Editorial

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This general edition of the Prison Service Journal brings together a range of articles which we hope will be of interest to, and spark discussion among, our readers.

We start with a rapid evidence assessment exploring how the principles of high reliability organisations (HROs) could be applied to the custodial environment by **Emma Higginson, Robert Smith, Dr Catharine Booth,** and **Emma Preece.** Given the lack of published research in custodial settings, the article focuses on research conducted within healthcare settings, and identifies several ways in which the HRO principles could apply. However, the authors highlight two key barriers to the implementation of the principles, namely, the practicalities of their application and the wider culture of HMPPS.

Our next article by **Elden Morrow, Mariam Osmane, Katie Foster, Ella Toeyrylae, Scarlett Thomas,** and **Jakub Krajewski** describes how the frontline staff network within the Ministry of Justice helps to bridge the divide between the frontline and policy. The authors describe how 'inside knowledge' from previous operational roles mean that members have a unique perspective that can add value within policy roles. We then have an article by **Katie Ritchie** which reflects on the capacity of higher education in prison to support, and enhance, desistance. The article draws on an exploratory study exploring the barriers, and enablers, of educational experiences among people in prison engaging in higher education. The article considers whether these have the potential to support, or impede, desistance, and offers some reflection on what changes could be made as a result.

Next, we have an article by **Dr Nawal Ammar, Dr Brad Shoemaker, Dr Michael Ouellet, Dr Davut Akca,** and **Dr Carla Cesaroni.** The authors outline their strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat (SWOT) analysis of chaplaincy and religious services in Canadian prisons. Their work draws on the experiences of chaplains, and emphasises the impact of chaplains' spiritual care on the well-being of individuals in prison, while also offering strategic recommendations to address systemic challenges. **Risteárd McDonald's** article then describes research exploring whether religious spaces within prison can be made sacred. This was explored in two prisons, where spaces were found to be made sacred through a process of 'setting apart'. Such spaces are described as sites of transformation, spiritual development, respite, and, paradoxically, as reminders of the prison regime.

We then have an article by **Katherine Albertson** and **Chris Grace** describing the core practice factors which led to the successful delivery of HMP Risley's Creating Future Opportunities (CFO) discovery wing. The authors argue that HMPPS could make greater use of community hub delivery models in the mainstream prison custodial context. Our next article is a transcript of a lecture given by **Professor Dominique Moran** at the 2025 Perrie Lectures. The lecture considers the legacy of the Victorian prison and its future within a modernising prison system. It highlights how many Victorian prisons have deep meaning within local communities, and reflects on whether the rehabilitative potential of them is being fully realised.

Our next article within this edition is by **Hasan Al Banna, Dr Rosemary Ricciardelli,** and **Dr Matthew Johnston.** The article aims to address the gap in relation to the effects of shift work on correctional officers work-life balance and wellbeing. The authors describe how working frequent extended shifts and night shifts result in difficulties with sleep and work-life balance. Several policy considerations are made to promote positive wellbeing and a healthy work-life balance for correctional officers.

Our final article, by **Dr Bronwen Frow-Jones,** examines factors which increase prison staff vulnerability to wrongdoing. This exploratory study aimed to fill a gap in the literature on this topic through use of a survey and interviews at two prisons. The findings reveal a workforce which feels undervalued by managers as well as wider society, and identifies individual, organisational and societal factors which increase staff vulnerability to wrongdoing.