

Community care and offending behaviour: challenges for the legal and health systems in adults with intellectual disabilities

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There has been an increased interest in the relationship between offending behaviour and intellectual disabilities over the last 25 years. Conceptual issues related to definition of intellectual disabilities and the unreported offending behaviour complicates the understanding of the association between offending behaviour and intellectual disabilities. Epidemiological findings, vulnerability, interventions and assessment of offence have emerged consistently in studies examined offending behaviour and intellectual disabilities. The prevalence of people with intellectual disabilities and offending behaviour varies with laws, social policy and the presence of alternative rehabilitation and support systems in place. The assessment and treatment of people with intellectual disabilities and offending behaviour has been receiving growing attention with cognitive behavioural methods showing considerable promises. Innovation community care schemes for some sub-groups of people with intellectual disabilities and offending behaviour have been described. Paradoxically at the era of community care for people with intellectual disabilities with emphasis on human rights, choice and participation, political concerns on public protection propose mental health legislation in England that will raise the danger of institutional models of care instead of the development of multi-agency support systems.

References

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