

Management of Prisons and Probation: New Challenges and Innovative Responses

Speaking notes- Alan Mitchell, President of the CPT

- 2023 and beyond- post Covid; building on the opportunities that Covid presented
Virtual visits
In-cell telephony
Mixed views
- Higher prevalence of mental illness in the community
Increased number of mentally ill people in prison- impact on prisoners and staff
Competition for mental health resources, people and facilities both prison based and community
Are we asking too much of prison staff?
How are we supporting our staff in managing mentally unwell people in prison?

- Migratory flows in Europe

Increased number of foreign national prisoners: judicial (false documentation, trafficking) v administrative detention; overcrowding in prisons – communication, interpretation, culture, inter-prisoner violence

Foreign nationals often have the fewest opportunities inc. accommodation, regime inc. education and work (potential reduction of sentence), home leave, parole.

- Re-integration c.f. Rehabilitation

Access to programmes

Staff and budgetary challenges (energy costs)

The need to listen to prisoners re.

practical skills necessary on release e.g. budgeting, use of internet, social media, new technologies

- Transgender prisoners
Where to accommodate?
Dedicated units for trans people?
Trans people remanded/convicted on account of a sexual offence
How is gender determined? Self-declaration

- The CPT in 2023
Co-operation and confidentiality
Ad hoc v periodic visits
Engagement with CoE member states; high level talks
Reports of the Committee; visibility and impact