

Education and Training for offenders

About us

We are a group of organisations in the private, not-for-profit and third sectors who have come together as the Offender Services Partnership, because we passionately believe we have a contribution to make to managing offenders to reduce crime and protect the public. We aim to work with public sector providers to help them improve their performance.

What we can offer

Research shows a high correlation between reoffending and unemployment, and also that 97% of UK jobs now require employees who have achieved level 2 qualifications. Most offenders have not achieved a level 2 qualification.

Strode College has over 30 years experience in providing education and training for offenders in custody and in the community and recognises the need to provide underachieving offenders with a high level of support to engage in, and to successfully complete, learning activities. The major purpose of training for an offender is to equip him/her to obtain and retain a job. Our experience shows that offenders are more likely to remain on an education/training course if they are offered the opportunity of working closely with a mentor who is knowledgeable about the education system, and offender behaviour.

We can offer a bespoke programme which can include:

- Arranging for mentors to make contact with prisoners prior to release to agree a post release education plan - a 'custody to community' approach
- Through a mentor, enrolling an offender with a statutory/private/voluntary provider in the community
- Matching offender education and training needs to community based courses in an appropriate location
- All offenders who do not already have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) will be assessed. The ILP will be constantly updated. The assessments will cover basic skills, vocational aptitudes, soft skills and dyslexia. Information, Advice and Guidance services will be made available to all clients
- We can provide courses for offenders in remote localities where existing provision is poor, for example through supported e-learning
- Underpinning accredited learning for unpaid work eg Health & Safety, First Aid and courses directly related to the type of work placement
- Working closely with LSC in terms of the OLASS learning journey and funding options.
- Creating local databases of education and training providers for use by the Probation Service, Offender Managers, Prison Resettlement/Education Managers and NOMS

- All courses offered to offenders will be certificated by a recognised awarding body.

Our track record

- Awarded contracts to deliver Skills for Life, IT and Further Education and Vocational courses to all 13 prisons in the South West
- Successfully delivering LSC contract for offenders in the community
- Over 10,000 Certificates are gained by offenders annually
- Awarded Beacon status by the Association of Colleges in 2003 for delivery of oral communication courses in prisons
- Awarded Beacon status and centre for Vocational Excellence by the DfES
- Good record of successful Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) and OFSTED inspections

How to find out more

If you would like more information on how the OSP can help you deliver education and training opportunities to offenders, please contact Peter Blunt of Strode College (office) 01458 844451 or (mobile) 07971 019444 or email pblunt@strode-college.ac.uk



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Enabling and supporting
success in correctional services

