

The Good, The Bad and the coerced ?

The effects of DIP – both Good & Bad

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A few words about DIP

- Comes from the ten year strategy
- Most prominent feature was the focus on drug related crime
- Insistence that health & criminal justice should work together
- Treatment has been “ reconceptualized as an intervention to reduce criminal activity

“ Using the criminal justice
system as a gateway into drug
treatment is a key component of
the government’s drugs strategy “
Joe Levenson

Rethinking crime and punishment

2004

The Good

Money, Money , Money !!

Intially £447 million, now settled at £170 million – This has meant there is more funding for :-

- **Treatment**
- **“ Wrap around “ services**
- **An integrated approach**

The Good continued

- It targets problematic users
- It does bring many people into treatment that may not have engaged otherwise
- American research has demonstrated that coercive treatment can be successful – but it must be sustained & intensive

The Bad

- **Two Tier System- those involved in criminal justice get better support & social care than non offenders**
- **This can cause previous non offenders to offend**
- **Potential to stigmatise all users as offenders which can cause problems with community development etc**

The bad continued

- **Not enough long term vision & planning i/e the effects of DIP on mainstream providers involved with families etc**
- **Professional dilemmas for workers in relation to information sharing & confidentiality**
- **Friction between professionals / agencies**

And

Coerced treatment opposes
the evidence relating to the
motivation of the individual to
change

Quotes from users

- “ It seems you have to do a crime to get treatment “
- “ if you are not on an order you don't get anything “
- “ You have to be ready yourself, not told to be ready “

Best option ?

Turning point argues for a combination of both :-

" a more flexible public health and harm reduction approach to treatment within the criminal justice system while importing the latter's rapid access and integrated approach into community drugs treatment "