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~~ADDICT~~
~~LIAR~~
~~JUNKIE~~
~~CRIMINAL~~
~~DRUGGIE~~
~~FAILURE~~
~~SMACK HEAD~~
~~OFFENDER~~

HOW ABOUT:

HUMAN

Special Edition

Recovery in Prison

Editorial Comment

Michael Wheatley and Dave King with Professor David Best

Michael Wheatley is a senior manager and recovery advisor working in the substance misuse and mental health team in HMPPS. He also works as the Drug Recovery Prison Programme Lead for HMPPS within HMP Holme House. Dave King has worked within the Recovery field for over 15 years. He is Drug Recovery Prison Programme Lead for NHS England and Head of Commissioning for Health and Justice (Cumbria and North East). Dr David Best is Professor of Criminology at Sheffield Hallam University and Honorary Professor of Regulation and Global Governance at Australian National University.

We are extremely grateful to Jamie Bennett and the PSJ Board for offering us the opportunity to guest edit this issue of the Prison Service Journal. Between the three of us, we have been involved with the issue of drug use in prisons and promoting recovery for many, many years. As with so many people, we all have experienced or know someone close to us who has encountered problems with using drugs, and who is now studying, working with or living in recovery. To have no exposure to this issue appears to be an exception to the rule.

When we talk about a drug, we mean any substance that when consumed causes a temporary physiological and often psychological change in the body and mind. This includes alcohol, tobacco, heroin, cocaine, cannabis, medicines and synthetic chemicals. This special edition is concentrating on overcoming drug addiction and promoting recovery from drug use in prison. However, the notion of recovery is very personal to each individual. It is a personal journey filled with learning and discoveries which help rebuild and reconnect people with their strengths and aspirations. It helps them live meaningful and satisfying lives. Recovery therefore can be applied to a range of issues such as mental health and getting better from a physical illness and is a holistic process of growth and change. It's not just about stopping drug use; it's about promoting overall wellbeing—a state characterised by good health, happiness and social satisfaction.

Drug use is an emotive subject. There is no escaping that there are different responses to those who use drugs across society whether they be supportive or punitive. Each person who uses drugs is first and foremost a person, or as the front cover reminds us, they are human. At times this vital point can be lost. Therefore, being able to devote a whole edition to recovery is both a honour and tremendous opportunity because we know that recovery happens every day. We know that when we have environments that allow recovery to grow and become visible that it is contagious moving from person to person.

So for this special issue of the PSJ, we decided to examine some of the different constituent parts that help us understand why and how people recover and how this can be used to promote recovery in prison. We have invited contributions from a wide range of people with knowledge and experience of the subject. In the first section, you can read about what we mean by recovery. The second section discusses practises within prisons that can help develop our ideas about how to respond and promote recovery. In the final section we explore the operational context in order to better understand and use it to adapt our responses. We have also provided a voice for people in recovery to contribute to this process and to tell us about their experiences. It was not possible, of course, to include articles about every relevant issue. We intend to publish studies related to recovery activity in the next edition of the PSJ as well as inspire more contributions about recovery in order to maintain a profile in forthcoming issues of this Journal.

We would like to thank all the authors who responded so positively to the invitation to contribute. We hope you find it useful and thought provoking. Drug use and recovery is multifaceted. There is no single solution. We all need to work together and get involved if we are to make a difference. Can recovery in prison happen? We believe it can.

Acknowledgments

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