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04 December 2007



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## □ SOUTHSIDE PRISON PROJECT

- Small voluntary sector project providing emotional & practical support to people with mental health needs within the Criminal Justice System
  - Aim of project is to develop a person centred support system through the development of robust networks of support to improve and maintain mental health and to break the cycle of re-offending
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## SOUTHSIDE PRISON PROJECT

### □ **Background, history of the Project:**

- Pilot in Brixton in 1999
  - Expanded in 2003, now works across 12 prisons in London and South East
  - Team of outreach workers providing support before and after release
  - Has developed specialisms to enhance overall service delivery; e.g Female & Male BME workers, CDW, Court & Police Linkworkers
  - Partnership working with statutory and voluntary sectors key to successful outcomes
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## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PILOT FOR HMP HIGH DOWN, DOWNVIEW AND JOSEPHINE BUTLER YOUNG OFFENDERS UNIT**

- ❑ This specialist programme came in recognition on the need to focus more explicitly on promoting community engagement to improve mental health and general well-being of BME and FN prisoners.
  - ❑ The programme aims to build an understanding of the needs of BME and FN prisoners with mental health needs amongst prison staff and services, and to identify and support local BME and FN communities to improve the stigmatisation, isolation and exclusion experienced.
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## OUTLINE OF WORK –

- ❑ Preparative work-introducing pilot to prison staff and community support agencies
  
  - ❑ Identifying culturally appropriate support services across London and the South East, establishing links and clearer referral routes
  
  - ❑ Working closely with In Reach Teams and prison staff to increase understanding and explore barriers:
    - attending team meetings for consultation and briefings
    - BME & FN Directories of voluntary organisations created for In reach, Diversity and Resettlement departments
    - Developing a culturally sensitive training programme for prison staff
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- Increasing awareness of BME and FN issues with the active involvement in a range of working groups:
    - Attending Race Equality Action Team Meetings
    - Working with the Media Project at HMP Downview
    - Information Fayre at HMP Downview
    - Resettlement Clinic at HMP High Down
    - Good practice presentations/workshops at CDW events/networks
  
  - Supporting the role of advocacy
    - Liaising with Equalities Nationals and the Surae Project to deliver culturally appropriate advocacy training
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- Working closely with Diversity Representatives in prisons to encourage involvement in meaningful activities to promote mental health well-being
    - Well-being Newsletter for HMP Downview & JBU
    - Mental Health Information leaflets in different languages
    - Facilitating Mental health awareness workshops on the meaning of mental health and recovery
    - Diversity Interventions – Capoeira groups for both sites
    - BME & FN Directory of voluntary organisations created for prisoners
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## MOVING FORWARD:

Initial work is building the foundation on which to further develop effective links and integrated working- key to achieving our outcomes

- Continued support and links with In Reach Teams and voluntary sector agencies will assist in evaluating the impact of CDW work
  - Improving links, access and developing clearer pathways to community support groups to support prison staff and prisoners
  - Promoting the work currently being done in HMP Downview to encourage partnership working and improved access to services across both sites
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- Part-time role/time constraints challenge outcome achievements
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