



## Public Polling: Summary of Findings

### Methodology

1000 adults across UK surveyed on behalf of Arts Alliance by ICM Research in June 2012 ([www.icmresearch.com](http://www.icmresearch.com)).

### Summary of Findings

#### 1. Pre-amble questions, for reference:

- By some distance, public believe the most common underlying reason for re-offending is drugs (70%)
- Equal second reasons are 'too lenient sentencing', unemployment and alcohol (approx 50%)
- Third segment 38-44% are 'breakdown of family', 'anger problems', poverty
- Bottom segment 27-33% are 'lack of discipline from school' and 'lack of self esteem'
- Almost 20% more respondents in Scotland cite drugs as an underlying reason for re-offending compared to respondents in the North East or the East of England. [Scotland (78%), North and North East of England (both 60%), national average is 70%.]

#### 2. Awareness of arts-based work with prisoners and ex-prisoners

- Around a quarter of respondents are familiar with or aware of the use of the arts in prisons or with ex-prisoners. (24%)
- Around a third have vaguely heard of it. (31%)

### **3. Understanding of arts-based work with prisoners and ex-prisoners**

- Almost half of respondents agree that ‘using the arts in prisons or with ex-prisoners’ can increase self-esteem (47%) and reduce anger and frustration (46%).
- Around a third agree that the Arts can improve interpersonal skills (42%), raise aspiration (35%), increase personal discipline (31%) and increase respect for other people (31%).
- Just under a quarter agree that the Arts can increase employability (23%).
- 45% agree that ‘the arts have the potential to get through to offenders and help steer them away from crime’ (20% disagree with this); 20% more people in London than in Eastern England agree with this statement.
- Only 8% agree that using the arts with prisoners and ex-prisoners can be counter productive.

### **4. Attitudes towards Arts Alliance members’ work with prisoners and ex-prisoners**

- Half of the respondents (50%) support the idea of charities running arts-based rehabilitation projects in prisons.
- There is a fair bit of regional disparity here, with respondents in London (65%) supporting the idea quite a bit more than in some other parts of the country like the East Midlands (41%). Opposition to the idea is three times higher in Welsh respondents (31%) than in London respondents (10%).
- There is 10% more support for charities running arts projects with people after they have left prison (60%) compared to when they are in prison (50%).

### **5. Attitudes towards arts-based work with prisoners and ex-prisoners**

- Two-thirds of respondents (67%) agree with the statement ‘I don’t care what kind of projects you run with prisoners and ex-prisoners so long as it saves money and reduces criminal behaviour’. (Only 3% disagree with this). Agreement is highest with 65+ respondents.
- Almost half of all respondents (49%) agree that in light of the current economic situation, spending relating to prisons and prisoners ‘should focus on investing in rehabilitation projects to try to reduce the costs of re-offending and bring down the prison population’.
- This is almost double the proportion (25%) who agree that we ‘should reduce all prison costs, even at the expense of rehabilitation costs’.
- And that’s almost four times the proportion who agree that we ‘should keep spending at current levels’ (13%).

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