

Site

HMP Send

Name of project / initiative

Making Connections

Overview

Making Connections is an innovative, volunteer-delivered mentoring programme for women leaving custody. The scheme provides up to six months of mentoring and support for women who require support reintegrating into their communities upon release, and establishes valuable links with the individual's local area. It has been accredited by the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation, and since 2012 over 500 women have benefited from it. There are now plans to extend the initiative more widely. The government's Justice Data Lab (February 2017) have shown that, for every 100 female offenders that Making Connections work with, the programme may cut the number of prisoners who re-offend over a year by between 4 and 20 people, and HMI Prisons highlighted Making Connections as Good Practice and described it as "an impressive community mentoring scheme".

Longevity

Since 2012

Benefits

Making Connections provides emotional support to the women, supports their reintegration and helps to reduce re-offending.

Uniqueness

We believe this is unique in this form

Applicability

The Making Connections approach could certainly be adopted more widely across the estate – and for men as well as women.

Requirements

There are few formal requirements for wider roll out – although to make it a success will require someone strong and committed to lead it, and strong local connections

For more information:

Lesley Mason, Managing Chaplain, HMP Send – lesley.mason@justice.gov.uk

Submitted by:

Amy Frost, Governor, HMP Send - amy.frost@justice.gov.uk