

# Modernising Criminal Justice Conference 2020

[ CLARASYS ]

## Clarasys Takeaways



*Clarasys were delighted to attend GovNet's Modernising Criminal Justice Conference last week, featuring some key professionals in the criminal justice sector, such as Lucy Frazer QC (Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice), Amy Rees (Director General of Probation and Wales) and many others.*

*We were able to gather some interesting insights from the event - here is a summary of our key takeaways...*

### *Cross-departmental working*

A significant amount of time, in the criminal justice sector, is spent on individuals coming into the caseload, or into custody. This, as Lucy Frazer stated, means that it's becoming increasingly important to work cross-departmentally, for example, with the likes of Children's Services, DFE, Health, and Accommodation services, to ensure that we better support those who are in our care. Through collaboration with these departments, we can prevent people from entering the criminal justice service, working from an approach of prevention before causation.

### *Are early interventions the way to move forward?*

At a panel discussion, Rehabilitation not Recidivism: Starting from within Prison Walls, the prevention of youth crime, through early intervention, was discussed. Investment into early interventions can help combat a wide-range of issues facing both the individual and society that are born from a failure to provide a strong foundation of structures early in life. In addition, it offers the potential to reap large-scale savings for the taxpayer through the avoidance of the extensive financial and economic costs that manifest from undeveloped social and emotional capabilities early in life.

### *Self-service for rehabilitation and efficiency*

The opportunities and benefits from enabling greater agency of the individual within the Criminal Justice System are substantial. This could range from affording citizens the ability to more directly engage with the justice system through self-service evidence presentation, to increasing prisoners' access to vital health, educational and accommodation services. These structures provide more control, autonomy and ownership to the individual in their situation, all of which support rehabilitation.

Self-service technology also supports the efficient running of services within the system by reducing pressure on staff and facilitating time-saving practices such as virtual GP clinics, automatic drug dispensing and data sharing between custody & community settings. Such self-service technology, we believe, can be easily implemented using an Agile methodology: relying on iterations to enable quick delivery. This quick delivery allows for benefits to be realised early, something which would enhance the existing acceleration of speed in public sector work.

### *Agility: is it sustainable?*

Work in the public sector has been accelerated due to the impacts of COVID. Timings, decision-making, and the implementation of digital transformation have all sped-up dramatically. At Clarasys, we have already seen this trend where the accepted expectations on timings for the digitalisation of services or processes have been challenged by responses to the pandemic, and have proved that these expected norms are outdated. The pandemic has shown that delivery at speed is possible, but the question now is: how can the public sector now continue this pace of change? We believe that the continuation of such progress in timings is possible, especially if an Agile approach is taken.

To find out more,  
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