

Site

HMP/YOI Sudbury

Name of project / initiative

Veterans Programme

Overview

The Veterans Programme is something we have developed at Sudbury which offers a community within a community. We hold regular Veterans Breakfasts attended by veterans among our prisoners, staff and members of the public, with outside speakers and representatives from support agencies (such as housing services), veterans groups, employers etc. Being an open prison these events are held outside the gate. We also have serving members of the British Army come into the prison – to give talks and run activities (such as assault course challenges) which are open to all (not just veterans) – and run regular veterans-led fundraising activities, involving both prisoners and staff. In addition, we have a special induction programme for veterans who self disclose on reception or who we know about before they arrive, and provide a pre-reception outreach service to our sending establishments such as Stocken, to make contact with them before they come to us. And we have set up a buddy scheme, where veteran prisoners provide support and mentoring to young adults in the prison.

Longevity

The scheme was launched in 2020.

Benefits

The Veterans programme helps to build the confidence and self esteem of our veterans, as well as helping to ensure they get the help and support that's available to them, and have the best chance of finding gainful employment on release – while the buddy scheme helps both the men themselves, and the younger prisoners who benefit from their support and guidance.

Uniqueness

Veterans programmes are common but we think ours is a particularly good example.

Applicability

Other prisons could adopt the approach taken here - we're happy to share with them and are already supporting a number of other establishments in enhancing their programmes.

Requirements

There are no particular requirements for roll-out, other than staff who are prepared to lead on the programme and make contact with the relevant outside agencies.

For more information:

Contact: Dean Stant, Activities CM, Dean.Stant@justice.gov.uk

Submitted by:

Sherrill.Redfern@justice.gov.uk, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement Lead