

Review of Prison Education

Terms of Reference

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has commissioned a review of prison education in England and Wales to examine how it supports effective rehabilitation of different segments of prison learners (for example young adults, older prisoners, female offenders, short sentenced prisoners and longer sentence/life sentenced prisoners).

The review has been established to examine:

- The scope, quality and effectiveness of current education provision in prisons and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) holding young adults. In particular the review will consider how provision supports learner progression and the successful rehabilitation of different segments of prison learners;
- Domestic and international evidence of what works well in prison education which demonstrably supports rehabilitation of different segments of prison learners;
- Options for future models of education services in prisons which emphasise effective rehabilitation of different segments of prison learners.

The review will consider:

- The current scope and range of curricula being delivered including identifying particular strengths and gaps in current provision and the role that prison governors can play in commissioning and supporting the effective delivery of education that supports rehabilitation.
- Access to education, levels of participation and methods to engage those who present with barriers to participation such as prisoners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities;
- Identification of the most effective teaching and delivery models for education in prison settings which supports rehabilitation, including making the best use of different prison environments and facilities to deliver effective education;
- The quality of teaching including how to recruit and retain the best teachers in prison and how to promote clear career pathways and continuing professional development amongst prison education leaders, managers and teachers;
- The increased use of technology in prison education;
- The assessment and recording of educational progress made by prisoners in support of their rehabilitation including consideration of effective measures;
- The potential to increase the direct engagement of employers in shaping prison education and the role CRCs and other professionals can play in providing advice and making links to local employment opportunities and/or supporting the continuation of education after release;

- The incentivisation of prisoners to participate in, attend and achieve at education.

The review will consider the views of key stakeholders, including: prison learners, education providers, governors and other custodial staff, employers, probation services, Inspectorates as well as others with expertise or interest in education services in the adult and youth prison systems. The review will also consider the recommendations of the joint evaluation commissioned by MOJ and BIS from Ipsos MORI to evaluate the effectiveness of the current Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) (initial findings due December 2015) as well as relevant domestic and international research studies and literature on education in prisons.

The review will need to take account of the broader direction for prisons which will be set through separate work the Secretary of State for Justice has commissioned to develop a prison strategy and consider how prison education should be delivered within that context.

Support to the review will be supported from within the MoJ and NOMS working together with BIS.

An interim report setting out the review's initial findings is expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Justice by the end of January 2016 with a final report setting out the review's findings and recommendations expected by the end of March 2016. The initial report should specifically advise on commissioning arrangements from (academic year) 2016/17.