Mentoring, Partnership and the Rise of the ‘Third Sector’: the changing landscape of work with offenders

Professor Mike Maguire

Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

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Seminar Room B3, Institute of Criminology, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

An enhanced role for voluntary organisations is integral to current government agendas such as citizen engagement and the ‘modernisation’ of public services, and correctional services is one of five ‘key policy areas’ singled out by the Cabinet Office as sites of opportunity for the third sector to inject ‘innovation’ and have a ‘transformative effect’ on public service delivery.

The sector’s role is increasingly shifting from loose forms of ‘partnership’ with statutory agencies to contracted delivery of interventions ordered by the courts. This raises a variety of theoretical and empirical questions – as yet under-explored by criminologists - around, for example, changing patterns of penal governance, conflicts of aims and values, degrees of compulsion in offender participation, possible stifling of critical voices, and the relative ‘effectiveness’ of voluntary and statutory agencies in terms of processes and outcomes. The seminar will explore some of these issues, drawing on research particularly around prisoner resettlement and the use of mentors.

Mike Maguire is a Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, now working part-time at Cardiff University and the University of Glamorgan. He is a member of the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel.

This seminar is part of the IoC Public Seminar Series, and is open to all interested in attending. If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: Joanne Garner, on: jf225@cam.ac.uk