses specific orders and requirements which are based on the client's specific needs, and the courts make a point of enforcing these instruments. The article presents the fundamental components of the system, such as the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) and the Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR). The text also deals with the monitoring methods used by the criminal justice system and the data showing the effectiveness of crime reduction and the results of mandatory treatment. Certain critical points are also raised in relation to the system. The article is based on an internship and a basic literature review.

The article describes the experience of pervitin users only. Therefore, it is not possible to generalise all the information presented in this article or apply it to the drug user population as a whole.

KEY WORDS: ENGLAND AND WALES - CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM - PROBLEM DRUG USERS - OFFENDERS -EARLY INTERVENTION - MOTIVATION - EFFECTIVENESS - MANDATORY TREATMENT - CRIME REDUCTION - DRUG INTERVENTION PROGRAMME - DRUG REHABILITATION REQUIREMENT

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