

RSA

Action and Research Centre

Ideas and actions for 21st century enlightenment

RSA Transitions Newsletter

26 June 2013



The RSA (the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) is working with HMP Everthorpe in East Yorkshire to develop a major resettlement project: Transitions.

Since the end of last year the project team has been working with the prison on a study that will test the potential for turning unused Ministry of Justice assets - Everthorpe Hall and 45 acres of land adjacent to the prison - into a 'Transitions park', offering employment, skills and resettlement services while benefitting the community.

The study will produce a masterplan – including a business and investment strategy – in early 2014. This will be developed in consultation with the community, prisoners and staff, local services and employers. The RSA is also engaging with other prisons in the area, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

[Find out more about Transitions.](#)

Latest news



Consultation

The project was launched in January 2013 by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside, Matthew Grove. Since then the team has been pulling together ideas and feedback to date and is now undertaking more formal consultation.

Between now and end of July members of the local community, prisoners, officers, employers and service providers will take part in workshops and a survey, which will help shape the masterplan. This research will identifying gaps in existing services, activities and skills in the area.



The site

Everthorpe Hall was built in 1871 and it and the surrounding land have not been in full use for some 10 years. The project team has worked with prisoners and prison staff in creating a Transitions office on the Everthorpe site, which opened in January.

In relation to the wider site, most of the building and land surveys have now been completed including a main structural survey and assessment of wildlife. This process is beginning to identify the scale of capital investment needed. The aim is to pay prisoners and ex-offenders to do as much of the build as possible and the team is working to identify the potential employment and skills opportunities.



A Criminal Waste?

Securing employment can be critical to tackling crime and high re-offending levels ultimately cost the taxpayer. Transitions is working with the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), to ensure that the activities and partnerships we develop have the best chance of securing ex-offenders jobs and that we can contribute, not only to reducing crime but also to closing skills gaps in the region.

To this end Lord Haskins, Chair of the LEP hosted an event in May, bringing together employers and learning

and skills providers. This helped us to identify how we could support and add value to businesses through filling skills gaps, training and apprenticeships, work placements and employment opportunities.

Many of those leaving prison possess entrepreneurial skills and approach work with a level of commitment that reflects their determination to turn their lives around. Employers can play a critical role in giving them a chance and need the right support from prisons and other partners to ensure there is a good fit.



Transitions visits

The Transitions team along with Ian Nickolay, Head of Kairos Unit (Cat-D) of HMP Everthorpe, recently visited the RSA in London to do a presentation on the project.

Vikki Heywood Chair of RSA, recently visited HMP Everthorpe and the *'transitions park'* site.



Transforming rehabilitation

In May, the Government set out its proposals for changes to changes to justice services, in particular probation trusts. [Transforming Rehabilitation: a strategy for reform](#) ushers in some radical and rapid changes. These include the creation of a new public sector National Probation Service, which will focus on higher risk offenders and extending statutory supervision and rehabilitation to all 50,000 of the most prolific group of offenders; those sentenced to less than 12 months in custody.