

GLEPHA NEURODISABILITY SIG

Welcome to our May newsletter! At our next meeting on the 3rd of May. We will have a presentation from Gemma Buckland, a Policy and Research Manager, ABI Justice Network, UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum. Gemma is also Director of Do It Justice. The presentation will focus on this recently published report

<https://cdn.ymaws.com/ukabif.org.uk/resource/resmgr/abijn/t2a-brain-injury-report.pdf> and UKABIF's plans for future work on young adults with ABI.



LEPH
2024

We are excited to announce the upcoming LEPH2024 – African Regional Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health, set to take place from December 1-4, 2024, in Pretoria, South Africa. Hosted by the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences, this pivotal conference aims to bridge the vital sectors of law enforcement and public health for the betterment of society.

Join us to explore the critical intersections of police work and public health initiatives, share best practices, and contribute to forming a robust regional network committed to societal welfare and safety. Policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and activists across various disciplines will come together to discuss innovative strategies and collaborate towards shared goals.

For more details and registration information, please visit [LEPH2024 Conference Website](https://glepha.com/special-interest-groups/neurodiversity-leph-sig/).

GLEPHA NEURODISABILITY SIG

FOCUSED ON ABI & YOUNG ADULTS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

TIME FOR CHANGE

Acquired Brain Injury and Young Adults involved in the Criminal Justice System in England



On Tuesday, 26th March, the Barrow Cadbury Trust and the United Kingdom Acquired Brain Injury Forum published their [report 'Time for Change: Acquired Brain Injury and Young Adults involved in the Criminal Justice System in England'](#), summarising research carried out by UKABIF into transitions for young adults with acquired brain injuries who are moving to adult services.

UKABIF received a grant from the Barrow Cadbury Trust under the Transition to Adulthood (T2A) programme to review what policies and practices are in place for young adults (aged 17-25 years) which recognise both Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and maturity. Brain injury is a neuro-disability which is known to be a significant factor affecting maturational development and outcomes for young adults. Since the former Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon Robert Buckland KC MP commissioned a review, there has been increased awareness of the prevalence of neurodiverse conditions and their impact on policy and practice in the criminal justice system (CJS). Yet some conditions, like ADHD and autism, are better known than brain injury.

The project's primary aim was to improve support for young adults with ABI moving to adult justice services. The lead author of the report, **Gemma Buckland**, shares some key insights into the findings in a feature on the T2A website which you can read here <https://t2a.org.uk/2024/03/26/spotlight-on-acquired-brain-injury/>.

SIG MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MAY'S SIG MEMBER SPOTLIGHT IS: ANNA JAVED



Where are you currently working, and what is your role?

I work for the Probation service in Lancashire, Northwest Division as a Partnership manager. I have a lead for the Offender Personality Disorder Partnership, Autism and Neurodiversity, Lancashire Violence Reduction Network and Changing Futures Lancashire.

What project are you working on at the moment?

We are setting up a new service under the OPD Pathway, this is an IIRMS service (intensive individual risk management service) for men and women who are assessed as high risk of harm and who have personality difficulties related to childhood trauma. Also setting up a network of Autism Champions in Probation teams across Lancashire to support our practice with men and women who have diagnosed or undiagnosed ND issues, improve pathways for transitions from custody to community and working with multi agency partners to look at training offers to HMCTs and Prisoner Escort Services.

Most interesting or thought-provoking research you read recently.

I am reading a lot of work on Trauma and the impact on personality at the moment. Love the work of Bessel Van Der Kolk (amongst others!).

What research or work would you like to see in future?

This research may be out there, but would be really interested in any research on Attachment and Neurodiversity!

Where would you like to see this field in 10 years' time?

Good question! Understanding and empathy embedded across the system around Neurodiversity and Trauma, clear and consistent pathways for diversion and specific pathways for forensic diagnostic support for Autism and ADHD.

What motivates your work in Neurodisability/Law Enforcement?

Justice, the idea that we understand needs and put a context to offending that is based around understanding the persons story and not based on bias and assumptions.

What are the biggest barriers of implementing support and/or diversion for people with Neurodisabilities in the Justice System in your opinion?

Resources to some degree, pathways for assessment and diagnosis where helpful and wanted. Complexities in taking a whole system approach, bringing it all together takes time and energy!

Tell us about your hobbies?

I have 16 rescued cats, is this a hobby or a job?! Exercise and Gardening!

What is your best talent?

Oh no hate these questions! Probably caring for Feral (and non-feral cats)

If you weren't working in this area, what would you do instead?

Gym instructor or gardener.

It is a sunny Saturday with no looming deadlines... where would we find you?

In the garden

A fun fact about yourself?

I play a mean game of pool (but that's a long time ago !)

SIG RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Our research spotlight this month is a paper from a group member Catherine Wiseman-Hakes & colleague (Maya Albin)

Cognitive-Communication Disorders and Neurodisability in the Criminal Justice System: Emerging Roles, Responsibilities, and Opportunities for Speech-Language Pathologists

Maya Albin and Catherine Wiseman-Hakes

Abstract

Purpose:

The purpose of this clinical focus article is to provide a framework for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) supporting youth and adults in the criminal justice system (CJS) who have cognitive-communication disorders (CCDs) related to neurodisability.

Method:

We provide an overview of communication disorders and CCDs in the CJS as well as the underlying etiologies leading to neurodisability, with a primary focus on traumatic brain injury. Additionally, we provide a framework for understanding the underlying factors that contribute to criminalization and recidivism as well as elucidate the role of SLPs in the context of the CJS.

Results:

SLPs have an important role to play with youth and adults in the CJS and should be routinely involved in the screening of communication disorders; in the provision of assessments, intervention, education, and training; and in advocacy roles.

Conclusion:

The high prevalence of CCDs in the CJS affords a unique and important role for SLPs to be active members of the interdisciplinary justice team, which, ultimately, may improve outcomes and reduce the cycle of recidivism.



YOU CAN READ THE PAPER HERE:

[HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1044/2023_PERSP-23-00012](https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_persp-23-00012)

Have any news for the next SIG newsletter? Conferences to promote? Collaborative research opportunities? New papers published? Want to be the next spotlight member?

Please email Winnie: nkoanasamantha@gmail.com

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