

Site

HMP Full Sutton

Name of project / initiative

Opt-out

Overview

Introduced around 2007, the “Opt-Out” scheme allows up to 150 prisoners to opt-out of the prison’s in-house catering and cater for themselves instead. They are credited with the money saved from the prison’s victualling budget, which they can use to buy in their own ingredients, and prepare their own meals in the on-wing kitchens – with many choosing to join in a “food boat” collective, buying ingredients and preparing meals together.

The prison also offers cookery classes to participants and advice on healthy eating. The scheme is embedded in the establishment’s Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme, with places limited to those with Enhanced status.

Benefits

The Opt-Out scheme is extremely popular and permanently over-subscribed – and the prison hope to expand the scheme in future. It was highlighted as a positive by both prisoners and staff during research for the first Good Book of Prisons, and praised by HMI Prisons, and is seen as a valuable part of the prison’s IEP scheme.

What’s special about it?

Full Sutton was the first prison to introduce a scheme of this sort. It’s a simple idea, but one that clearly has a marked impact.

Wider applicability

“Opt-Out” could be run in any prison with suitable facilities, and has no running costs (with the money saved from the victualling budget passed on to the prisoners taking part), but it does require a kitchen on the wings which can be used by prisoners.

For more information:

Contact: The Governor

See also: KnowX.uk/FullSutton-RMT22.jpg (image)

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