

Site

HMP Askham Grange

Name of project / initiative

Café & The Grange

Overview

The prison café and The Grange are separate but linked initiatives. The prison café is open all day, 7 days a week, to both prisoners and staff, and is popular with both. The Grange coffee shop and garden centre (outside) is open to the public and also very popular.

Both are staffed by prisoners, and the food in the café and coffee shop, as well as the plants and other produce sold in the garden centre, are (with a few exceptions) grown and produced in the prison. Both are run by the prison on a not-for-profit basis, with any surplus reinvested.

Benefits

The cafe offers staff and prisoners somewhere they can relax, meet others, and buy a drink, sandwiches and snacks. The women said it also provides a sense of “normality”, and both they and staff said it helps relations between them.

Both initiatives provide valuable experience to add to their CVs for the women employed there, and those working in The Grange can also gain a range of vocational qualifications. And the prison say The Grange also helps relations with the local community.

What's special about it?

While some other open prisons run services open to the public, the prison believe The Grange to be a particularly good example. The (in-house) café was believed to be unique at the time of writing (August 2022).

Wider applicability

The prison believe the ideas behind both initiatives have wider applicability, especially, but not only, in open jails – with (high security) Full Sutton setting up their own staff-prisoner coffee station at the time of writing.

For more information:

Contact: The Governor

See also: [KnowX.uk/AskhamGrange-RMT22.pdf](https://www.knowx.uk/AskhamGrange-RMT22.pdf) (images)

Submitted by:

The Governor