



Working in partnership to break down the barriers to Offender Learning and Skills

Sally Alexander – Executive Director: OLASS

Gina Reilly – Head of Community and Employment Programmes

Milton Keynes College

- OLASS in Custody
- OLASS in the Community
- Job Deal – NOMS/ESF co-financed programme to support offenders into work
- Employability and Learning Pathways
- Partnerships



Providers and Partners

Buckinghamshire
adultlearning
A Culture and Learning Service



THAMES VALLEY



East Berkshire College

Challenges for providers

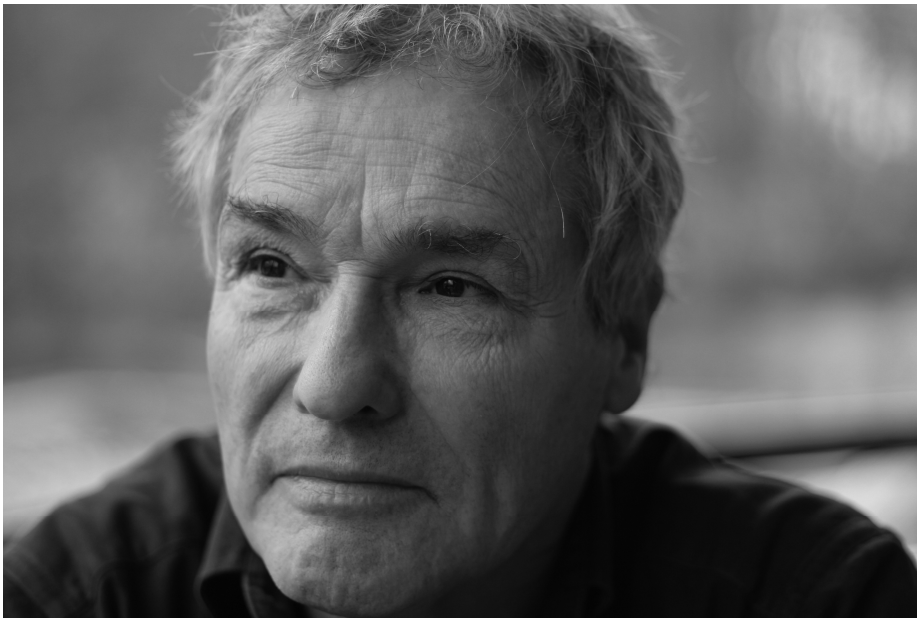
- Risk
- Working with offenders – the fear...
- Diversity and safeguarding
- Admissions processes
- Confidentiality/data protection
- Terminology
- Challenges with mainstream funding & success criteria



Overcoming Barriers

- Senior level commitment – Thames Valley Skills and Employment Partnership & AOSEC Offender Learning Task Force (SE region)
- Training for providers – equality and safeguarding, appropriate curriculum
- Enabling positive disclosure and management of unspent convictions
- Promoting understanding of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Data protection/information sharing legislation and obtaining consent explicitly from offenders
- Sharing and promoting good practice
- Gaining each offender's trust and commitment

Some pathways to work in the Thames Valley



“ At Springhill open prison 30 offenders gained forklift and HGV licences and now 15 are in employment”

Sam Rushmere – Case Manager

“In Milton Keynes and Reading through Job Deal & SERCO we have been able to get 25 offenders their rail track cards and 20 are now working”

Loraine Stewart – Case Manager

OLASS 4 – Moving Forward...

- Support networks/ providers are now in place – wider understanding
- Opportunity exists to engage more providers and partners
- Pathways to Work are being explored nationally and regionally
- OLASS 4 and through the gate delivery