

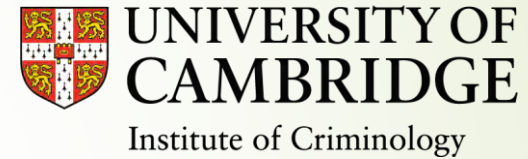


The experience and multi-faceted role of music practitioners working in probation settings

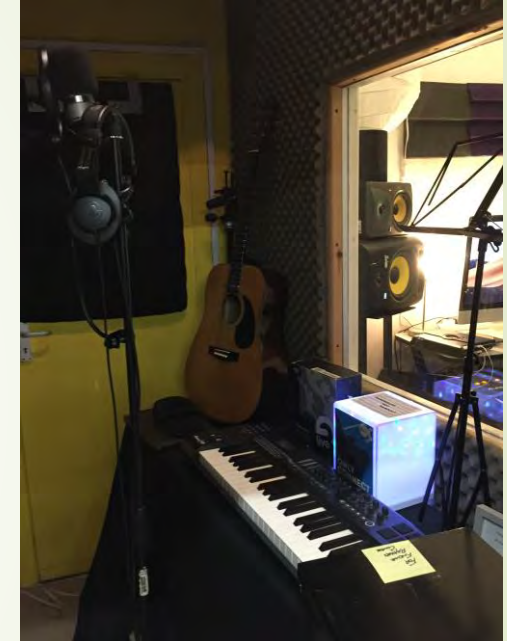
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Inspiring Futures

Evaluating the impact of the arts in criminal justice.



Only Connect: “Rhythms & Flow”



- Ages 18-26
- Probation and community sentences
- Work with producers to create and record original tracks
- Learn about the music industry





Main ideas

- ▶ What do participants value most?
- ▶ What does this mean for practitioners?
- ▶ Further questions/concerns

Methods

- ▶ Observations
- ▶ One-to-one interviews (participants & practitioners)
- ▶ Focus group (participants, practitioner, OC staff)



A Sense of Safety

- ▶ Participants:
 - ▶ Feel comfortable and confident
 - ▶ Feeling at home – better than actual home for many
 - ▶ Welcome, sense of belonging
- ▶ Practitioners:
 - ▶ Importance of first impressions
 - ▶ Put people at ease
 - ▶ Inspire without pressurising
 - ▶ Manage group dynamic



Professional mentoring and networks

- ▶ Participants:
 - ▶ A chance to 'make it'
 - ▶ Passionate and committed to music
 - ▶ Learn how to make money from music
 - ▶ Work with talented people – and continue
- ▶ Practitioners
 - ▶ Professional excellence and credibility
 - ▶ Self-taught & completely competent
 - ▶ Networking – “it's an opportunity for me to meet the next famous rapper or singer” [Practitioner, interview]
 - ▶ Expectation of continued involvement



Personal support

- ▶ Participants
 - ▶ Valued the support and encouragement they received
 - ▶ Authenticity; different to other support workers
 - ▶ “...it’s hard to find people that actually want to help you for you, like, without having an agenda for themselves.” [Focus group participant]
 - ▶ “...he cares more about me than the job.” [Focus group participant]
- ▶ Practitioners
 - ▶ Provide emotional (& practical) support
 - ▶ Course leader as father figure



Questions raised

➤ Personal boundaries

- 'more than just a job'?

➤ Sustainability

- Intangible qualities
- Difficulty of putting into a job description
- Reliance on specific individuals

➤ Training

- Musically, self-trained
- Very little other training
- Learn by doing
- "In at the deep end"



Thank you!

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