

Site

HMP/YOI Brinsford

Name of project / initiative

Brinsford-community gardens regeneration

Overview

A two-day project bringing together staff and prisoners from across the prison. The whole community came out in force to total transform the gardens, which had fallen into disrepair through the pandemic restrictions and impact on workforce. Staff from all areas within the prison and the men (some of our most complex) put on gardening gloves, operated machinery and worked tirelessly to mow lawns, cut hedges and pull up weeds. And those who couldn't help with the physical labour made tea and refreshments for the others. The outcome was just incredible, suddenly life had re-appeared, and the men and staff could look out of their windows onto a view that showed early signs of growth and hope. The world had not stood still, and our community was not forgotten.

Longevity

One-off so far (July 2020). Now scheduled for 3 times over the coming months.

Benefits

The environment has been improved, and it has helped foster a community spirit within the jail, and improved relationships between staff and prisoners, and within both groups too.

Uniqueness

A one-off so far – which we now have plans to repeat.

Applicability

Anywhere could do it and the collective, community approach to improving the living environment has potentially wider applicability, well beyond gardens, too.

Requirements

Little beyond the drive to do it.

For more information:

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