

People with sexual convictions transition from prison to the community, a UK experience.

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Constanteion Center, Cyprus

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Governor at Her Majesty's Prison Whatton.



Scope of talk

- ❑ My role(s) – Governor HMP Whatton and Chair and Co-Founder of The Safer Living Foundation
- ❑ Background to Whatton
- ❑ Background to Safer Living Foundation
- ❑ Multi-agency working in partnership – support and surveillance
- ❑ Progress and Future Developments



My Roles

Prison Governor

- ❑ The last 25 years working for HMPPS
- ❑ 5 years previously as a Probation Officer
- ❑ Governor of four prisons previously.
- ❑ At HMP Whatton since 2008.

Chair / Co-Founder – Safer Living Foundation

- ❑ Recognised a need to support people with sexual convictions leaving prison and return to the community – Insufficient statutory support for high risk offenders.

Background to Whatton

- ❑ Specialist treatment centre for people convicted of sexual offences (capacity 841)
- ❑ Medium secure facility (Category C)
- ❑ 6 accredited cognitive behaviourally based programmes including two programmes for people with intellectual disabilities (30%) and plus a specialist programme for deaf prisoner
- ❑ 70% of offenders' offences against children
- ❑ 37% serving indeterminate sentences
- ❑ Long term determinate sentence prisoners – 4 years plus
- ❑ Average age 46
- ❑ Average stay 3-4 years
- ❑ Prisoners are very high or medium risk of reconviction (Risk Matrix 2000)
- ❑ Rehabilitative culture



Background to Safer Living Foundation.org



- ❑ Steering group set up in 2013 – representatives from Business, Police, Probation, Nottingham Trent University, Voluntary Sector, Prison and MAPP
- ❑ Registered as a Charity in February 2014

Funding from a variety of services:

- ❑ Big Lottery



- ❑ Co-operative Society (Charitable Trust)

- ❑ Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

- ❑ Allen Lane Foundation (Charitable Trust)



- ❑ NHS England

- ❑ The Worshipful Company of Weavers (Charitable Trust)



- ❑ Nottingham Trent University



Background to Safer Living Foundation.org Continued.....



HM Prison &
Probation Service



Primary Projects

- Prison Circles of Support and Accountability commencing in the prison for high risk people with intellectual Disability / Elderly.
- Community Circles for people already in the Community
- 26 Circles (11 prisoners or ex-prisoners)
- 158 volunteers recruited and trained

What are Circles of Support

- Core member (ex prisoner) supported by four trained volunteers to reintegrate into the community
- Circle overseen by a paid Co-ordinator
- Liaison and discussion with Statutory Services about the management and supervision of the Core Member.

What are Circles of Support continued.....

- ❑ Young People Project (those exhibiting sexual harmful behaviour) – Began November 2016 with 6 Circles
- ❑ Prevention Project commenced September 2017
- ❑ Move on accommodation project – PhD student / Project Manager appointed
- ❑ Drop-in Support Centre in the community



Successful Multi-Agency working in partnership



- Flexible thinking
- Meeting each others objectives and needs
- Integrity and openness
- Recognising everyone's contribution

Results / Current Position

- Sound financial footing
- Robin Corbett Award for prisoner rehabilitation 2015
- Guardian University Awards 2016
- No arrests for reoffending (to date)
- The 'Prevention Project' open for business
- Planning for accommodation and Drop-In Centre underway



Conclusions

The successful and safe transition of people with sexual convictions into the Community involves flexibility of thinking, openness to new ideas, respect for each other, passion to achieve change and commitment to deliver a quality service.

Thank you for listening.

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