

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Assembly for Wales
Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / The Culture, Welsh Language and
Communications Committee
Independent Review of Support for Publishing and Literature in Wales
Ymateb gan Laurence Bater and Phil Forder G4S Gwasanaethau Carcharol a Chadw
/ Evidence from Laurence Bater and Phil Forder G4S Custodial & Detention Services

I would like to take this opportunity to draw to your attention the support and positive engagement Literature Wales has given to HMP & YOI Parc over many years of collaboration.

The Creative Arts at Parc, is a thriving and successful department offering prisoners the opportunity to engage in the various education classes and through the additional projects and workshops that take place on a regular basis in all areas of the establishment. Since the prison opened twenty years ago there has been a successful collaboration with Literature Wales to help provide funding, advice and support to offer a wide variety of workshops and projects for the prisoners.

The projects and workshops that have been supported by Literature Wales have given a large number of individuals an experience of and exposure to creative writing in many formats, that they would not have had the opportunity to have experienced without that support. This type of experience is of great benefit to the prisoners as they generally don't have the opportunity to access such events.

One of the main opportunities for Literature Wales to support the creative arts in Parc has been by organising and providing suitable authors to conduct workshops during the annual Hay in the Parc festival. This event, now coming up to its tenth year, runs in conjunction with the Hay Literary Festival and is formally a part of the event. Over the years many well known and local authors have attended the prison to discuss their work and conduct workshops, all of which have been very well received by the prisoners.

Another very successful collaboration has been the projects undertaken with the prisoners and their families to write and illustrate story books have been particularly successful. Literature Wales have provided funding for two projects to date with a writer and illustrator attending for two full days to produce a fully illustrated, original children's book. The workshops for these projects give the prisoners time to work and interact with their children in a very focused way and allows them greater family time together. The outcomes in terms of the quality of

writing and illustration are also of an excellent quality which is an indication of the enthusiasm and enjoyment the families feel.

Over the many years working with Literature Wales, HMP Parc has had the opportunity to organise creative writing workshops with a wide variety of authors and other literary figures to give the prisoners an insight into and an experience of many different aspects of literature. The majority of these have been made possible with Literature Wales providing match funding to arrange for the writers registered with them to visit the prison.

The creative arts has a very high profile in HMP Parc and creative writing is one of the most popular and successful activities within the many arts disciplines offered. This was recently recognised (2017) when HMP Parc won the Arts in the Community Award from Arts and Business Cymru in partnership with Literature Wales. The prisoners gain many benefits from having the opportunity to access all forms of writing and, along with the Writers in Residence employed in the prison, the support Literature Wales gives to the establishment and individual prisoners is invaluable. We have, over the years, found the staff who visit Parc and those in administration, to be very professional, supportive and enthusiastic in pursuit of the aims to provide greater access to literature for as many individuals as possible.