The strategic importance of prisons to transform our society

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Underlying Principles

- Prisons create an opportunity to bring about change and address range of issues

- Too many people in prison

- People sent to prison for sociological rather than criminological reasons.

- 'Don't let them out until they can read and write'

Some Statistics

- 50% remand/50%convicted
- 300 foreign nationals
- 60 different nationalities (4 detainees/22 extradition)
- 62% prev. residents
- 30% theft/burglary - 7-10%driving offences
- 25% in fixed/long term accom.

Some more

- 7% married or co-habiting
- 64% unemployed on entry/72% on release
- 20% dyslexic / 50-70% functionally illiterate
- 14% registered with a GP
- 70% psychotic episode last 2 years
- x1 per week sectioned MHA
- 50-75% primary crack users

So just who is in prison?

- Socially excluded
- Difficult and damaged people leading chaotic and disordered lives
- Members of the community passing through

Who's problems?

- No such thing as prison problems
- We have community problems concentrated in prison
- We therefore have to deal with them as a community

Concentrated problems concentrated minds

- Not out of sight out of mind!
- Real opportunities – health, substance misuse, education
- If prison is the point of ultimate ecxlusion then it must be where inclusion begins
- Families are at the beginning of the exclusion process – they should be at the beginning of the inclusion process