

Promoting healthy prisons

12 September 2006



**Health
Promotion
Agency**



NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SERVICE

**Investing
for Health**

Promoting healthy prisons

Background

Recent statistics indicate that 9 out of 10 prisoners in England and Wales have a diagnosable mental health problem, substance misuse problem or both, and more than 80% of prisoners smoke, compared to around 27% of the general population.

Prisoners are more likely to come from lower socioeconomic groups and have poor levels of education, factors which are inextricably linked with ill health. Prison based health promotion therefore gives access to a population it would normally be hard to reach, offering a unique opportunity to tackle issues of social exclusion and inequalities in health, and to increase the capacity of prisoners to fulfil their potential upon release. The health of prisoners is affected by varied and complex factors, and therefore requires a coordinated response from both prison and community resources. Prison is also an important workplace and offers a prime opportunity to promote the health of staff.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service and the Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland have therefore come together to hold a one day conference to consider how these issues are addressed.

Additional partners

This event has been developed in conjunction with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, Opportunity Youth, Eastern Health and Social Services Board, Western Health and Social Services Board, South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust (HSST), Causeway HSST and Down and Lisburn HSST.

Potential participants

This event is aimed at all prison staff and other statutory, voluntary and community organisations whose work impacts on the health of the prison population. It will also be of interest to those working to tackle inequalities in health at policy and operational level.

Objectives

The objectives of this conference are to:

- bring together the organisations who contribute to prison health;
- raise awareness and understanding of health issues in prisons;
- raise awareness of the health promoting prisons concept;
- share information on what is effective for improving health in prisons;
- highlight existing good work carried out in prisons in Northern Ireland;
- influence the development of a future framework for taking healthy prisons forward;
- produce a conference report to send to policymakers.

Date and time

Tuesday 12 September 2006, 9.30am – 4.00pm, including lunch.

Venue

Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn

Cost

There is no cost to participants for this seminar.

Closing date for applications

Friday 18 August 2006

Booking

You can book a place at the conference by post or online. For further information on the parallel sessions, a PDF of the flyer, or to submit an online booking form, visit the events/training section at www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk

Programme

- 9.30am** **Registration for parallel sessions**
Tea, coffee and scones
- 10.00am** **Introduction to morning session**
Dr Brian Gaffney, Chief Executive,
Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland
- 10.10am** **Guest Speaker**
- 10.25am** **Improving the health of the prison population: a whole prison approach**
Mr Paul Hayton, Project Lead Officer,
Health in Prisons Project, WHO Collaborating Centre
- 10.50am** **Questions**
- 11.05am** **Tea and coffee**
- 11.30am** **The health needs of prisoners**
Dr Jackie McCall, Specialist Registrar,
Eastern Health and Social Services Board
- 11.50am** **Implementing a whole prison approach**
Ms Michelle Baybutt, Research and Development Coordinator,
Healthy Settings Development Unit
- 12.15pm** **Questions**
- 12.40pm** **Lunch**
- 1.40pm** **Introduction to afternoon session**
Dr Philip McClements, Director of Health and Healthcare,
Northern Ireland Prison Service
- 1.45pm** **Parallel sessions**
Parallel sessions will include a range of speakers from across the UK as well as an opportunity to debate some of the main challenges in each topic area.
- Substance misuse
 - Improving mental health services
 - Resettlement
 - Workforce development
 - Promoting better health
- 3.20pm** **Tea and coffee**
- 3.45pm** **The way forward**
Dr Philip McClements
- 4.00pm** **Close**
Mr Robin Masfield, Director General, Northern Ireland Prison Service

