

PRISON DIALOGUE LIMITED

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, have pleasure in presenting their report for the period November 2006 to October 2007 and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2007.

DIRECTORS DURING THE YEAR

C J Marks, N Shields, H Pidgeon and M McGill served as Directors for the entire year.

The Trustees continued to meet regularly in person and by telephone, sometimes joined by the management team and they attended regular review meetings. The AGM was held on 01/11/07.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND REVIEW OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

This year has brought the continued recognition of Prison Dialogue and appreciation of the power and potential of our work. At the same time we have experienced the reality, in some situations, that the system is resistant to taking on and resourcing a dialogic approach and that a sustainable position where dialogue is integrated into prison life is hard to achieve. Hence, some of the potential from last year has been realised, some has not.

In Dorset our intervention at HMP Dorchester continued through the focus on Threshold Dialogue. Steve Holland left the prison late in 2006 to take up post at HMYOI Portland and Jo Mason, as Head of Reducing Re-offending, continued to lead Threshold Dialogue for the prison. The pilot, based in HMP Dorchester and Boscombe, Bournemouth, was completed at the end of 2006, evaluated externally and also written about in our own report. We found that Threshold Dialogue had a significant impact on the attitudes and behaviours of particularly hard to reach, chaotic and prolific offenders. It also brought greater shared understanding between agencies towards more integrated end-to-end offender management, placing the offender at the centre of their attention.

Threshold Dialogue has been enthusiastically received by the Dorset CJB. We presented to their annual conference and won a DCJB Partnership Award. Police and Probation are now also signed up to develop the Threshold Dialogue service in Dorset. The aim this year has been to create a web of threshold dialogues by extending from HMP Dorchester to HMP Guys Marsh, a training prison, and as required to other community locations and begin a process to transfer ownership and funding to local sources.

We have continued to work with the Secretary of State for Corrections in the State of Washington, USA, and with his leadership and extended leadership group. They have taken on a range of dialogic skills and approaches and applied these in, for example, a large-scale engagement and consultation with all of their staff and use of multi-disciplinary review of the case histories of offenders to make practice and policy recommendations. Peter will make his final visit to Washington in November.

In May 2007 we started to work with the Offender Management and Immigration Service (OMIS) of Global Solutions Ltd (GSL), a private company which runs prisons and immigration centres. This is contracted and funded work through a number of levels in the system. Initially it will range from coaching and strategic thinking with the senior leadership to introducing a dialogic approach into one of their problematic prisons, HMP Rye Hill, to train new prison staff and develop their Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme. This feels like the beginning of a solid partnership where a dialogic approach could have a significant impact on the issues that they are facing.

After working on the transition of Governor at HMYOI Portland, we offered to provide a low level unit-based intervention to support staff with prisoner engagement and participation. We were not able to get real traction there so we have withdrawn from there for now while we review our situation.

A major constraint for us this year, that affected our intervention at Portland, was that we had inadequate funding to continue with two paid members of staff. No on-going funding was available from statutory sources in the UK. Vince Miller has been the sole employee through the year. Jane Ball and Peter Garrett have continued to support the UK-based work on a pro bono basis. This has meant that the distance between Vince's base in Dorset and the charity's office in Chipping Campden has been more keenly felt.

We recognise that we need a clearer strategy to make decisions about which prisons or projects we focus on. We have tended to develop the work based on existing relationships, where some interest is shown, a request is made, or some need is apparent. However, as we approach our AGM we are taking a more strategic approach to decide how to concentrate our efforts to have the greatest impact and that will lead to a plan for the next year. We anticipate that this will include taking the model of Threshold Dialogue (what we have called a purchasable and replicable model) to new areas. The aim is to be more explicit about what we need to be successful and require that to be in place from participating prisons and agencies before we begin. This should lead to a more sustainable position from the point of view of resourcing and embedding.

As always we are in debt to our funders, who we know really want to be helpful - and are. Tudor Trust have continued to believe in us and we especially appreciate their understanding that we are taking quite a different and difficult approach by seeking to embed our work in the system, and that it takes time. The Network for Social Change has provided funding for travel and accommodation expenses this year. The Mulberry Trust has again funded office costs. These are essential for us to function yet usually really difficult items to find funding for.

We are also grateful to Dialogue Associates who continue to underwrite Prison Dialogue through the contribution of Peter and Jane, accounting support from Sam Dean, administrative support from Catherine Livingston, use of intellectual property, and professional development opportunities for Vince.

Madeline McGill resigned as a Trustee in July. We are most grateful to her for the energy and challenge that she brought.

As we move into the next year it seems that it is time for us to a) be clear about the work that we can do uniquely, in terms of a real intervention offer as well as philosophically and b) be confident about its effectiveness and c) take a stand to look for our work to be commissioned by agencies.