Rod Clark,
Chief Executive,
Prisoners’ Education Trust

Rehabilitation and reducing reoffending for prisons, probation, charities and voluntary organisations.
Key message...

Learning in prison is a key route to transformation

A good prison must then be a learning prison

Will cover:

– PET’s experience
– Why education is effective
– Evidence of direct experience
– The statistical evidence
– So what can we do about it?
About PET

• 25 years of experience in prison education

• Leading funder of distance learning in E&W prisons:
  – Open University, GCSE, BTECs, unaccredited, arts...

• Funded 28,000 courses over the years c. 2,000 p.a.

• Also work to promote prison education:
  – Influencing policy and practice
  – Supporting research
Model of Desistance

Age and maturation

Social bond, ties, relations

Identities and narratives

Situational aspects

Prof. Fergus McNeill
Education promotes...

• Thinking skills – reflection – self awareness
• Collaborative engagement – and family links
• Changed identity and self belief
• Sense of control, agency and hope
• All of which contribute on release to:
  – Opportunities for employment or
  – Other purposeful activity (voluntary, educational)

Engaged citizens – reduced crime
Direct experience

A host of compelling stories:

Graham’s story:

– Given a grant for study by PET
– Ended up with a BSc in criminology
– Qualifications in youth work and drug and alcohol counselling
– Now running his own youth charity
– And employing other PET alumni
More than just a prisoner

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ0lZBB0glQ&feature=em-share_video_user
The statistical evidence

• Ministry of Justice, Justice Data Lab
• Over 3,000 recipients of PET grants
• Matched sample of 200k with same characteristics
• Tracked offending patterns on PNC
• Reoffending at 1 year – control sample 26%
• PET grant recipients – 19% - ie over a quarter lower
• Also statistically significant results for:
  – OU and arts materials grants

What can we do?

Prisoner Learning Alliance:
- 20 organisations in sector
- *Smart Rehabilitation* – Dec 13

Key themes:
- Outcome focus (desistance)
- Values driven
- Joined up
Learner Voice

• ‘Involve, Improve, Inspire’ learner voice toolkit
• Service user involvement key to improvement
• Building agency and collaborative skills
• Embedding a ‘rehabilitative culture’
• PET will be working with NOMS to roll out:
  – 8 prisons
  – Regional conferences
  – Evaluation
Use of ICT

• Security issues real – but...

• Huge potential for rehabilitation

• Education – ‘on-line’ resources

• Resettlement

• Family links – e.g. Skype at Parc

• Equipping prisoners for a digital society – not giving perks
Distance learning

• Substantial latent demand from prisoners
• Potential for educational progression
• Unit costs very low – impact high
• We know that it works
To find out more...

- Website: [www.prisonerseducation.org.uk](http://www.prisonerseducation.org.uk)

- Twitter: [http://twitter.com/PrisonersEd](http://twitter.com/PrisonersEd)

- For extra copies of curriculum and other material:
  - E-mail: [info@prisonerseducation.org.uk](mailto:info@prisonerseducation.org.uk)

- For the PLA report *Smart Rehabilitation*:

- For the learner voice toolkit:

- For the ICT report *Through The Gateway*:
  - [http://www.prisonerseducation.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/CQ_through_the_gateway_WEB1.pdf](http://www.prisonerseducation.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/CQ_through_the_gateway_WEB1.pdf)