



REDUCING REOFFENDING

EU Project News

Welcome to the third newsletter from the ISEC Reducing Reoffending project. As we approach the half way stage, we have just held our third action learning set, this time in Turin. Read on . . .



ACTION LEARNING SET 3 - TURIN

In February 2014, the EU partners came together for the third time to share knowledge, experience and ideas on reducing reoffending. LJMU have written their report capturing the learning from the day . . . look out for it on our new website - www.reducingreoffending.co.uk



MALS Life Change Programme from HMP Liverpool

Hi Everyone, Anthony here with an update on MALS Life Change Programme. We started our second course on 25 Feb 2014 . This time we had 15 clients and 2 facilitators to help those with any learning difficulties—the facilitators were inmates who had completed the last course. This second group was a little bit more reserved to start off with, but as the course went on and the trust between the facilitator and the group built, the clients began to open up and be more honest. A quote from one client was “I learnt to speak in a group about the victim impact which I have never really done before”.

The market place was a big success with a few more agencies involved this time round. The feedback from the clients and the prison staff was very positive.

One of the clients from the second Life Change Programme has since been released and is working with one of our mentors. He is now in training with Fusion21, a partner agency in Knowsley (visit www.fusion21.co.uk/training-employment/reducing-re-offending for more info). Two clients that sat the first course have also been released and are engaging proactively with their mentor to turn their lives around.



LOOK AHEAD TO ACTION LEARNING SET 4 - UK

In September 2014, the 4th Action Learning Set will take place, this time in the UK. We are delighted that, for the morning session, the Prison has given permission for the EU Partners to attend the Life Change Programme, experiencing first hand the impact of MALS programme on the offenders taking part. This will inform the afternoon session, which hopefully (if everyone is let out ☺) will not be held at the prison.

Mid-term Report

The mid-term report was sent to the EU Commission in April and we await feedback in relation to the changes requested. These included the implementation of the Corvus Case Management system, transfer of some budget to MALS to cover volunteer expenses and a redistribution of overheads to beneficiaries tasked with delivery and evaluation of the project. Thanks to all partners for their input.

It's all about choices

That's the message from the Safer Knowsley Partnership's high profile campaign targeting both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. This message will be seen across Knowsley on taxis, buses, roadside adverts, even fire engines!

In the UK, on average, the Police receive a phone call about domestic abuse every 30 seconds, and yet only 4 out of 10 incidents are reported. Domestic abuse can take many forms, including emotional, financial, physical, psychological and sexual.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has recently produced a report, 'Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse' that concludes only 8 out of 43 police forces responds well to domestic violence. With regard to Merseyside the report is more positive:

"The public in Merseyside can have confidence that, generally, the police provide a good service to victims of domestic abuse and help keep them safe. Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for the force. Staff demonstrated a high level of commitment and awareness; they exercised appropriate discretion and worked well with partners . . . Tackling domestic abuse is a clear priority for both the police and crime commissioner (PCC) and the force; we found this to be reflected in the understanding of the workforce. The PCC has made tackling domestic abuse a priority within the police and crime plan. Officers responding to domestic abuse incidents understand the importance of their role in making victims safe."

For every 100 domestic abuse crimes recorded there were 86 arrests in Merseyside which is high compared with other forces where the number is between 45 and 90.

In Knowsley, both men and women can contact the InPact programme (Intervening in Partnership Abuse Change for Tomorrow) for help and advice. The programme is run through Knowsley Domestic Violence Support Services (KDVSS)

Find out more at www.kdvss.org.uk

If you would like to read the HMIC report for Merseyside, type the following into your address bar:

www.hmic.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/merseyside-approach-to-tackling-domestic-abuse.pdf

Or for the full report:

www.hmic.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/improving-the-police-response-to-domestic-abuse.pdf

2015 Conference

We have started planning our End of Project Conference, to be held at Hilton Liverpool on **19 November 2015**. This is our opportunity to share the learning from the Project with those attending. The outline programme and further details are available on the project website.

The afternoon session offers a choice of three workshops:

- Partnership working with the third sector
- Sustainability and Funding
- Demonstrating Effectiveness

Book your place soon, we would not want you to miss out and be disappointed!

Project Website

Although it was not in the original bid, we all realised the benefit of having a place to share the learning from the project and we took the opportunity in the mid-term report to reallocate a small amount of budget to cover a basic website - www.reducingreoffending.co.uk

If partners want to add to the website, they should send the information to the email address below.

Contact details:

If you have questions about this issue of the Newsletter or news for the next, please send by email to:

SaferKnowsleyPartnership@knowsley.gov.uk

for the attention of Yvonne Mason, Reducing Reoffending Coordinator