

# LIBERTY

## PRISONS

**JUNE 2022**

Two Policy and Campaigns Officers presented a paper on prisons and the criminal justice system. The paper built on previous policy on overcrowding, rights and solitary confinement, going back to the 1940s. The paper set out how prisons fail people in prison, victims of crime and communities, and how Liberty must connect the dots of its work pushing for decriminalisation, ending child imprisonment and a society that defends the rights of all to live healthy and safe lives with a broader need to invest in non-custodial alternatives to criminal justice.

Policy Council were asked to support a different approach through reducing the prison population by reducing the number of offences, and linked to other existing campaigns, such as reducing the number of children being imprisoned.

A number of alternatives to prison were included in the paper, such as investing in solving the root causes of social inequality and awareness of the use and positive results of such alternatives. These alternatives will require investment and support from all areas of the justice system. There would also need to be a change in perception that justice should involve prison and be punitive.

The PC **agreed** that Liberty policy includes an understanding of the harms of prison, the need to radically reduce the use of prison, and to increase investment in non-custodial alternatives.