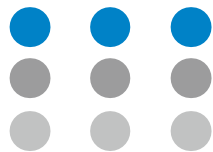


The Challenge

Within the prison network average statistics around inmates approximately fall into the following categories LD - 12%, Older Adult - 16%, Mental Health - 22%, General - 50%. There is also a growing aging population within the UK prison network and the need for Positive Social Interaction (PSI). PSI is at the forefront of what we do. There is a need to push the boundaries by using innovative computerised technology.



The Solution

My Improvement Network was introduced at the prison to help the UK Health Care Sector look after individuals with dementia, the confused and older people who require stimulation. The technology provided a discussion point and provoked conversation.

Our PSI Groups consistently have in excess of 45 inmates in any Group Session. Since introducing the technology through their Health Promotion Team, they have requests on a weekly basis to attend the Groups. The Groups are not only for increased social interaction but are also informational about all the Healthcare Services that are offered in the prison. This helps understanding of the need to attend appointments and request appropriate help, within itself, it is cost effective in the running of the service and reduces waiting times.

We have been doing some 1-1 work with one young man who has a very young mental age and has avoided state educational provision. He refused to attend education in the prison also. We had encouraged the young man to do a PSI Session using the technology. Reluctantly the young man in question did some painting and quizzes and also showed enjoyment in the Group Sessions playing Bingo. After a period of time we were able to gain his trust to help him write a letter, something he has never been able to do previously. This was an enormous achievement for him.



We have used the technology to help screen those in need of additional Mental Health Services, but the main success story for us to date, is we managed to get a patient through his journey during his sentence of 6 weeks from being monosyllabic to running the session (Bingo) himself and informing us that he plans to attend the local bingo hall and local quizzes upon release. This person has minimal contact with anyone in the community and spent the majority of his time with friends of the 'wrong kind.' He now feels he is ready to broaden his circle of friends and I personally feel this technology has a big part to play in introducing them to other things.