

Site

HMP Oakwood

Name of project / initiative

TRC – Training, Rehabilitation and Culture

Overview

TRC is a long running project that has changed residents' lives, made Oakwood a beautiful place to work and live, and reached out to families and communities to give support and put smiles on faces. The initiative was founded, and is run by, three long term residents. They have a team of men they work with – many of them some of the more challenging residents – that maintain Oakwood's gardens, grow fresh produce for sale to residents and staff, and make garden furniture for staff to purchase. They have also made mud kitchens for local schools free of charge, helped team members get accredited horticultural qualifications, enabled residents to grow and cook their own food which they share with others, given fresh produce to the chapel for food kitchens, and worked with basic residents to help them on a new path. They are self-sufficient and reinvest the money made back into the project.

Longevity

A number of years

Benefits

Improved environment for prisoners and staff. Improved engagement with some of the more challenging prisoners in the jail. Better diets / healthy eating among prisoners. Improved employment opportunities for participants. Support for charities and schools outside.

Uniqueness

We are not aware of anything like this elsewhere.

Applicability

It could be done in any establishment, especially with long terms prisoners.

Requirements

There are few specific requirements, but it would require a commitment to allowing prisoners to work with and supervise other prisoners.

For more information:

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See also: <https://www.theknowledgeexchange.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Oakwood-HMP-attach.pdf>

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