

Site

HMP Thorn Cross

Name of project / initiative

OMU Engagement Programme

Overview

OMU has a central role to play in prisoners' sentences, affecting many aspects of their lives in custody. By the very nature of their role, OMU can often be the focus of some resentment and misunderstanding. Thorn Cross seeks to address this by making OMU "the hub of the prison". Peer Assistants give advice and guidance on OMU related matters, as well as taking applications and ensuring they are passed on to the relevant people, and assisting staff at a weekly drop-in service to answer questions and deal with any issues prisoners might have.

An outreach service to sending prisons, both in person and in a weekly peer-led Teams presentation, helps prepare prisoners for life in open conditions, while Approved Premises (AP) staff give talks at the prison on life after release. OMU also works closely with Activities to help the men find suitable ROTL opportunities, and assist with travel arrangements, release plans etc.

Benefits

The Head of OMU feels that their approach to engaging with prisoners has a positive impact on prisoners' perceptions and helps OMU itself to provide them with the best possible support and guidance.

What's special about it?

As noted above, the prison feel that their approach to making OMU "the hub of the prison" pays dividends in terms of the service they can offer and the perceptions of prisoners.

Wider applicability

Thorn Cross believe that this approach could be taken elsewhere and would be happy to share their approach and experiences of it.

For more information:

Contact: Head of OMU

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

Submitted by:

The Governor