University of Huddersfield Repository

Reeves, Carla

Sex offender grouping within a probation approved premises

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/13760/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

• The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
• A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
• The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
This presentation explores how convicted or charged sexual offenders within a Probation Approved Premises (probation hostel) experience life within the hostel in terms of group structures.

The presentation considers the findings of an ethnographic case study of a probation hostel which drew upon the work of Sykes and Matza, Goffman and Foucault. The hostel accommodated medium-high and high risk offenders, and was mixed in terms of the offences that residents had committed and also by gender. The fieldwork was conducted over two years, within which time participant observation and in-depth interviewing was undertaken; paying attention to the social interactions of staff and residents of the hostel.

There is little prior research undertaken on the practice of hostels, the experiences of offenders in hostels or work undertaken with sex offenders within hostels. The findings of this study are intended to address this neglect. Key findings presented include the manner in which sex offenders group together in the hostel, the function and use of the group by members and non-members. The sex offender group structure is placed in the context of other resident and staff grouping, and the extent to which sex offenders are regarded as ‘other’ within the hostel. This presentation includes a consideration of how grouping can affect the work of hostel staff aimed towards reintegration and rehabilitation.