



REDUCING REOFFENDING

EU Project News

“Reducing Reoffending” the European project that fights reoffending has been tested in the borough of Collegno – Turin, Italy

Iskender Forioso, Italy

Social inclusion; commitment; sense of responsibility and duty; belonging to a group: these are the basic ingredients that marked the eight meetings of the European Union-funded project “Reducing Reoffending”, aimed to fight reoffending in people who have been convicted of a crime and have served the sentence. The protagonists are ten people from Collegno (five women and five men), who have been notified and selected by the Inter-Municipal Consortium for Facilities for Citizens (Cisap).

The European Research Institute (ERI), which is a non-profit entity based in Turin and committed to the promotion of new social models, has led the Italian testing of the project. From the very beginning, the borough of Collegno has believed and supported this testing and the results achieved have been so positive that a new cycle of meetings with ten other “ex-offenders” has already been planned for Autumn 2014.

Each of the eight meetings held in May and June were divided in to two parts: the first “theoretical” part was about the people getting to know each other, sharing experiences and being aware of the common desire to change their lifestyles following exactly the Knowsley model and Anthony Evans’ experience.

During the meetings held by Federico Floris and Iskender Forioso from ERI, people have



analyzed their past behaviours and situations, expressing their mood and showing an increasing desire to significantly change their objectives and habits.

The second part focused on some of the many business and industrial communities of Collegno, which could potentially provide work. Therefore, from week to week, the Ecocenter, the Triciclo Cooperative, Zappi Plants Nursery, Atypica Cooperative, Cidiù Waste Company and Viridea Green Company have opened their doors with great willingness, passion and proficiency, showing the participants which skills are required for these kinds of jobs.

CVs have been written during the last meetings, thanks to ERI’s advisory staff, which also have helped to find jobs or recommend professional refresher courses. Job-seeking activities are very important for the ten “ex-offenders”: a need in parallel to the will to change.

The second path of fighting is starting in October, and the borough of Grugliasco is involved together with Collegno. There will be the involvement of two mentors that have attended the first part. These two are a mother with Roma origin and an Italian family man.



Action Learning Set 4 - UK - September 2014

The fourth action learning set was held at Blackburne House in Liverpool, UK.

The agenda was ambitious, forward-facing, and embedded in sharing and thinking about working practice. It started with an observation of the Life Change Programme and ended with members of the Dutch delegation meeting with local Police and security officials discussing approaches to tackling football violence and religious extremism, and in between there was much detailed reflection on progress.

With the project closer to its conclusion now than its commencement, as the day developed the emphasis really shifted towards the project outcomes, measures of impact, and the roles of partners in playing their part(s) in achieving these end goals.

. . . read the LJM report in full, it's on the project website! - <http://reducingreoffending.co.uk>

Visit to HMP Liverpool

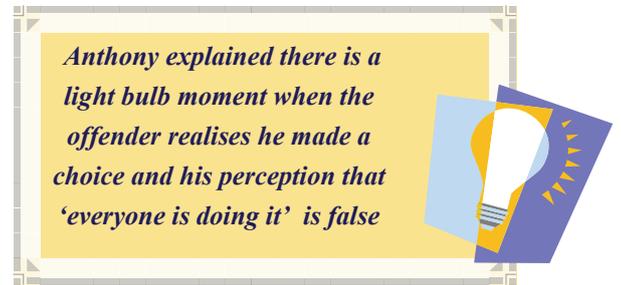
At ALS4, colleagues from Italy and The Hague had the opportunity to visit HMP Liverpool to observe MALS Life Change Programme. They were impressed to see Anthony's engagement with the prisoners.

Here are some of their observations:

- In Italy the LCP is bringing up the same issues, the same values and beliefs, but it is interesting nobody mentioned work as a value, only money! Money and respect were highlighted as values initially but after the talk with Anthony, participants had progressed to valuing family and friends
- The men appeared to be mainly White British, there was not a range of ethnicity as there is in Italy. This was explained as being due to the community prison reflecting the demographics of the Merseyside area
- The age range was younger than in Italy. This was due to 'career criminals' being moved to other prisons and offenders over the age of 50 being classed as 'retired' unless they chose to engage with programmes and activities
- Anthony was very challenging, it was evident the offenders were not used to being challenged, for example 'you say your family is important to you but you didn't think about your family when you committed your crime . . . if

you valued your freedom you wouldn't be in prison!' – Anthony explained there is a light bulb moment when the offender realises he made a choice and his perception that 'everyone is doing it' is false

- Sentences seemed harsher and longer than in the Netherlands
- The focus in the Netherlands is on the more practical side of finding a house and a job, not on changing behaviour – that would be more complicated due to the wider range of cultures in the Netherlands, people are less comfortable making themselves vulnerable in front of others if they are not from the same culture
- Prisons in Italy are modern purpose built buildings with proper recreational facilities – old prisons are museums in Italy!
- The offenders are more confident and more respectful when they have been on the LCP, they engage better with prison staff and are more likely to be put in positions of trust.



Changes to Probation services in the UK

by Peter Hughes, Local Delivery Leader, Knowsley CRC

On 1 June 2014, as part of the government's Transforming Rehabilitation agenda, all Probation Trusts were replaced by **two separate and distinct organisations**, splitting the management of offenders in terms of the level of risk of serious harm. All existing staff were allocated to the two new organisations and there was a significant reallocation of cases in order to ensure each member of staff was managing the correct cases for their organisation.

National Probation Service (NPS) – working with all high risk of serious harm offenders and those managed under the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The NPS is divided into seven divisions, the relevant division for Knowsley is the North West.

NPS undertakes all services in relation to courts, Approved Premises, provision of accredited programmes for sex offenders and MAPPA managed offenders.

Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) – there are 21 CRCs across England and Wales. In Merseyside we are fortunate that the CRC covers the same geographic area that was covered by Merseyside Probation Trust. In some areas, the CRC has been formed from an amalgamation of up to four of the previous Probation Trusts.

The CRC manages all low and medium risk of serious harm offenders. It also delivers accredited programmes (including domestic violence) for all offenders, including those managed by the NPS.

The main challenges facing probation services nationally will be establishing the culture of these organisations, and in particular how they work together and with partner agencies.

One of the advantages of the CRCs is that they are now locally managed and are **required to work in partnership with non-statutory and voluntary organisations**. This will result in the CRCs establishing different identities that will reflect local needs when managing offenders and with the focus on reducing reoffending rates.

At first all the CRCs were wholly owned by the Government, whilst a process was put in place for organisations within the private sector to bid for the companies. The announcement was made at the end of October that **Purple Futures** is the preferred bidder for Merseyside CRC. Purple Futures is a partnership led by Interserve, one of the UK's leading providers of public services (DWP, FCO, Defra, MoD) working with charitable organisations including Shelter, Addaction, P3 and 3SC. Purple Futures will be expected to sign the contract on or before 17 December 2014, and subsequently will run Merseyside CRC.

In addition to the above changes, the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 is due to be implemented in December 2014. **This Act will require that all prisoners sentenced to a period of custody of two days or longer will be subject to a minimum of twelve months statutory supervision upon release.** This will inevitably result in an increase in the workload of the CRC (and to a lesser extent the NPS). Previously, adult offenders sentenced to less than twelve months custody were not subject to post release statutory supervision, although they accounted for the highest rates of reoffending.

Ending Gang and Youth Violence

MALS have been working with the EGYV cohort over the last couple of months, with some good results. One young man is doing really well as, since he has been engaging with MALS, he has changed the people he is associating with and has stopped getting in to trouble. Another youth who would not engage with any other services at all has been engaging with MALS. Anthony says “he is taking very small steps, but the fact that he is willing to try with us is a step forward as he wouldn't entertain offers of support from others”.

Some of the EGYV lads were included in the team that MALS entered for the Thomas Jacob Cup Football Tournament on 29 August, an event run by Art and Soul Liverpool. There were 16 teams from 16 different service providers and MALS got through to the final against Everton in the Community. They were beat 5–3, but every player in the team gave 100% and **one of MALS' players was awarded Player of the Tournament!**



	Number of offenders attending the Life Change Programme to date	67
	Number of calls made to MALS 24 hour helpline	577
	Number of mentoring sessions delivered by MALS	6054
	Number of offenders engaged with MALS mentors 6 weeks after Release	44
	Number of offenders engaged with MALS mentors at 12 weeks	42
	Number of offenders engaged with MALS mentors at 26 weeks	14
	Number of offenders engaged with MALS mentors at 52 weeks	9
	In total, number of offenders MALS have worked with	144

Be sure to book your place on our End of Project Conference, to be held at Hilton Liverpool, UK on **19 November 2015**

The outline programme and further details are available on the project website:

<http://reducingreoffending.co.uk>

Further information including confirmation of speakers will be added soon.

Remember to choose your preferred workshop:

Partnership working with the third sector
Sustainability and Funding
Demonstrating Effectiveness

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