



Community Based Health & First Aid in Prisons IITD Training Award 2013

The Community Based Health & First Aid (CBHFA) prison programme was winner of the Training Award for Networks & Groups at the Irish Institute of Training & Development (IITD) Awards on 22nd March 2013.

The CBHFA programme, which operates under a partnership of the Irish Prison Service, Irish Red Cross and Vocational Education Committees, is being implemented in 10 prisons throughout Ireland and is a unique approach to raising community health, hygiene awareness and first aid in prisons using groups of special status Irish Red Cross Volunteer Inmates as peer to peer educators.

The initiative has benefitted 3,273 prisoners directly and 9,829 indirectly including staff and the families of prisoners. Evaluation of the programme has demonstrated high impact in terms of improvement within the prison environment as well as projects that have led to a significant increase in healthcare awareness and prisoner's personal wellbeing.

In addition governors and prison staff have reported better relationships between prisoners and staff as well as a change in outlook in which prisoner volunteers have become more proactive in making their prison community better for everyone.

The Director General of the Irish Prison Service, Michael Donnellan, congratulated all the staff involved in this very innovative project commenting that it was **"a unique approach to raising community health and hygiene awareness and first aid in prison communities through peer to peer education"**. The Director General also noted that not only had the project resulted in improvements in personal, in-cell and prison hygiene, it had also proven to build confidence and personal capacities amongst the prisoners.

"The success of the partnership between the Irish Prison Service, the Irish Red Cross and the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee has been acknowledged with multiple awards and the Prison Service hopes that all fourteen prisons in Ireland will be operating the Programme by the end of 2014" he added.

Other awards that the Programme has won include:

- Irish Healthcare Awards November 2012, Commendation Award for Best Public Health Initiative
- Bionmis Irish Healthcare Awards May 2012, Won Best Health Promotion Project
- World Health Organisation Award in 2011 for Best Practice in Prison Health