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***News Release***  
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**There is a better way to manage prisons.**

**A small charity has been reducing re-offending rates through its unique `Challenge to Change` programme in British prisons for the last ten years. Against the disturbing background of the rioting in prisons, massive overcrowding, abandoning the of the planned Titan prisons, and a revolving door for offenders to keep coming back “inside”, Kainos Community has developed a programme that provides well managed Wings, and through its first ten years has given more than 1200 prisoners the chance to make a new life outside prison, without re-offending or returning to the penal system.**

The Kainos Community approach has developed into a sophisticated and successful way of helping offenders to look honestly at their lives, and address the issues that brought them into prison. As a result the lives of many offenders have been changed dramatically, and their criminal activity ended. Independent research has shown that 87% of the prisoners who complete Kainos Community’s Challenge to Change programme do not return to custody, a dramatic improvement on Ministry of Justice published outcomes. By undertaking the Challenge to Change programme, prisoners take part in a six-month programme addressing needs relating to their offending in a Community setting within the prison.

Kainos has now been running programmes in prisons for ten years and on 12<sup>th</sup> May, our tenth anniversary we can announce two important successes that help to ensure that we will continue to do so for at least the next ten years.

1. On the 27 April, HM Prison at the Verne, Portland, Dorset, announced the award of a contract to Kainos to continue running their programme for the next three years. This vote of confidence enables us to continue our work in the prison where Kainos first introduced our Challenge to Change Programme ten years ago.
2. On 30 April, The Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAP) granted full accreditation to Kainos for the next five years. This is a considerable achievement and makes Kainos only the second voluntary organisation to achieve accreditation since CSAP was set up nearly 10 years ago. This means that the Kainos programme Challenge to Change could now be used by the governor of any prison within England and Wales

Kainos places importance on research in the extent to which Challenge to Change works both in reducing disorder within the prison and in reducing re-offending on release. Routine data collected through the prisons service shows that rates of assaults, adjudications and positive drug testing are lower in Kainos wings than in the rest of the prison. When Kainos was introduced in the Verne in the 1990s, this resulted in a saving of some £100,000 on staff and repair costs.

In the last ten years, some 1200 people have been on Kainos programmes. Whereas a high percentage of those leaving prison return within two years, those who take part in Kainos programmes have a considerably reduced return to prison and re-offending rate. Conservative estimates are that at least 200 of those who have taken part on Kainos programmes are no longer offending as a direct result of such programmes. This reduces crime levels by at least 2,000 crimes a year. Since the full costs of crime are estimated by the Home Office to be around £4000 for each crime, thus saving at least £8million each year, far exceeding the cost of such programmes.

Patricia Rogers is Chief Executive of Kainos Community:

“Achieving full Accreditation is a massive boost to Kainos. It means that we should be taken very seriously by the Prison Service, and improve our standing with Governors and those who make decisions about the funding of rehabilitative programmes in prisons. I would like to establish more programmes in different sorts of prisons throughout the UK, and give more offenders the chance to change direction in this significant and positive way.”

Ends

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