



Innovation – Nominee

Genius Within (Sub-Contractor- Ixion)



Genius Within is commissioned by Ixion in the South East of England, to offer a specialist service supporting young offenders with neurodiversity issues who are not able to access mainstream services at all, or to their full advantage due to the individual needs that they have.

The service is delivered by a specialist Case Manager at HMP Rochester, offering intensive support to a small caseload of participants who are offered 1-2-1 and group work sessions to address their obstacles to learning. Each participant is supported to work on their own individual techniques to enhance their learning and address specific obstacles to learning or employment that they may be facing.

The project addresses obstacles to learning that come from cognitive skills deficits. It is designed on a strength based approach built around the neurodiversity of the individual. Conditions include; dyslexia, dyspraxia, autism, ADHD, anxiety and depression. Engaging on the project enables the participants to develop an awareness of their neurodiversity and the skills and strengths these conditions bring. They then develop coping strategies and creative ways of discovering themselves. The support focuses on building self-awareness, controlling emotion and playing to strengths and this allows participants to understand themselves, to develop self-awareness, self- efficacy, self- confidence and a greater understanding of their past difficulties.

As work progresses the learners become more open to their barriers and their struggles. Group work also offers learners the opportunity to share with others and learn from their experiences.

The project offers an innovative approach to assisting participants to access mainstream services and employment opportunities by providing a bespoke service based on the specialist needs of the individual which allows them to progress in a meaningful way.



HM Prison &
Probation Service



Participants are then better equipped to move towards mainstream provision by both having developed coping strategies for their weaknesses and self-confidence from being aware of their strengths.

Feedback from the course has been incredibly positive and participants have gained so much from the work that Genius Within do with them – To sum up their impact, with a quote from one of the participants: “I can see so much more clearly where I want to be and how to get there now, watch out world, here I come!”