Annual conference: what's next for arts in criminal justice?
4 December 2017

Notes from breakout 3

Digital innovation in criminal justice: how arts make an impact

Carlotta Allum, Stretch Charity

- Digital storytelling to prisoners
- See a report by Prison Reform Trust and Prisoners' Education Trust called 'Through the gateway – how computers transform rehabilitation'
- Go into prisons with iPads, sketch books and craft materials
- Over 200 videos online
- Partnerships with museums and galleries
- Has worked best in the private estate as they are more open to trying new things. However, security has changed how they work. It is hard to get the iPads into the prisons now
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Caroline Lanskey, Inspiring Futures

- Inspiring Futures is a collaboration of the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance (NCJAA), Professor Lorraine Gelsthorpe and Dr Caroline Lansky and a range of arts organisations working in the sector
- Exploring – what is the impact of your work, what constitutes evidence and how best do we capture that evidence?
- Created an app that records experiences, captures views before, during and after participation and allows the user to add personal reflections using written notes, audio as well as photography
- We will be able to see how the arts impact over time
- The coding is open so any organisations can use the app for their evaluations

Gary Monaghan, HMPPS

- In cell technology plans will include:
    1. Telephones in cells
    2. Self-service kiosks
    3. Digital hub – modernise education departments

- Rolling out to 21 prisons, in the spring thousands of netbooks will be distributed. Will take four year to roll out
- Digital Cloud Gateway connects services and channels them in the right way for each individual, i.e. DWP, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company etc. At the moment prisoners are having to go through a lot of information to get to what they are looking for. This will target content more efficiently

Q&A

- There was a discussion around why the Ministry of Justice is not championing projects like Stretch and allowing them to use their iPads in prisons. Some thought it was to do with staff numbers as it makes it easier to say no to organisations coming in
- It was raised that in cell technology may isolate prisoners even more in their cells. Gary referenced a study by the University of York that suggested otherwise and emphasised the roll out is not about cutting staff