



Partners' Report June 2022

Welcome to our fourth partners' report which is intended to keep you up to date with progress and developments on the Carers-ID study. As you know, the purpose of the project is to capture the experiences of carers of people with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to create a programme to better support its impact on them.



In this report, Carers-ID team lead Dr Mark Linden, describes his work on young offenders with brain injury:

There has been a great deal of interest of late in how to reduce rates of offending and improve the lives of disadvantaged young men who end up in the criminal justice system (CJS). Many young men will get into trouble with the CJS due to diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities. These include intellectual disability, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Brain Injury.

- Together with Dr Conall O'Rourke, Mark sought to determine the rates of brain injury and level of behavioural control, aggression and social support among young offenders in Northern Ireland.
- Conall and Mark showed that 87% of the young men who took part in the research had some level of brain injury.
- Approximately 31% of young men had received 6 or more brain injuries.
- When compared to non-incarcerated controls with brain injury, young offenders had poorer ability to control their behaviour, higher levels of hopelessness and poorer family support.
- Young men with more severe brain injuries were found to have higher levels of aggression.

Linden, M.A. O'Rourke, C., Monaghan, C. & Rainey, D. (2020). Experiences of offenders with traumatic brain injury. *Brain Impairment*, 22(1):108-123.

Ongoing work:

- Recruitment will continue until August 2022. We need a further 40 participants.
- Our upcoming project advisory group meeting (6th July) will help design the intervention.
- Preparation is underway to extend the research by securing further funding.

If you know of anyone interested in taking part in the Carers-ID project please contact Dr Trisha Forbes (Trisha.Forbes@qub.ac.uk) or Dr Mark Linden (M.Linden@qub.ac.uk)

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