DCL ANGLAIS
Diplôme de Compétence en Langue

Session du mercredi 27 novembre 2013

Mise en situation et Dossier documentaire

Support de la phase 1

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Mise en situation

Vous êtes S. Haron.

Vous travaillez à Londres, au Ministère de la Justice dans le département des services pénitentiaires.

Vous devez étudier le dossier de la prison d’Exeter et apporter votre expertise dans la mise en place de nouvelles activités pour les personnes détenues au sein de cet établissement.

MEMO

From : T. Hayley / Head of Prison Service Department
To : S. Haron
Object : Exeter Prison

Exeter Prison contacted us to help them develop a project to engage their inmates in meaningful activities that would contribute to improve their physical and mental health.

Please read carefully the file I left on your desk yesterday.

Could you then contact me to tell me what you think? Following this, I’d like you to send a letter to Jeannine Hendrick, governor of the prison, to give her your conclusions.

T. Hayley
Dear Sir / Madam,

Exeter prison takes adult and young male offenders committed to prison by courts from Devon, Cornwall and West Somerset. It is one of the most overcrowded prisons, as there are currently 545 inmates for a capacity of 316. This means that the prison is more difficult to manage and there is more violence between prisoners. The majority of our inmates are aged between 21 and 55.

Prisoners have the opportunity to attend gym, education, offending behaviour courses and chapel. The library is opened mornings and afternoons, with sessions available at weekends.

We had an inspection visit last month and the report concluded that “there is a lack of meaningful activities at Exeter Prison and inmates spend too much time locked up in their cells”. Inspectors insisted prisoners needed "purposeful activities" other than sports to help address mental health and prepare them for their reinsertion in society.

The prison was built around 1850 and is of a typical Victorian design. There is a plot of land that remains unused next to the prison that could be useful to develop a new project.

I need your expertise regarding this issue and I hope to receive some advice very soon.

Jeannine Hendrick
Governor of Exeter prison
What do you do when you're locked up behind bars?
How do you improve your chances of living a better quality of life on release?

PRISON WRITING PROGRAM

Founded in 1971, the PEN Prison Writing Program believes in the restorative and rehabilitative power of writing, by providing hundreds of prisoners across the country with skilled writing teachers and audiences for their work. The program enables inmates to express themselves freely with paper and pen and to encourage the use of the written word as a legitimate form of power. The program sponsors an annual writing contest, publishes a free handbook for prisoners, provides one-on-one mentoring to inmates whose writing shows merit or promise, conducts workshops for former inmates, and seeks to get inmates' work to the public through literary publications and readings.

HANDBOOK FOR WRITERS IN PRISON

PEN's Handbook for Writers in Prison features detailed guides on the art of writing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and screenplays. This is an invaluable resource to any incarcerated writer.

Free copies of the Handbook are available to those currently incarcerated. They may also be purchased on behalf of others.

>> Order a copy

2012 PRISON CONTEST WINNERS

Every year hundreds of inmates from around the country submit poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and dramatic works to PEN's Prison Writing Contest, one of the few outlets of free expression for the country's incarcerated. Manuscripts come to us in many forms: handwritten, typed, and written in the margins of legal documents.

The Prison Writing Committee is proud to announce the winners of the 2012 Prison Writing Contest.

>> See complete 2012 winners list
Women inside of California's prisons have limited access to healthy food and exercise and they are isolated from outside communities. The garden project, at the California Institution for Women (CIW), will solve a number of problems related to these issues.

With the help of Cultivating Dreams – a non-profit organization - inmates have transformed an acre of lawn in the middle of the facility into an organic garden filled with tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins and other plants and composting units. The garden is maintained through the collective effort of the women inside and volunteers from outside. The fruits and vegetables grown in the garden are sent in the prison's main kitchen, providing the women inside with healthy food.

*Cultivating Dreams* connects communities by uniting women with different life experiences and breaking down social boundaries, and bringing together individuals who would have otherwise never met. The garden creates a therapeutic and restorative space within the prison. We aim to offer an education in gardening, nutrition, and environmentalism through year round conversation as well as bi-weekly winter educational workshops and lectures. Cultivating Dreams could not function without the support of the prison staff and warden of CIW. Lots of people from inside and outside of the prison have become involved with the garden which has been great to develop contacts with the outside world.

As a direct result on-site gardens reduce violence and improve participants' mental health. It also teaches horticultural skills that can be used upon inmates' release and reduces recidivism rates.

The new project is to open the garden to the inmates’ children when they visit their mothers so that they can garden together and plant their own little flower beds.
**Resettlement and care for older ex-offenders and prisoners**

A thoughtful piece in yesterday's Guardian by ex-offender Erwin James, about the reduction in reoffending rates of ex-offenders who took part in a crime desistance programme based around writing whilst in prison.

The article goes on to stress the positive effects of creative activities for offenders and how important it is that society "recognises that what goes on in a prison is very relevant to what happens after people are released."

**Tuesday 17 January 2013**

**Keeping ex-offenders lawful needs a creative touch**

It might not play well with the public, but a new study backs up the theory that creative writing in prison can have an impact on reoffending.

More than half of all crime in England and Wales is committed by people with previous convictions, and reoffending rates within the young adult prisoner population are the highest. For real change to happen, people in prison need to be challenged, for sure, but they also need to be helped, motivated and encouraged to believe that they can live a better way.

During the 20 years of a life sentence that I served behind bars I met thousands of people convicted of every type of crime, yet I never heard a single one saying they were proud for having caused harm and distress to others. Expressions of shame, guilt, remorse and embarrassment, on the other hand, were abundant – as were good intentions for life after prison.

Creative writing is widely recognised as a powerful enabler of personal growth. Anecdotal evidence that the likelihood of reoffending is reduced through prisoner involvement in writing is strong. "It is important that the wider community recognises that what goes on in a prison is very relevant to what happens after people are released," says Rosie Meek, a lecturer in psychology at the University of Southampton, whose evaluation report on the effectiveness of a crime desistance programme with arts at its focus is launched on Friday.

A big problem whenever people in prison are allowed access to novel and ostensibly "fun" initiatives is the public perception that they are being rewarded instead of punished. Meek is adamant that the programme was tough going. "Creative writing was at the core of the programme but [participants] also had to meet with victims of crime who would explain the impact that crime had on them and their families. In the classroom, they had to face up to their actions and talk about what they had done. These are young men who have been put through the standard prison programme and it hasn't worked."

Eighty one young men took part in the study. Of the 50 released over the past 18 months, only nine have reoffended or been recalled to prison, representing a reconviction rate of 18%, compared with a prison average of 48% after one year.

Prison represents justice to many victims of crime but it also has a duty to serve the potential victims of released prisoners. Policymakers should read this report carefully.
A foot in the door

Shoe company opens prison workshop to train offenders and to provide job opportunities.

Timpson, the high street chain synonymous with all things shoes for almost a century and a half, last week opened new premises in Liverpool. At first sight, the interior is identical to the rest of its 650 or so branches. But this is no normal retail outlet. It is housed in a workshop behind the walls of Liverpool prison, one of Europe's biggest jails, and is a bold social and commercial enterprise aimed at reducing reoffending and providing the company with highly trained and motivated employees.

The Timpson Liverpool Academy is the brainchild of managing director James Timpson, who hopes the scheme will eventually provide 50 new employees a year and says his "journey" towards the academy began in a young offender institution (YOI) five years ago.

Timpson was visiting Thorn Cross YOI, in Cheshire, and came across "a young lad who impressed me with his sparkiness". He gave him a business card, and told him to make contact after his release. The "lad" is now a manager, earning £25,000 a year, and the company is working with 22 prisons in England and Wales. In the last year, it has taken on 40 ex-offenders, with an impressive 80% retention rate.

The trainees earn £16 a week - a more than respectable prison wage - with an added £10 bonus for every course passed. And the windows of the new academy are draped with white blinds, as masking the bars helps to take the trainees out of the prison setting during their working day.

The undoubted star of the 13 Liverpool trainees is Mick, who is nearing the end of a seven-and-a-half year sentence. In eight weeks, he has achieved level two grade in shoe and watch repairs, several types of engraving, and health and safety procedures. According to Dennis Phillips, co-ordinator of the Timpson Foundation, it would usually take 12 months to achieve that standard. Mick now hopes to work for the company after release.

The Prison Service and Timpson are sharing the costs of the venture, and prisons minister David Hanson officially opened the academy last week.

James Timpson believes that former prisoners bring an extra dimension to his company. "They have more to lose, have a strong desire to show their families and the world they can succeed, and want to repay the trust we place in them," he says.

The company plans to open another academy and is currently looking for a suitable prison.
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