



## Good Practice – Nominee

### The Genus Project (Sub-Contractor- APM)



The Genus Project was specifically commissioned to deliver a service that would challenge any notions of a 'more of the same' family support provision in custody. Work to keep families in touch and to help parents still be parents is invaluable, but on its own does not fully address issues within people's behaviour. Family will potentially, and very quickly, place individuals at greater risk of re-offending and in turn heading back to prison. Failing to work together effectively with prisoners in custody is not only an opportunity missed but also neglects the importance of 'upskilling' individuals.



The Genus Project tackles key issues of lifestyle and behaviour that have impacted, usually badly, on family and relationships. Our work is designed to empower people to live better and more productive family lives when back in the community.

We work with prisoners, male and female, on a 1-1 basis via an 8-week programme called Building Positive Futures (BPF); the model is based around solutions focused on brief therapy and the use of personal solutions. Engagement starts with an Outcome Star self-assessment, revisited later; this sets out the key areas in the service user's life, with a particular focus on the lifestyle and behaviour which has caused most harm to their relationships and family. Through BPF, the self-identification of small areas of necessary change are developed by the service user with the staff as the 'guide', not the other way around. Slowly but surely the service user then has the chance to develop and practice their own personal solution and apply it to the people and circumstances around them; this starts to address the most problematic areas of behaviour which has caused most harm.

We also undertake related family work and 'through-the-gate' support, where possible. In many cases whilst the service user is working on BPF, staff will also be engaging with family or statutory agencies around a whole host of family issues. Those issues will be linked to what has been identified in the initial Star assessment and will undoubtedly be at the heart of what the personal solution is seeking to address. To date, the team have seen repeated improvements in relationship and family matters, articulated by the service user and family, through the benefit and the gain of the work that has been undertaken.

Now the programme has been delivering for around 18 months we are in a better position to look at impact, success and how the process is working around delivery. We have to date (collated late May '17) worked with just in excess of 250 service users, and c.100 families.

The work we do has to make a clear measurable difference and we, as an organisation, collate and review impact data and information on a regular basis and also record anecdotal and evaluation feedback:

Quotes from Service Users:

"There is more than one option to deal with things". Anthony. HMP Northumberland. September 2016

"I am responsible for my behaviour". Mohammad. HMYOI Deerbolt. December 2016

"The programme has reformed me – I am a better person now" Chad. HMYOI Deerbolt. April 2017

"I feel like a different person now and I now have the confidence to not allow myself to be put in certain positions or people to treat me how they have done in the past". Charlotte. HMP Foston Hall. February 2017

"I have surprised myself. I have gone through life always being the same and reacting to small things however now I've changed I want to continue to be like this" Craig. HMP Ranby. May 2017

"I can now look at the bigger picture and see things from others points of views and feel more confident about addressing issues in a positive manner. I have a different



perspective on things and will be able to have positive relationships in the future”.  
Michael. HMP Stocken. April 2017

“I have now learnt to talk to my family by using my personal solution ‘being open & honest’. This has helped build trust with them”. Rebecca. HMP New Hall. May 2017

It’s not the Elephants it’s the Ants (work on the small issues before they become big ones). Richard. HMP Humber. March 2017

“It has changed the way I think about things and what I want out of life”. Ricky. HMP Lindholme. April 2017  
He was fortunate enough to gain work as a volunteer with the council (who knew “R’s” offending history) and “R” settled into an enjoyable summer of work in the parks in Scarborough . Six months later a paid position became available and I encouraged “R” to apply – he did and successfully!

“R” still works for Scarborough Council and has now moved to a smaller town nearby, away from old haunts and old acquaintances. He is still drug free and as far as I know happy and content. I occasionally ask IOM police if there is any intelligence on him and they always say the same thing: “No, nothing,”

Ed: In writing up the above case study, Chris was too modest to highlight that fact that much of this work (inc. attending N.A. meetings and participation in the restorative justice process) was undertaken during his own time at evenings and at weekends.





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