

Offender learning update

19 October 2022

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What this session is about

- A look back at 2021:

The joint prison education review

- And preparing for 2022:

Revisions to the inspection handbook.





Joint prison education review

Sept. 2021-2022



Joint prison education review



Publications:

- the launch of the review itself
- analysis of prison progress monitoring visits
- review of reading in prison
- LDD blog

Launching the review

'Sadly, prison education is in a very poor state. It is time to give it the attention it deserves. As a result of what we have found, we are setting up a review into prison education over the next year.' Sept. 2021



Education recovery in prisons

Overall picture of slow progress



Education recovery in prisons

The state of prison education in 2021:

- prisoners were not provided with high-quality IAG
- insufficient support for those with LDD
- very limited, but some good quality education
- leaders to urgently increase opportunities for ESW in prisons.

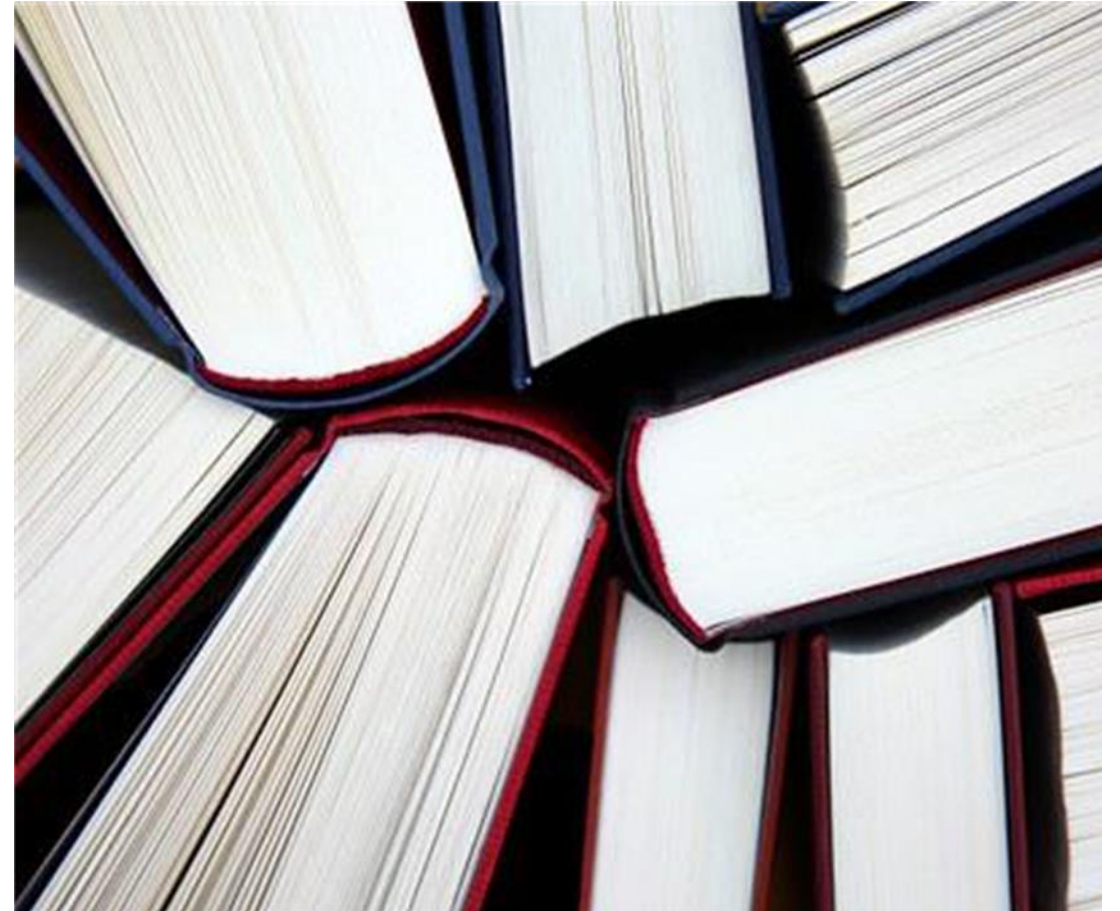


Prison reading review

Background:

- prison reading project
- visits to prisons during summer 2022
- pilots
- changes to the handbook

Enhanced focus on reading

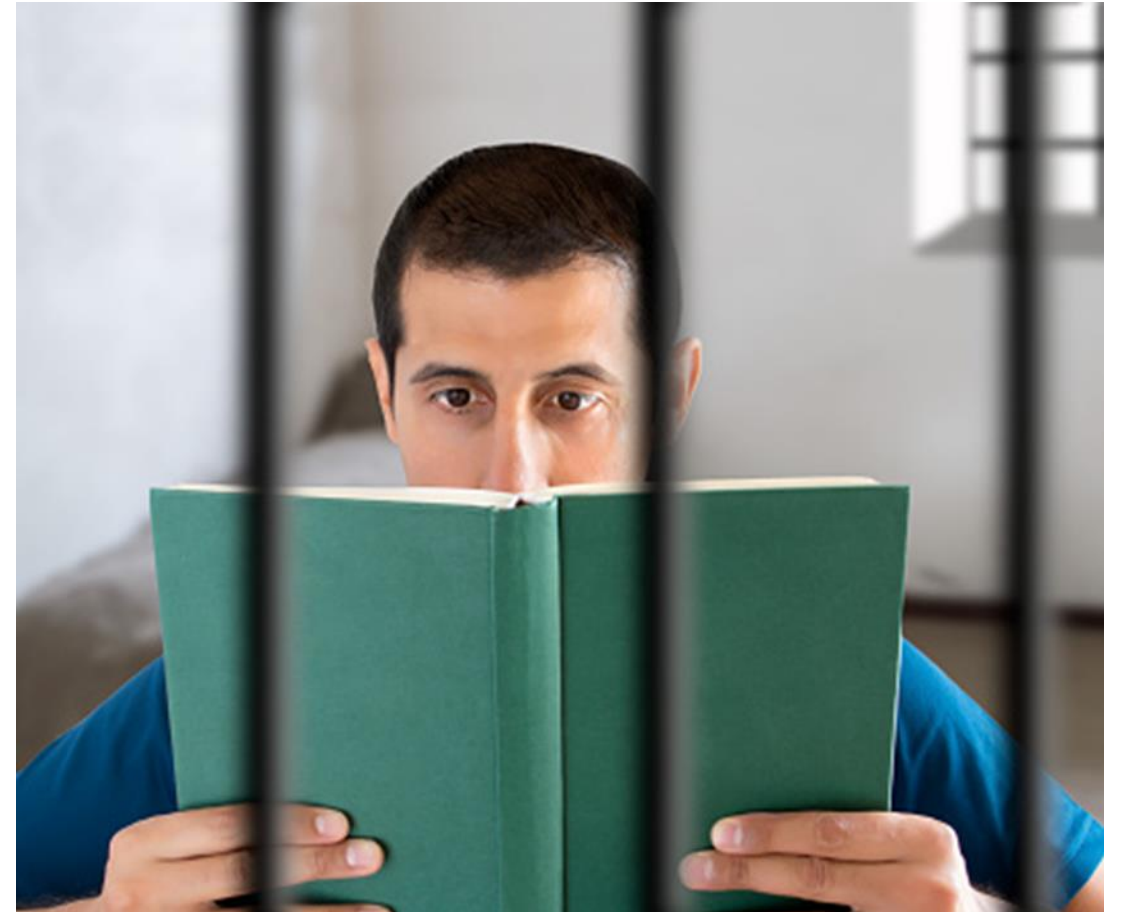


Key findings

Reading education is not given sufficient priority.

Much education does not support prisoners to improve their reading.

- not part of the core education offer
- early reading provision relies on voluntary organisations
- identification of reading needs is inappropriate
- ineffective systems to address prisoners' reading needs



Updates to the OL handbook

From 01 October 2022



Revised OL handbook from 2022/23



Handbook changes:

- removal of curriculum transitional clauses
- removal of “HMPPS permitted” condition
- greater detail on standalone activity
- emphasis on inspecting reading
- summary of PEF provider’s QoE

Joint review of reading in prisons



Recommendations for HMPPS

The education, skills and work offer should include:

- **initial and ongoing assessments** that pinpoint the specific knowledge and skills in reading that prisoners are missing or need to improve
- **a distinct part of the curriculum** offer dedicated to teaching reading
- **specialist training and development** on teaching adults to read

Recommendations for prison governors

Governors should lead **a whole-prison approach to reading**. This would include:

- having an **ambitious strategy** to improve prisoners' reading skills
- making sure **the library promotes reading** for pleasure and purpose effectively and provides
- **appropriate texts** for adults who are learning to read

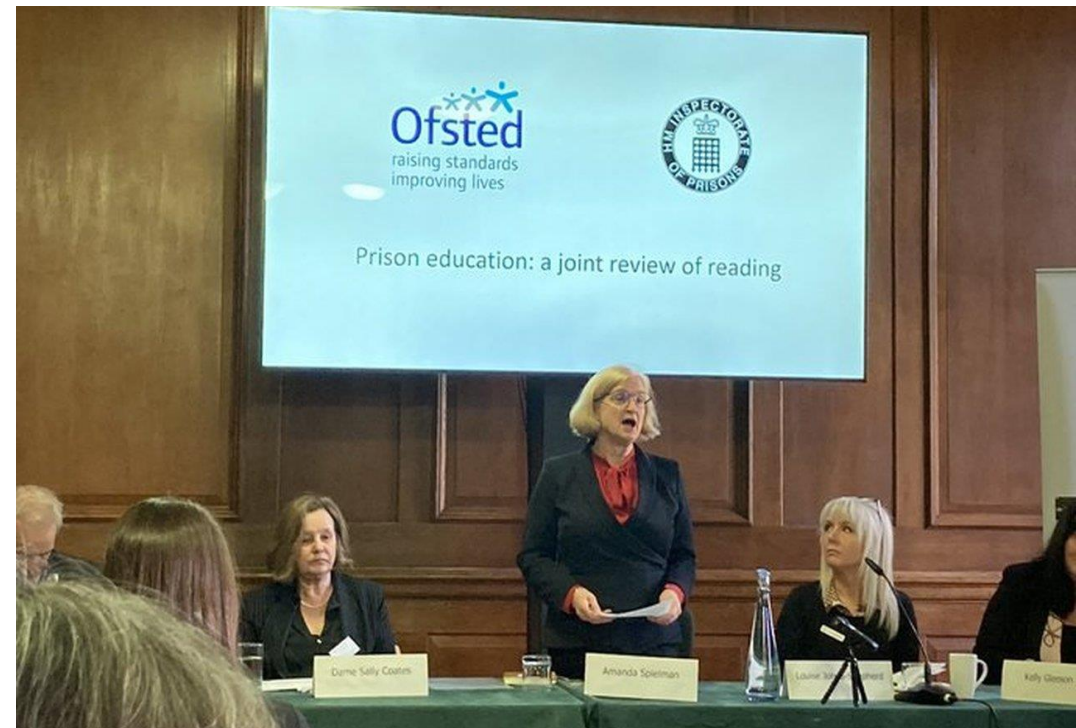
Recommendations for prison governors

- using **appropriate interventions** that support reading as well as **systems to assess, monitor and share information on prisoners' reading ability and the progress** they make.



How Ofsted will respond

During inspections, Ofsted will include a focus on the quality of reading education and support for those who are learning to read. We will do so regardless of whether this is commissioned as part of the core education offer.



How will we inspect reading?



- throughout the ESW curriculum
- on deep dives in English
- on deep dives in other subjects

Handbook updates: L&M

- the extent to which leaders ensure that prisoners' **knowledge and skills in reading** are accurately identified and monitored, including for those prisoners who cannot read, and that appropriate support is provided to ensure they make good progress (172).
- leaders are not doing enough to tackle a poor quality of education, skills or work. This significantly impairs the progress of prisoners, including those with SEND and learning difficulties and/or **those learning to read** (179).

Handbook updates: QoE

- **English (in particular reading)**, mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT) ... encompass knowledge and skills that, as well as being valuable and engaging in their own right, will also enable prisoners to access the full curriculum (133).
- teachers, trainers and instructors have expert knowledge of the subjects that they teach, **including in reading**, as appropriate. If they do not, they are supported to address gaps so that prisoners are not disadvantaged by ineffective teaching, training and instruction (140).
- prisoners make good progress with **their reading skills** and this contributes towards their successful next steps and rehabilitation plans. Prisoners, in particular those who face longer custodial sentences, read for pleasure (147).

Handbook updates: CYOIs

- information regarding children's individual needs, including their abilities in oral language, **literacy (in particular reading)** and numeracy and any special educational needs, is used effectively to inform the planning of teaching and learning. Information about children's needs and abilities is shared appropriately with all staff who need to know, including residential staff (183).

Education Select Committee recommendations



Education select committee: a summary

- published 18 May 2022
- prison education described as being:

'in a poor state following a long-term decline in both the quality of education and the number of prisoners participating in learning or training.'



House of Commons
Education Committee

Education select committee – in summary



- there is an
*'urgent need for change across the
prison estate.'*



House of Commons
Education Committee

The recommendations

Education Delivery

- prisons to have clear and meaningful KPIs related to education, training and employment which are monitored by Ofsted.



The recommendations

Education Delivery

- Ofsted to be able to take regulatory action against individual prisons, including, where necessary, changes to the prison leadership.



The recommendations

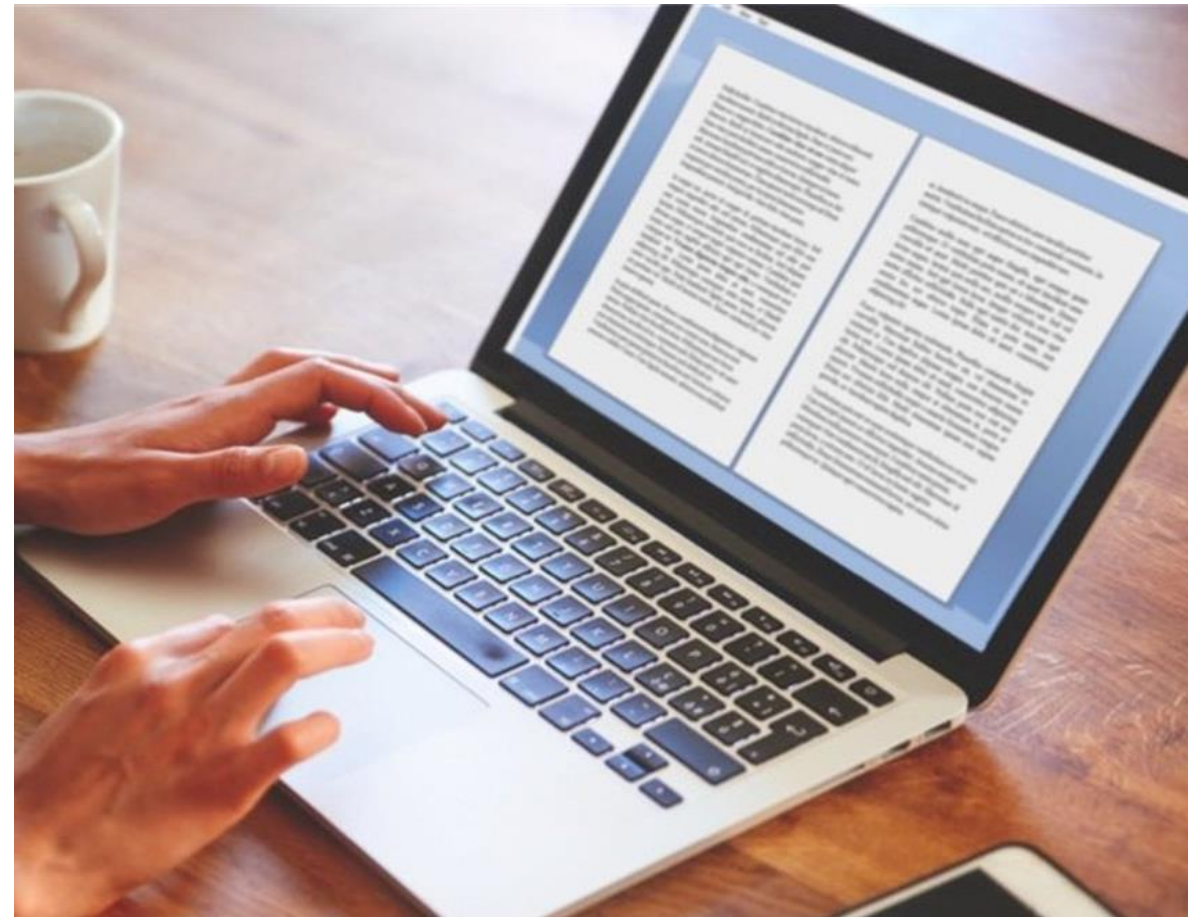
Education Delivery

- Ofsted to inspect how prisons engage with civil society
- Ofsted to give a grade for the education provider within the prison.



Changes in practice

- naming the provider
- paragraph on **QoE contribution** of the main ESW contractor
 - intent, implementation and impact
- not using Ofsted's grade judgement words.



Questions



Thank you!



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