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CENTRE FOR EDUCATION IN PRISONS AND COMMUNITIES

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Centre for Education in Prisons and Communities (CEPC)

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Introduction

- A new National Centre for Education in Prisons and Communities (CEPC).
- CEPC will undertake an ambitious and innovative research and development programme.
- Designed to make a lasting impact on the quality and effectiveness of the education and training of young and adult offenders.

Introduction

- Clear evidence of demand for a centre to occupy a strategic role in relation to research and development, and to provide an evidence-based contribution envisaged for CEPC.
- To date, there is no national centre for research and development with a focus on education for people in the criminal justice system.
- CEPC is a response to an unmet need in the context of offender education and criminal justice.

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Introduction

- CEPC will be led by a core team with national and international expertise in research, policy and practice.
- The team has undertaken research on adult prisons and young offender institutions, young and adult offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk of offending in the community.

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Introduction

Extensive experience of:

- teaching in prisons
- training prison tutors and trainers
- developing CPD materials for prison teachers and other practitioners
- working with national and international stakeholders in the field of education and training in prisons and communities.

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Aims

- Our primary aim is to ensure that people serving sentences in the criminal justice system benefit from high quality education and training
- Education seen as contributing to greater social inclusion and well-being, and lower levels of crime.

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Aims

- The Centre is committed to undertaking research of the highest quality that is also harnessed to the needs of practice and policy.
- CEPC will work to put research at the service of policy and practice, and enable policy and research to be informed by practice.

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A national and international hub

- The Centre will act as the hub for a programme of nationally and internationally co-ordinated activities with partners in the academic, policy and practitioner communities.
- Champion: Lord Ramsbotham, promoting CEPC in Parliament and House of Lords.

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Who we will work with

We will work with:

- Academics (criminology, psychology, health and social care, teaching and learning)
- Policy makers (MoJ, Home Office, BIS, DfE, DoH).
- Quality improvement bodies (OfSTED, LSIS)

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Who we will work with

- Practitioners: teachers, instructors, trainers, curriculum developers, inspectors, magistrates, YOTS teams, OLASS and other providers of education in prisons.
- The Prison Service and practitioners working in the criminal justice system: prison governors, Heads of Learning and Skills, teachers and trainers.

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Who we will work with

- Third sector organisations: PET, PRT, Howard League, NACRO, St. Giles Trust.
- Employers working with employees within the criminal justice system - Bovis and Transco.
- Other stakeholders, including learners, in the criminal justice system

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Who we will work with

Existing IOE centres:

- The London Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training (LONCETT)
- The Special Educational Needs Joint Initiative for Training (SENJIT)
- The London Knowledge Lab
- The National Centre for Research and Development on adult literacy and numeracy (NRDC).

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Who we will work with

Related centres:

- International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS)
- Researching Distance Education in Prison (RDEP), affiliated to the Open University.

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An international centre

- Internationally the Centre has a strong link with the European Prison Education Association.
- Well placed to build connections with the Centre for Correctional Education and the Australian Correctional Education Association.

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Research and development

Three year programme of activities. In our first year we are:

- Developing national networks with service providers, voluntary agencies and policy makers
- Identifying best practice and gaps in provision for Londoners under 25 in the criminal justice system
- Producing briefings, newsletter and summary reports

Research and development

- Create and host a web-site as a national gateway for promoting best practice in offenders' education and training
- Host a series of seminars and an international conference, highlighting research knowledge and best practice, and identifying areas for future research.
- Establish a long term programme of research and development

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Research and development

In our second and third years we will:

- Conduct a series of systematic reviews
- Initiate a wide ranging evidence-based education programme in partnership with custodial and community institutions

Research and development

- Include a focus on minority ethnic and women prisoners, with projects aimed at identifying and promoting their educational needs
- Evaluate the consequences of sentencing practices on educational outcomes and re-offending.

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Policy and practice

From its inception CEPC will have as a strategic priority the aim of:

- working with practitioners and policymakers
- producing resources and outputs that are designed to have a positive impact on policy and practice.

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Policy and practice

- Users will be invited to engage with the Centre in spelling out their knowledge needs, making use of CEPC outputs for practical purposes, and identifying future knowledge needs as a prelude to new, potentially collaborative, research bids.

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We look forward to working with you

- We look forward to working with you to build, promote and share research and development expertise for the benefit of learners, practitioners and policymakers - in or working on behalf of the criminal justice system.

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More information

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