

8 | Empowerment

Examples:

HMP Gartree PIPE unit during COVID-19 discovered that their residents felt overwhelmed by the amount of information and materials being pushed under their doors. They discussed the situation with the residents and developed a central resource centre in the shared area. This meant that the men were able to choose what they took back into their space and gave them back control over their environment even in a time of social distancing and increased social restrictions. A win-win situation for everybody.

Some Ideas:

1. Ask the people who are experts in being incarcerated what their top tips are for surviving the experiences. Think about how those tips can be used by the staff who are experiencing lock down and isolation in the COVID-19 restrictions.
2. Think about using surveys to decide what to provide to people in prison or in an AP. A simple options and preferences sheet with room to add comments an ideas can be supplied, collected, analysed and feedback to the residents. Use the "you said, we did" process to follow up the actions that result.
3. In the COVID-19 situation distribution of ideas, messages and missives is difficult so set up an internal post office. Have a "postman collect" letters from people to other people in the unit and deliver them on a regular schedule. If you wanted to they could be stamped with a unit rubber stamp.
4. Form an entertainments committee to organise the post COVID-19 entertainment programme and Christmas celebrations. They could also organise birthday parties or recognitions for everyone on the unit, staff included of course.