



## **Mapping ALN Provision for Liberated Prisoners Returning to Glasgow**

### **Report for Glasgow ALN Partnership**

### **GLASGOW COMMUNITY LEARNING STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP**

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## **Section 1**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

Glasgow's ALN Partnership recently identified a need to review the ALN services it currently provides to liberated prisoners returning to live in Glasgow. This group remains a priority for the Glasgow Partnership within its strategic plan. In order to enable the Partnership to decide whether additional services are required for this priority group it was agreed that a mapping study should be undertaken, which would require contact to be made with organisations that had been funded by the ALN Partnership to provide literacies in Glasgow, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and voluntary sector organisations. The mapping exercise had a number of objectives which are listed in Section 2.

Section 3 outlines the methodology used to undertake the exercise. Fifty-four organisations were contacted. Responses indicated, amongst other things, a lack of knowledge by many community-based organisations about prisons and some confusion as to the definition of a 'liberated prisoner'. Section 4 therefore provides information about SPS, Links Centres and Learning Centres whilst data on liberated prisoners returning to Glasgow can be found in Section 5. The recently established Community Justice Authorities are briefly described in Section 6. Several major themes emerged as a result of the exercise: these are detailed in Section 7. Below is a brief summary of the mapping exercise and a number of recommendations are offered.

If liberated prisoners are to reintegrate into their community and desist from re-offending, support is often required in several areas of their lives. For those who wish to address ALN issues, this mapping exercise has highlighted several organisations either working with prisoners in prisons, working with ex-offenders in the community or wishing to become involved in this area of work. Whilst some of the work is being undertaken formally through contracts with SPS, funding has come from a variety of sources. Although there appears to be limited knowledge amongst some organisations about how prisons operate with regard to ALN provision, there is nevertheless a willingness to work with liberated prisoners. Similarly, prison staff are keen to promote ALN and to raise awareness.

The establishment of the Community Justice Authorities provides an ideal opportunity to extend the ALN services currently available for liberated prisoners returning to the City. That said, this exercise has highlighted the need for a more strategic approach to be taken if liberated prisoners are to benefit. Partnership working should be developed at the level of ALN

Partnership, SPS, prisons and CJA. At an operational level, networks and links need to be developed between all of the organisations - ALN providers and others - currently working with ex-offenders in the community.

The main point at which contact needs to be made with liberated prisoners is **before** they become liberated i.e. whilst they are still in prison. Once links have been made **with** the prisoner, links need to be made **for** him/her with external ALN organisations in Glasgow which can help, possibly before liberation and definitely after. It is suggested that a specific development role should be created to develop these networks.

### **Recommendations**

It is suggested that the ALN Partnership should:

1. Clarify the definition of 'liberated prisoner'.
2. Decide on its strategy for ALN provision for liberated prisoners.
3. Make formal links with Anne Connolly, the CJA Chief Officer.
4. Ensure that the partnership's new ALN strategy for liberated prisoners is conveyed to the CJA Chief officer for inclusion in her Annual Plan.
5. Make formal links with Heather Keir, SPS Community Justice Liaison Manager.
6. Request a copy of her Review of the Links Centres in Cornton Vale, Barlinnie and Polmont.
7. Request from SPS an indication of which prisons will be used to accommodate Glasgow prisoners when Low Moss closes.
8. Decide at which level links should be made with SPS Links Centre Managers and Learning Centre Managers at Cornton Vale, Barlinnie and Polmont.
9. Decide on the extent to which links should be made with other prisons that liberate prisoners back to Glasgow.
10. Consider, in conjunction with SPS, the feasibility of targeting ALN provision or signposting at prisoners on remand or sentenced to less than 31 days.
11. Consider, in conjunction with SPS and the Learning Centre Manager, targeting prisoners serving 31 days to 4 years.
12. Ask Highland ALN partnership about their ALN work with Inverness prison
13. Establish a development post, potentially with a base in Cornton Vale, Barlinnie and Polmont (subject of course to discussion with SPS), with responsibilities for making links between external ALN agencies and liberated prisoners. Specifically, this post-holder would:

- a. work for the Partnership rather than a Project
  - b. have a sessional budget
  - c. develop links with staff and prisoners in Cornton Vale, Polmont and Barlinnie on, say, a weekly basis and all other prisons on a less regular basis, particularly Castle Huntly, Noranside, Shotts and Glenochil
  - d. develop links with relevant ALN projects in Glasgow
  - e. develop links with organisations in Glasgow who work with prisoners
  - f.** act as a sign-poster for liberated prisoners returning to Glasgow
14. Identify which external ALN organisations in Glasgow may be able to provide one-to-one ALN provision within prison, possibly on a sessional basis
15. Commission further research to explore exactly what kind of work is being done with and for ex-offenders in the community and which organisations in the community are working with liberated prisoners.

## **Section 2**

### **Introduction**

The Glasgow ALN Partnership recently identified a need to review the ALN services it currently provides to liberated prisoners returning to live in Glasgow. This group remains a priority for the Glasgow Partnership within its strategic plan. In order to enable the Partnership to decide whether additional services are required for this priority group it was agreed that a mapping study should be undertaken by an independent consultant. This would require contact to be made with organisations which had been funded by the ALN Partnership to provide literacies in Glasgow, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and voluntary sector organisations. The mapping exercise had several objectives:

- To map entry routes by liberated prisoners into ALN provision within the City of Glasgow boundaries.
- To map existing networks and links between organisations from a range of sectors.
- To obtain a sense of prisoners' learning routes taken between prison and learning opportunities outside of prison.
- To map existing ALN services within Glasgow which aim to offer learning provision to this target group.
- To outline links which the Learning Centres and Link Centres at Polmont Young Offenders' Institution (YOI), Cornton Vale Women's Prison and Barlinnie Prison already have established with learning providers in the City of Glasgow.
- To provide an indication as to what additional links and information these institutions would like to see further developed with the Glasgow ALN Partnership.
- To identify additional contacts, links and networks which Glasgow ALN partnership should develop in order to improve ALN provision to the target group.

As far as SPS was concerned, it was decided to concentrate on the three prisons mentioned above as they were the ones most likely to receive prisoners from the Glasgow City area, given that they are the local prison, the national women's prison and the national YOI. Although HMP Low Moss is also within the Glasgow area it was not included in this exercise as it is closing imminently.

## **Section 3**

### **Methodology**

Various organisations were offered the opportunity to participate in this mapping exercise so that as much information as possible could be gleaned about the extent of ALN services currently available to liberated prisoners returning to Glasgow. Those contacted comprised community and FE-based literacies projects currently funded by the Partnership and Scottish Prison Service (SPS) Links Centres, Learning Centres and the SPS Community Justice Liaison Manager responsible for the Glasgow area. Two voluntary organisations currently working in SPS Links Centres were also contacted.

The original funding application forms were provided for the 45 organisations funded by the ALN partnership from 2006-2008, when the category of 'liberated prisoners' as a target group was first introduced.

A request was made to SPS for approval to contact staff within the Links Centres at the above prisons and to request statistical information. Approval was obtained and various statistics provided. In addition SPS provided contact details for their Community Justice Authority Liaison Manager and for Routes Out of Prison (ROOP), which is managed by an SPS employee on secondment.

A request was made to the Prison Contracts Managers at Lauder College and Motherwell College for approval to contact their Learning Centre Managers at the prisons. This was granted.

Questionnaires were devised for four categories of respondent:

1. Funded organisations targeting liberated prisoners
2. Funded organisations not targeting liberated prisoners
3. SPS, including Links Centre and Learning Centre Managers
4. Voluntary Organisations

Each funded organisation was notified by the Partnership, by email, that a consultant would be contacting them ascertain their views for the mapping exercise. The consultant emailed all organisations, providing background information where appropriate. Telephone contact was made with all organisations. If it was not possible, after several attempts, to carry out a telephone interview, a copy of the relevant questionnaire was emailed. Of the 41 responses received, 32 (78%) interviews were conducted by telephone with the remaining 9 questionnaires completed by the respondents and returned via email. The 13 contacts who did not respond were emailed a second copy of the questionnaire.

## **Section 4**

### **Background Information on the Scottish Prison Service**

Before addressing the findings of the exercise, it is useful to provide some background information about SPS and the way in which it may be possible to make future links. There are 16 prisons in Scotland, including Kilmarnock, which is a private prison operated by Serco. There are approximately 7,000 prisoners in Scotland on any one day (see Table 1 below) although there may be 30,000+ admissions to prison over a year. Many prisoners return to prison more than once. SPS has to take all prisoners sent by the courts. Overcrowding may be an issue in some prisons and prisoners can be moved from one prison to another, for a variety of reasons. Many prisoners have a range of issues to deal with, such as homelessness, addictions or mental health. Learning may not always be a priority for those prisoners, either ALN or otherwise.

**Table 1** shows the numbers of prisoners in prison in Scotland on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007. These figures are available on the SPS website on a weekly basis:

<b>Category of Prisoner</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>As % of total</b>
Untried Male Adults	1015	14.3%
Untried Female Adults	51	0.72%
Untried Male Young Offenders	263	3.71%
Untried Female Young Offenders	12	0.17%
Sentenced Male Adults	4,602	64.84%
Sentenced Female Adults	214	3.02%
Sentenced Male Young Offenders	649	9.14%
Sentenced Female Young Offenders	26	0.37%
Recalled Life Prisoners	65	0.92%
Convicted Prisoners Awaiting Sentencing	182	2.56%
Prisoners Awaiting Deportation	16	0.23%
Under 16s	1	0.01%
Civil Prisoners	1	0.01%
<b>All Scotland Total</b>	<b>7,097</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: <http://www.sps.gov.uk//default.aspx?documentid=7811a7f1-6c61-4667-a12c-f102bbf5b808>

Untried prisoners (i.e. those on remand) account for approximately 19% of the prison population. Approximately 4% of prisoners are women.

## **Links Centres**

Within each prison there is a Links Centre, the purpose of which is generally to provide external organisations with a regular time and venue to meet with prisoners. Agencies within the Links Centres may work in housing, homelessness, benefits, employment and addictions. The main aim is for organisations which operate within the community to make links with prisoners *before* release, establish the prisoner's particular needs and endeavour to deal with them so that on release the prisoner will not have to start from scratch in identifying local organisations.

Agencies may operate on different bases, depending on the agreement they have reached with SPS or the individual prison. For example, this mapping exercise has established that:

- Cornton Vale has service level agreements with some Local Authorities to provide housing advice.
- Phoenix Futures has a contract to provide drug and alcohol advice at the national prisons, which will include Cornton Vale and Polmont.
- ROOP has a contract with Barlinnie, Cornton Vale, Polmont and Low Moss to provide life-coaching support to prisoners returning to Glasgow, Renfrewshire and North Lanarkshire.
- GCVS's Progress2Work project provides outreach surgeries at Barlinnie, Polmont and Low Moss.

There may be different funding sources for each of these organisations and, indeed, there are others who will make ad hoc approaches to prisons or self-fund their work.

There are several stages in a prisoner's sentence when they may come into contact with the Links Centre:

### 1. Induction

Induction takes place within the first few days when a prisoner comes to the prison. At induction, a 'Core Screen' will be carried out by SPS staff which should identify issues which the prisoner, the prison and any relevant external agencies require to address during the sentence.

At induction a literacies 'Alerting Tool' is required to be completed. The prisoner is asked to write some sentences and carry out a few basic calculations. This provides a quick assessment of potential literacies or numeracy issues. The Links Centre staff will highlight any issues raised via the alerting tools and pass them to the Learning Centre Manager, who will endeavour to make a 1-1 appointment with those prisoners. Of course not all prisoners will complete an Alerting Tool and of those identified as having an ALN issue, some will either not wish an appointment with the Learning Centre Manager or not attend it.

In Cornton Vale the SQA online literacies assessment has recently been introduced, using a fellow-prisoner as a mentor. This is used in tandem with the Alerting Tool.

## 2. During Sentence

Any officer can refer any prisoner at any time to the Links Centre or to any of the external agencies operating in the Links Centre.

## 3. Pre-Release

Prior to release all prisoners should have a Community Integration Plan (CIP). This should highlight the work the prisoner has undertaken within the prison to address the issues raised in the Core Screen and to identify issues still outstanding, which should be dealt with before release if possible. At pre-release prisoners will have the opportunity to meet with those organisations which are in a position to work with the him/her on particular issues relating to liberation and reintegration into the community i.e. the transition from prison to the community.

SPS's Community Justice Liaison Manager, Heather Keir, is currently undertaking a thorough review of Links Centres at Barlinnie, Polmont and Cornton Vale, looking at:

- which agencies are there,
- what they offer,
- their funding streams,
- how long they are there for,
- how they are measured
- their outcomes

Her report is due by the end of May.

## **Learning Centres**

SPS has contracted out provision in its Learning Centres from 1/4/2005 until 31/3/2009 to Motherwell College, who provide a service in 11 of SPS's prisons and Lauder College who provide services in four. Kilmarnock provides its own education service. Of relevance to this mapping exercise is the fact that Motherwell is the learning provider in Polmont and Barlinnie and Lauder is the provider in Cornton Vale.

The Learning Centres provide a range of courses, most of them accredited through the providing College. In addition to courses they run in the Learning Centre, they will also provide some of the induction courses e.g. Health & Safety, Food Hygiene, Manual Handling. Lauder College also provides pre-release courses such as budgeting.

As far as ALN is concerned, the Learning Centre will pick up referrals via the Alerting Tool. They offer courses such as numeracy, communications etc. At Cornton Vale, there is a Reader-in-Residence whose role is to encourage reading (and with it, literacies) within the prison. It should be noted that if a prisoner chooses not to go to the Learning Centre, there is little, if anything, that the Learning Centre Manager can do.

## **Section 5**

### **Prisoners Liberated to Glasgow**

Whilst many of the prisoners coming back to Glasgow City are liberated from the three prisons contacted in this exercise, statistics from SPS indicate that many come back from other prisons within SPS's estate.

Tables 2 and 3 below show liberations into the community by the 16 prisons in Scotland. 'Liberated into the community' means that certain prisoners are excluded from this list e.g. deceased, deported, transferred to mental hospital etc. It should be noted that the figures e.g. 1751 liberations in January, are 'liberations' and not individual people. There may well be people liberated more than once in each month, due to the high number of very short sentences (see Table 4 below).

The tables show liberations to Glasgow City in 2006. This data is provisional. SPS are still updating, checking and amending the data on postcodes and addresses, so it is likely that the breakdown by local authority will change again before it is finalised for publication. However, for the purposes of this mapping exercise the data give a very good indication of which prisons currently liberate prisoners to Glasgow.

**Table 2: Prisoners liberated back to Glasgow City by month in 2006.**

	<b>Glasgow City</b>	<b>All (*)</b>	<b>Glasgow as % of All</b>
January	375	1751	21.4%
February	377	1880	20.1%
March	431	2081	20.7%
April	421	1920	21.9%
May	444	2047	21.7%
June	469	2299	20.4%
July	428	2089	20.5%
August	408	2249	18.1%
September	411	2092	19.6%
October	410	2068	19.8%
November	399	2167	18.4%
December	415	2187	19.0%
<b>All</b>	<b>4988</b>	<b>24830</b>	<b>20.1%</b>

(\*) this column shows the total liberations from each prison to other parts of Scotland and beyond

From Table 2 it is clear that just over 20% of all liberations from prisons in Scotland in 2006 had addresses in Glasgow City and that the rate of release was not significantly different from month to month.

A request was made to SPS for statistics on a postcode basis, which might have raised the possibility for matching on a geographic basis within the City liberated prisoners and ALN provision. However, SPS does not normally base local authority information solely on postcode data as many of the entered postcodes are invalid or missing completely. They use a combination of postcodes and the area names within the address field to allocate prisoners to postcodes where possible.

**Table 3: Prisoners liberated back to Glasgow City from each prison in Scotland in 2006.**

	<b>Glasgow City</b>	<b>% of liberations by prison</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Glasgow as % of All</b>
<b>Col. 1</b>	<b>Col 2</b>	<b>Col 3</b>	<b>Col 4</b>	<b>Col 5</b>
Barlinnie	3124	62.63%	7462	41.9%
Aberdeen	2	0.04%	1169	0.2%
Castle Huntly	57	1.14%	208	27.4%
Cornton Vale	413	8.28%	2050	20.1%
Dumfries	5	0.10%	454	1.1%
Edinburgh	37	0.74%	2835	1.3%
Glenochil	30	0.60%	117	25.6%
Greenock	127	2.55%	1328	9.6%
Inverness	6	0.12%	1185	0.5%
Low Moss	310	6.21%	1569	19.8%
Noranside	22	0.44%	110	20.0%
Perth	30	0.60%	2482	1.2%
Peterhead	0	0.00%	3	0.0%
Polmont	727	14.57%	2202	33.0%
Shotts	33	0.66%	85	38.8%
Kilmarnock	65	1.30%	1571	4.1%
<b>All</b>	<b>4988</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>24830</b>	<b>20.1%</b>

**Notes:**

Col 1 shows the prisons, including the private prison

Col 2 shows the number of liberations back to Glasgow

Col 3 shows the liberations by each prison as a percentage of the total liberated back to Glasgow

Col 4 shows the total liberations from each prison to other parts of Scotland and beyond

Col 5 shows the Glasgow liberations as a percentage of the total liberations for that prison

From Table 3 it is clear that on a percentage basis, the prisons sending the largest proportion of their prisoners back to Glasgow City, as shown in Col 3, are:

- Barlinnie (62.64%)
- Polmont (14.57%)
- Cornton Vale (8.28%)
- Low Moss (6.21%)

In terms of targeting ALN resources, these 4 prisons are obvious choices. However, as noted above, Low Moss is due to close imminently which means that men who would normally have gone there will go to other prisons instead. Overcrowding may make Barlinnie an unlikely alternative. This may mean that in the future more men from Glasgow City will be held in and liberated from other prisons outwith Glasgow. The Partnership could ask SPS to clarify which prisons would be used instead of Low Moss.

Whilst the percentages for the other prisons are small, in terms of actual numbers it is worth noting that Castle Huntly and Noranside (which together comprise the 'open' estate in SPS) Glenochil and Shotts liberated 142 prisoners to Glasgow City out of an overall total of 520 for the whole of Scotland i.e. 27.3% of prisoners liberated by these four prisons were from Glasgow City.

These prisons should not, therefore, be ruled out as far as targeting ALN resources is concerned. Table 4 below indicates that most of those liberated from these prisons (116 out of 142) had served sentences of more than 4 years. It may be possible, therefore, to work with some prisoners in these prisons on a longer-term basis.

It should also be noted from Table 4, which shows the length of sentence served by those liberated back to Glasgow, that almost 60% of prisoners are either on remand (46%) or are serving sentences of less than 31 days, in reality, a maximum of about 2 weeks (13%). This equates to a large percentage of prisoners who are in prison for a very short time and with little or no access to education whilst inside. The partnership may wish to consider the feasibility of targeting ALN provision or signposting at this

group of prisoners and, in considering this possibility, would need to liaise closely with SPS.

Prisoners serving 31 days to less than 4 years (2 weeks to 2 years) are more likely to be able to access education. Given that they comprise 37% of prisoners liberated to Glasgow, the Partnership could consider the benefits of targeting this group, in particular those who do not attend the Learning Centre, as there is the possibility of working with them on a longer term basis. Such targeting would need to be done in conjunction with SPS and the Learning Centre Managers. Highland ALN Partnership have experience of working with the SPS staff and Learning Centre staff in Inverness prison and may be able to provide advice on how to progress this type of work.

**Table 4: Liberations from prison of prisoners with a home address in the Glasgow Area by sentence and establishment, in 2006**

	Remand	%	Fine Defaulters less than 31 days and others	%	31 days to less than 4 years	%	4 years and over	%	All
Barlinnie	1444	46%	477	15%	1162	37%	41	1%	3124
Aberdeen	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%	1	50%	2
Castle Huntly	0	0%	0	0%	25	44%	32	56%	57
Cornton Vale	242	59%	78	19%	90	22%	3	1%	413
Dumfries	1	20%	0	0%	4	80%	0	0%	5
Edinburgh	9	24%	2	5%	23	62%	3	8%	37
Glenochil	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	30	100%	30
Greenock	64	50%	21	17%	37	29%	5	4%	127
Inverness	5	83%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%	6
Low Moss	0	0%	40	13%	270	87%	0	0%	310
Noranside	0	0%	0	0%	1	5%	21	95%	22
Perth	6	20%	1	3%	19	63%	4	13%	30
Polmont	533	73%	41	6%	149	20%	4	1%	727
Shotts	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	33	100%	33
Kilmarnock	15	23%	0	0%	40	62%	10	15%	65
<b>All</b>	<b>2319</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1821</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4988</b>

NB: Peterhead is not shown in this table as there were no liberations from that prison to Glasgow in 2006

## **Section 6**

### **Community Justice Authorities**

Eight local Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) have been established with effect from April 2007 under the Management of Offenders (Scotland) etc Bill. They are to provide a co-ordinated approach to planning and monitoring the delivery of offender services by planning, managing performance and reporting on performance by local authorities or groups of local authorities. Their aim is to target services to reduce re-offending and to ensure close co-operation between community and prison services to aid the rehabilitation of offenders. They are responsible for distributing funding for criminal justice social work.

Each CJA consists of a Chief Officer, elected members of local authorities and support staff to carry out the functions of the CJA. Glasgow CJA's Chief officer is Anne Connolly, who is keen to include proposals for ALN provision for liberated prisoners in her Annual Plan, which she needs to produce by September 2007.

### **Community Justice Liaison Managers**

SPS employs four Community Justice Liaison Managers whose role is to liaise with the Community Justice Authority and other relevant organisations in their particular area. In Glasgow this is Heather Keir. As noted earlier, one of her current responsibilities is to carry out a thorough review of the services offered by external agencies operating in the Links Centres at Barlinnie, Cornton Vale and Polmont.

Her report should be completed by the end of May and should be considered fully by the ALN Partnership as it may provide opportunities to work together within these prisons.

The ALN Partnership should make formal links with Anne Connolly and Heather Keir with a view to developing joint strategies for improving ALN provision for liberated prisoners i.e. both **before** and **after** liberation.

## Section 7

### Findings from the Mapping Exercise

Of 54 organisations contacted for the mapping exercise, 41 (76%) responded.

**Table 5: Summary of contacts made and responses received**

Type of Organisation	Number Contacted	Response received	No response received
GCC ALN funded (targeting liberated prisoners)	16	11 (69%)	5 (31%)
GCC ALN funded (NOT targeting liberated prisoners)	29	23 (79%)	6 (21%)
SPS Links Centres	3	2	1
SPS Learning Centres	3	2	1
SPS Community Justice Authority Liaison Manager	1	1	0
Voluntary Organisations	2	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41 (76%)</b>	<b>13 (24%)</b>

Funding application forms from organisations seeking ALN funding from 2006-2008 were made available. These revealed that 16 (36%) were targeting liberated prisoners, with a total forecast of 240 liberated prisoners for 2006-2007. However, it should be noted that during telephone interviews it quickly became clear that many people did not fully understand the term 'liberated prisoners' and used it to mean 'ex-offenders' or 'ex-prisoners', rather than prisoners in the process of being liberated and making the transition back into the community. The definition of 'liberated prisoners' needs to be clarified so that everyone is fully aware that it means working with prisoners who are making the transition from prison to the community. By definition, it requires links to be made between organisations in the community, SPS and prisoners **before** liberation.

Several major themes have emerged as a result of the interviews.

#### 1. The need for a strategic approach

Several organisations are currently working with SPS via Links Centres. There appear to be various funding streams for this work and various levels of formality and permanence:

- Cornton Vale has negotiated service level agreements with some Local Authorities to provide housing advice.
- Routes out of Prison (ROOP) has a contract with Barlinnie, Cornton Vale, Polmont and Low Moss to provide life-coaching support to liberated prisoners

returning to Glasgow, Renfrewshire and North Lanarkshire. ROOP is a strategic partnership involving SPS, the Wise Group and Families Outside and is funded by the Scottish Executive under the Multiple and Complex Needs initiative (MCN), with additional funds secured by the Wise Group. ROOP only addresses ALN issues if they are included in a prisoner's Community Integration Plan.

- GCVS's Progress2Work project, funded by Job Centre Plus and the European Social Fund, provides outreach surgeries at Barlinnie, Polmont and Low Moss.
- Phoenix Futures (formerly Phoenix House) has the contract for providing advice on drug/alcohol issues in national prisons, which include Cornton Vale and Polmont.
- GCC's Care Leaver Services work with social work teams at Cornton Vale, Barlinnie and Polmont.
- A separate part of Aberlour runs a parenting project at Cornton Vale.
- A member of staff from Cardonald has visited Barlinnie for counselling work and 'does ALN but is not funded for this' through the ALN partnership.
- Govan and Penilee (now GSWRA) ran a training course in prison (Cornton Vale and Shotts) funded by NOF and Big Lottery. They also ran a Steps to Excellence pre-release program at Barlinnie and held a meeting with staff at Barlinnie on 19/4/07 to discuss a family learning project using the family as bridge to prisoner's learning.
- Glasgow East Regeneration Agency worked in Barlinnie on a peripatetic basis every 2 weeks supporting a construction skills course; they are trying to formalise this, though it is 'taking a long time'. They had funding from SPS, the community regeneration fund and ESF.
- A member of the Routes Out Intervention team member is doing some research in Cornton Vale.
- In May 2007 YCSA started to visit the Links Centre in Polmont once a month, working in partnership with other organisations. This is funded by YCSA.

It will be clear from the above list that whilst there are many organisations working within prisons, there appears to be very little in the way of a strategic approach. Some organisations make ad hoc approaches to individual prisons, others wonder why there is another organisation working in the same prison, doing a similar kind of work with the same people but a different funding stream. There are also organisations that want to work within prisons but just do not know how to go about it.

At the same time, SPS staff and Learning Centre staff said they would like information about the ALN support and provision that is available in Glasgow, even if this is just one sheet of paper with all the contact details. They currently do not have this information.

## 2. The need for an ALN Partnership-level approach

Some of the organisations referred to above have formed partnerships to provide their service. Whilst there is no doubt that many partnerships work very successfully at an operational level, there are others that can fail at the outset because different organisations have different objectives. If awareness of Glasgow's ALN

provision is to be raised effectively within SPS, a partnership approach needs to operate at the highest level possible.

The ALN Partnership should develop formal links with the CJA Chief Officer and SPS's Community Justice Liaison Manager. Decisions on the future provision of ALN services in Glasgow for liberated prisoners need to be made at the highest level and in a strategic manner. Heather Keir's review of Links Centres and Anne Connolly's Annual Plan may provide just the openings that the ALN Partnership needs.

This strategic partnership should decide the most appropriate level at which links should be made with SPS Links Centre Managers and Learning Centre Managers.

### 3. The need for a network

The mapping exercise showed 17 organisations named as referrers to ALN projects and 42 named as 'other' organisations who worked with prisoners and ex-offenders in Glasgow. Obviously there will be some overlap in these lists. That said, these contacts were often made in a very informal way or by chance: 'we're in a new building so one of the other people came round to find out what we did.' Further research is required to explore this aspect of the mapping exercise in order to find out exactly what kind of work is being done with and for ex-offenders in the community and also which of these organisations are working with liberated prisoners.

### 4. The need for a different operational approach

It has become clear during this exercise that a different approach may also be required at an operational level. In the past, particular projects may have been funded on a geographical basis to provide services for local clients. In the case of liberated prisoners and ALN, this approach does not work. The Partnership has also encouraged a partnership approach at an operational level which, unfortunately was unable to make progress. Nobody knows exactly where liberated prisoners come back to, other than 'Glasgow City'. There may be prisoners giving a Glasgow City address but going elsewhere or vice versa. All that is known is that there are approximately 5,000 liberations to Glasgow each year. For the Partnership to target liberated prisoners on anything other than a city-wide basis makes little sense. It is suggested that the Partnership funds a specific development post, with a sessional budget to compliment the developmental aspects of the role. This post should be part of the current ALN infrastructure in order to maximise the opportunity for liberated prisoners to engage with ALN services on their return to Glasgow.

Specifically, this post-holder would:

- work for the Partnership rather than a Project
- have a sessional budget
- develop links with staff and prisoners in Cornton Vale, Polmont and Barlinnie on, say, a weekly basis and all other prisons on a less regular basis, particularly Castle Huntly, Noranside, Shotts and Glenochil

- develop links with relevant ALN projects in Glasgow
- develop links with organisations in Glasgow who work with prisoners
- act as a sign-poster for liberated prisoners returning to Glasgow

Given that many liberated prisoners 'fall down a big hole' when they leave prison, the crucial time is to make contact **before** liberation. At that stage there is the possibility to make links which can be extended into the community once the prisoner is liberated.

It is recognised the two main factors which reduce a liberated prisoner's likelihood of re-offending are being in a job or training and having a supportive family environment. Employability is high on the SPS agenda. ALN is linked to that agenda, given that it is recognised that ALN issues may affect a person's employment prospects. Working with prisoners in the transitional period before release can improve their chances of maintaining links with supportive ALN organisations after liberation.

Links will need to be developed with Learning Centre staff in the prisons. In most cases, a prisoner who recognises that he/she needs help with ALN will contact the Learning Centre, either directly or via a member of SPS staff. For those who are unwilling to follow this route a different approach may be needed e.g. one-to-one support provided by a community-based ALN organisation on an ad hoc basis, possibly through a budget held by the development post-holder for this purpose. As noted earlier, the Partnership could investigate the situation at Inverness Prison where an ALN worker, funded by Highland ALN partnership works in the prison with prisoners and with the Learning Centre.

Working within a prison environment is not for everyone. In taking forward this work, and developing this type of post, the Partnership must be aware of some of the issues of working within such an environment. The prison's needs must come first, which may mean that prisoners may not always be available to meet at the agreed time. Prisoners may be moved to another prison at short notice. Security issues are paramount and, as with all organisations, each prison has its own culture. Prisoners may have a variety of issues to deal with and for many, learning may not have a high priority.

## **Section 8**

### **Conclusion**

If liberated prisoners are to reintegrate into their community and desist from re-offending, support is often required in several areas of their lives. For those who wish to address ALN issues, this mapping exercise has highlighted several organisations either working with prisoners in prisons, working with ex-offenders in the community or wishing to become involved in this area of work. Whilst some of the work is being undertaken formally through contracts with SPS, funding has come from a variety of sources. Although there appears to be limited knowledge amongst some organisations about how prisons operate with regard to ALN provision, there is nevertheless a willingness to work with liberated prisoners. Similarly, prison staff are keen to promote ALN and to raise awareness.

The establishment of the Community Justice Authorities provides an ideal opportunity to extend the ALN services currently available for liberated prisoners returning to the City. That said, this exercise has highlighted the need for a more strategic approach to be taken if liberated prisoners are to benefit. Partnership working should be developed at the level of ALN Partnership, SPS, prisons and CJA. At an operational level, networks and links need to be developed between all of the organisations - ALN providers and others - currently working with ex-offenders in the community.

The main point at which contact needs to be made with liberated prisoners is **before** they become liberated i.e. whilst they are still in prison. Once links have been made **with** the prisoner, links need to be made **for** him/her with external ALN organisations in Glasgow which can help, possibly before liberation and definitely after. It is suggested that a specific development role should be created to develop these networks.

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