



CHRISTINE
FRANKLIN
CONSULTANCY
RESEARCH



HELLO AND STAND UP

A little exercise in getting our brains and bodies moving

RE-OFFENDING RATES

- 34% of prisoner learners re-offend one year post release
- Questions: What qualifications did they achieve? Did they achieve employment with this qualification? What is the impact of no longer having peer mentors or tutors to support continued development?

Prison studies and Assistive Technology

- Scanning Pens Ltd – ReaderPens and Exam Readers
- Visit Julia Clouter today for a demonstration of the pens

How did I get AT into the prisons?

- The reading pens are a standalone device, do not require Bluetooth or WiFi connectivity.
- Yes, you can break them apart, make into a tattoo gun and I'm sure there is other interesting aspects..... But.....

The positives outweighed the potential negatives:

Security Officers have liaised with the education providers and have supported the passion and drive of the teachers

Governors wanted to introduce and encourage positive educational outcomes

Educational providers wished to instil independent learning and confidence.



THE VOICE OF THE PRISONER

Instead of death by statistics

- Prisoner 1 had served 9 years when we met and had created blocks and reasoning as to why he couldn't read
- He was adamant he would not read "I hate reading, I really do".
- He felt physically exhausted when he tried to read.
- 54 years of age.
- Struggled with learning from 7/8 years of age.

Prisoner 1



Prisoner 1

“I got a glow
back in me body,
wanting to learn”

“It’s nice to write a letter, I felt
good that I did, that I could
do it!

“I love reading... with this pen, yeah”

“When I get out I am going to get one (ReaderPen), I don’t
know when I’m going to get out, but when I do I am going to
get one!”

- Left school very young to work on family farm, came to England at 15, unable to read or write.
- Kept his illiteracy quiet, only told his wife after their marriage.
- Has a job to return to after sentence, boss now aware of reading difficulties.
- In his 50s.
- Identifies as dyslexic.

Prisoner 2



Prisoner 2

“I can read the whole book without the teacher being there, but before I couldn't”

“It's just great, that you can read a book, the enjoyment is hard to explain, I haven't won the lottery, but I am sure it'll be the same feeling....”

“for them (establishment) to improve people (prisoners) who have bad records, who can't read or write, it's a great help for them to be educated, for them to be able to see the other side of life... show them (establishment) what these pens do... we sign to be responsible for it, and take it back to our cells.....”

- Foreign National.
- As a young child helped younger siblings but as a teenager noted learning difficulties.
- Learning in English has been challenging.
- Diagnosed with dyslexia whilst undertaking a diploma in the UK.
- Suffered headaches when attempting to learn.

Prisoner 3



Prisoner 3

“Just by using the pen in my education is helping me to improve my reading and writing”

“Just the downside, I just use the pen three times a week in class. I’m alright with that, you know, but....”

“I scan words that I find hard to pronounce, I can hear properly and understand the word I am reading”

“My son said to me ‘Dad, I am very proud of you, even though you are there, by trying to better yourself’”

- Self-Employed and trade worker.
- Undiagnosed learning difficulties at early childhood but had speech therapy.
- Good sportsmen.
- Finds writing and complex sentencing challenging.
- 58 years of age.

Prisoner 4



Prisoner 4

“When I was a child, you start to believe, when people call you stupid”

“I find that gives you, as I say, the confidence, and the ability to excel further, then you would have done without it”

“I had a good job... but when it came down to things to better myself, I couldn't”

“If you want a bit of a breather for your brain, you can go over the line, or the full sentence, which I think is brilliant cause that brings you back into, you know, being excited by what you're reading”

- Manual trade trained.
- In and out of Prus.
- Young father.
- Supported by partner when at home to read information for him.
- Still resistant to learning.

Prisoner 5



Prisoner 5

“The teachers don’t have to do as much when sitting next to us, it helps”

“It’s (learning to read) is not as difficult now, since I’ve been using that (ReaderPen)”

“My missus needs to read all the texts for me...”

“I’m getting me reading and writing up so I can do Storybook Dad, to get him (his son) to hear my voice every day”

- It can read for me and helps me understand the sentences
- I felt confident, once I got use to it
- Really helps!
- Very good
- Should be used in the library to help people learn more
- Superb!
- I would recommend it 100%
- It gives people the chance to be at the same level, those who struggle to read
- It helped me to stay calm, and less stressed
- The pen is easy to use

Prisoner's on one day workshop

The following quotes were given after a one day health and safety course, which must be completed before a prisoner is allowed to apply for a workshops course.

The ReaderPen and Exam Reader were given to every prisoner who indicated they had reading difficulties.