

11.05.2023

# PRISON SUPPORT FORUM



Yorkshire  
Apprenticeship  
Service



**YLP**

Yorkshire Learning Providers

# SUMMARY

The Prison Support Forum is developing pledges for prisons, providers, employers, and inmates; this means they dedicate their time and efforts towards the success of a prison apprenticeship and this can be shared with prisons and support agencies to show their commitment.

Through discussions with prisons and support agencies, there is an identified need for a dedicated apprenticeship directory for all prisons across the country to show the pathways and offer, and of the providers willing to work in partnership with the prisons. This is something inmates have welcomed when presented our WY & YNY directories but as many don't stay in the area post release a national directory would be welcomed. Alex is speaking to New Futures Network about this so hopefully work will be underway soon.

One issue frequently raised within prisons is that of Functional skills. Statistics show that around 60% of inmates have neurodiversity needs.

Therefore, Functional Skills are creating a barrier for progression from ROTL to apprenticeships.

**"It is obvious that there is a disconnect between need & method"**

There is also a noted disconnect between how apprenticeships are explained in prisons and the prisoner understanding. Therefore, prisons should be declaring apprenticeship opportunities to prisoners when they are first introduced to prison education.

We need to change our approach to capture interest instead of barriers and Alex has started a log of all requests when she speaks to prisoners so opportunities can be promoted.

The forum discussed the need for greater engagement with prisons and for providers to showcase their offer of Apps, AEB, bootcamps to prisons and make it clear they are prison committed institutions.

Many prisons have procurement opportunities that providers can access via the prisons DPS.

There was also a request to see if multiply could be delivered in prisons, to help with release, Alex will follow up on this & report back to the group.

The group discussed the need for greater IAG from the outset with inmates, and Askham Grange confirmed they are reviewing their induction processes to be include apprenticeships and other learning pathways. There was also a call for greater IAG at ROTL stage and upon release as many prisoners feel they are left to their own devices upon release, so if a more comprehensive IAG on skills was available it would be beneficial.

Alex provided an update from the recent Prison Apprenticeship conference, where a wide range of prisons and support organisations came together. There was much support for prison apprenticeships and some recognition of barriers that need addressing such as EPA and FS. Alex also shared the update on stage 2 of the Prison Apps roll out which will include the closed estate and support inmates with apprenticeships where prisons have an industry, such as kitchens.

Next steps -

- Multiply & Bootcamp chase up with DfE & MCA's
- CEIAG support for prisons
- AEB delivery for ex-offenders to be better promoted
- Include Prison IAG partner to the prison forum
- Identify prison procurement DPS to share
- Look at prison industry across Yorkshire and map to Apps for promo & engagement for stage 2

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

- Calderdale College/The Apprenticeship Hub
- City & Guilds
- Get SET Academy
- HMP Askham Grange
- Ixion (Shaw Trust)
- Learning Curve Group
- North Yorkshire Council
- Textile Centre of Excellence
- York College
- Yorkshire Learning Providers