National Offender Management Service

Please ensure that this bulletin is circulated to ALL STAFF.

Please print out copies of this bulletin for distribution around your establishment. You may also wish to distribute it to Managers at your morning meeting.

Quick-Time Learning Bulletin
Clarification on appropriate use of Cell Sharing Risk Assessment (CSRA)

This QTLB aims to reiterate the importance of sharing information related to risk around cell sharing and equip staff with the appropriate knowledge to complete the risk assessments safely. It should be read in conjunction with the CSRA PSI 09/2011.

A number of recent self-inflicted deaths and serious assaults have highlighted that the CSRA process is not always understood or appropriately used. For example:

- Incomplete CSRA during the initial entry to a prison
- Transferring prisoners without an up to date review after a serious incident
- Poor recording of CSRA ratings and reviews on NOMIS
- Lack of multi-disciplinary reviews for high risk prisoners
- Poor communication in sharing information with various departments in prisons

PSI 09/2011 mandates that, *"Every prisoner held in closed conditions must have an up to date Cell Sharing Risk Assessment, even where there is no shared accommodation"*. The CSRA is an essential tool in the identification of prisoners at risk of seriously assaulting or murdering another prisoner in a locked cell or other unsupervised shared locked space, such as holding rooms.

The requirement to carry out risk assessments on prisoners before deciding whether they can share cells derives from a ruling by the European Court and is therefore a legal requirement.

Key Learning Points:

- Reception staff complete the CSRA taking into account of known risk factors that are recorded in the court warrant, PER form, PNC and NOMIS for example.

- Reception, healthcare and induction staff must all contribute to the risk assessment. It is important that all staff share the information with each other and record evidence on the CSRA form.

- A high risk prisoner is one who is highly likely to seriously assault or kill a cell mate, or who is so vulnerable that they are at risk of being seriously assaulted.

- A CSRA review should be undertaken when new or additional information comes to light. For those prisoners who are long term HIGH risk, with static factors, reviews should be conducted **annually**.

Prompts For Action:

- What processes do you have in place to ensure that all relevant documents are checked when the prisoner arrives?

- Do you have effective systems in place to accurately record and share information about prisoners which may indicate their cell sharing risk has increased?

- What processes do you have in place during the initial reception procedure to ensure all relevant risk information is shared effectively?

- Are your reception, healthcare and first night staff aware that prisoners with significant vulnerability **can be** accommodated in a shared cell? Ensuring great care has been taken that neither prisoner presents a risk to the other.

- What processes do you have in place to capture information that may not be available on the first day of custody when completing the CSRA?

- What arrangements do you have in place to contact a manager for those prisoners are assessed as High Risk?

- It is important to document what information has been considered during the risk assessment process. e.g. recording CSRA ratings and reviews conducted on NOMIS.

- What arrangements do you have in place for those prisoners who have undergone a change in status, have been transferred to another closed prison and committed a serious assault?

- How do you arrange CSRA reviews that involve your healthcare who may have highlighted mental health issues in the early days of custody?

- What systems do you have in place to ensure that you capture all high risk mandatory prisoner reviews annually?

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