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Delivering primary health care in community justice settings: Motivational interviewing brief interventions to reduce alcohol consumption in hazardous drinkers

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Alcohol has an association with intoxication and violence. Hazardous drinkers may be caught up in the criminal justice system as there is a relationship between alcohol and violence. For example, the risks of violence and offending behaviour increase with alcohol intoxication. A number of offences have been linked with hazardous drinking, including, criminal damage, theft, drunk and disorderly, violent assault, grievous bodily harm, domestic violence, sexual offences, drink driving, drug-related offences and public disorder and there are health risks too. An entry into the criminal justice system occurs with arrest and detention within a police custody suite. With regards to alcohol-related offences, depending on the time of the arrest e.g., evening or during the night or the previous day would mean being charged with a court appearance the next day. Whilst there has been limited research to date concerned with reducing alcohol consumption amongst offenders arrested and/or detained in police custody suites, such settings offer a number of advantages integrating the UK National Health Service primary health care workers. Successfully delivered interventions within these settings have potential to interrupt hazardous drinking earlier than those that are offered later in the cycle of offending, such as within probation settings, police custody and magistrate courts as well as better health outcomes.

Biography

Clive Tobutt is a Registered Nurse (Adult & Mental Health Nursing and Practice Educator). He completed a Post-graduate Diploma in Addiction Studies at the Institute of Psychiatry, London University and an MSc in Sociology (Health & Illness) from London South Bank University. He is currently a PhD student at the University of Winchester. He is a teaching Fellow (Mental Health Nursing) at Surrey University and a Senior Lecture at the University of Winchester. He has published 8 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of the *Advances of Dual Diagnosis Journal*.

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