

Make a *Real* Impact with Fusion21

At Fusion21, we believe in making a real impact and changing lives. Since 2010 we've been successfully supporting the rehabilitation of UK prisoners as part of our reducing reoffending offer.

Using our expertise and experience, we deliver a wide variety of City and Guilds and NOCN (Cskills) courses to inmates from all backgrounds - teaching practical hands-on construction training courses.

Attending our courses increases the chances of finding employment upon release, but we know that it can be harder to find work in the outside world.

That's why we also self-fund a 'Through the Gates' programme to support ex-offenders upon release. Examples of support include: additional training and industry recognised accreditations; help with finding employment and financial support (travel; clothing and tool kits) plus signposting to partner agencies.

Our course delivery covers Level 1 and Level 2 Diplomas including but not limited to:

- *Painting & Decorating*
- *Site Carpentry*
- *Plastering*
- *Fitted Interiors*
- *Maintenance Operations*
- *Bricklaying*
- *Tiling*
- *Plumbing*

987

987 inmates gained Level 1 and 2 qualifications

118

118 ex-offenders accessed 'Through the Gates' support with 66 individuals gaining additional training / qualifications and 72 securing employment

£1,598,512

£1,598,512 Non Cashable Social Impact Value achieved to date

About us:

Fusion21 is an award-winning procurement organisation which specialises in the construction, property and built environment sectors.

We also offer a range of community regeneration services including delivering social value through reducing reoffending, through consultancy and through the planning system.

Daniel's Story

Grieving for the death of a young child had resulted in Daniel drinking heavily and committing his first offence.

Speaking about his experience before release Daniel said:

"Attending lessons inside prison and learning new skills has given me back my self-confidence. I've now got the motivation to search for work and get my life back on track, and I'm really grateful."

"I've previously had landscaping roles and worked as a fork-lift truck operator, but specialising in a construction trade is a career I'm definitely interested in pursuing.

The course gave me something positive to focus on. It turns out I'm really good at plastering – and painting and decorating, so I'm going to put my skills into practice at home too.

"I can't thank Fusion21 enough – I've received a lot of support and also been mentored by the course trainers. I think even working as a counsellor is something I would now be interested in, I'd like to help others, the way that people have helped me.

It's been a tough time – but being in prison has given me time to think and I've gained a qualification too. I'm still coming to terms with my grief, but looking forward to starting a new chapter with my partner and family."

James' Story

"This recent stint in prison wasn't my first, but I do want it to be my last" said 41-year old James.

"When I was inside I attended a construction skills workshop five days a week and after brushing up on basic skills and achieving a Level 1 Diploma in Construction, I then went on to complete a Level 2 Diploma in Site Carpentry.

"I'd previously had a taste of working in the construction industry but having been in and out of work I hadn't had a steady job in years. Carpentry and joinery is a brand new skill for me and I was made up at the chance to learn something new and gain qualifications too.

"Attending the workshop every day gave me a sense of purpose and allowed me to keep to a routine – something that's really important in prison. I learnt a lot from the tutors and enjoyed it so much that I became a mentor after completing my qualifications, encouraging other inmates to take part and helping them to develop their skills. I also studied for and gained my CSCS card whilst inside so I was approved to work on a construction site as soon as I could."

James contacted Fusion21 following release from prison to access the 'Through the Gates' initiative – he had already lined up a job as a Handyman but needed support to obtain PPE and a professional tool kit.

"You can't start a job in construction without any equipment, Fusion21 arranged for me to receive £500 of construction tools and protective clothing - ranging from safety boots to a 55 piece toolkit."

Regaining control of your life after spending time in prison is really tough. The help I've received to get me ready for work has been overwhelming – I wouldn't have been able to self-fund the tools so this means everything to me."

Get in touch with Fusion21's Reducing Reoffending team:

0845 308 2321 info@fusion21.co.uk www.fusion21.co.uk

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