

## PARC PRISON 2023

Parc Prison is a B category prison in Bridgend, Wales consisting of adult, young offenders and young persons' units. The young persons' unit houses male offenders aged 15 – 17. The young people have access to 25 hours of education per week and choose which 'pathway' they are most interested in (health and wellbeing, carpentry, cookery, music and industrial cleaning) as well as having access to the main curriculum consisting of numeracy, literacy, art, employability, ICT and citizenship. The citizenship class discusses matters relating to their environment, health, relationships and their rights.

The number of young people in custody in Wales is very low and the majority of young people in Parc's Youth Offender wing are English. A lot of work has been done over the last two years to change the culture of the unit to be based more around values and respect – The Right Way has complimented this approach.

All staff are informed of the UNCRC and expected to use rights language and refer to rights when relevant. There are clear standards and expectations for staff e.g. using the language of rights to resolve conflict. The young men in Parc have UNCRC awareness in their induction and are encouraged to be aware of their rights. Articles are visibly on display across the unit and used in conversations with young people and staff.

All the young people at Parc are taught about their rights and the rights of others within our community. Every young person is encouraged to share their views on matters that affect them within every area of the Young Persons' Unit. This is done with classroom debates on a fortnightly basis with student council input sessions. This is followed with monthly meetings with relevant staff members and management with the Student Council members. This ensures that young people are listened to and gives them a greater input into life within the Young Persons' Unit.

As a result of the 'child focused' forums Parc have designed an enrichment programme to support the young men to "... to develop the personal skills and positive attitudes to succeed in life'. This enables more opportunities for purposeful activity, equality & diversity, and promoting health & wellbeing. Some examples of activities in the enrichment programme is gardening club, fish keeping club, the duke of Edinburgh bronze award, photography club, mental health bootcamps plus sports and wellbeing workshops, this includes work with Tennis Wales & Dallaglio rugby works. You can read more about this [here](#).

Staff have had training to support young people including: child centred behaviour management training; training around trauma principles to ensure staff are empathetic and supportive; operational staff have had educational training so they can show interest and support for the young men outside of education hours.

Staff we spoke to felt respect has massively increased both ways and that staff challenge each other if they feel something is unfair, pupils are engaging in education and want to please the teachers.

A range of services are being delivered to ensure the young men access their rights to health and to be listened to e.g. nursing staff in house, visiting – psychologist, psychiatrist and mental health nurse and social services e.g. advocacy (Barnardos), onsite social worker and case workers.