Richard Ward – Offender Skills and Employment Team, Social Mobility Unit

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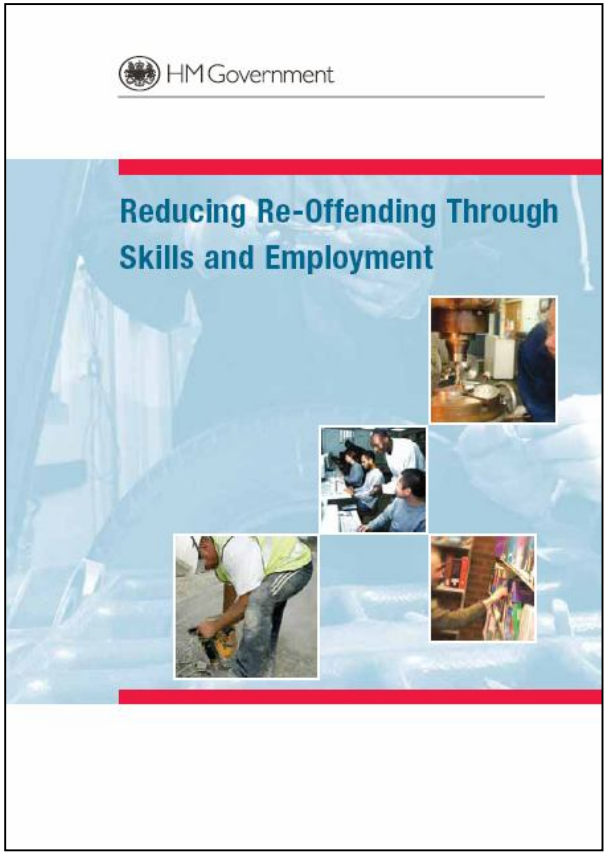
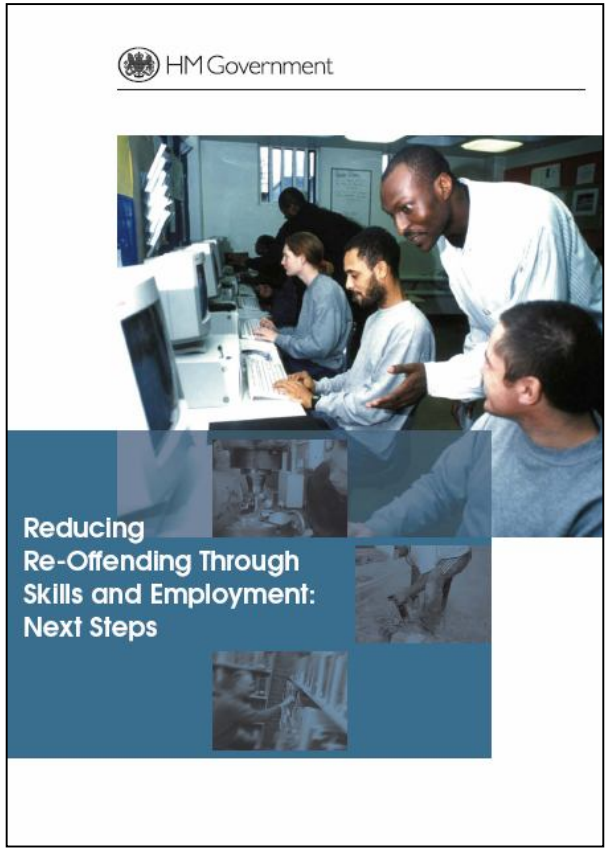
Policy background





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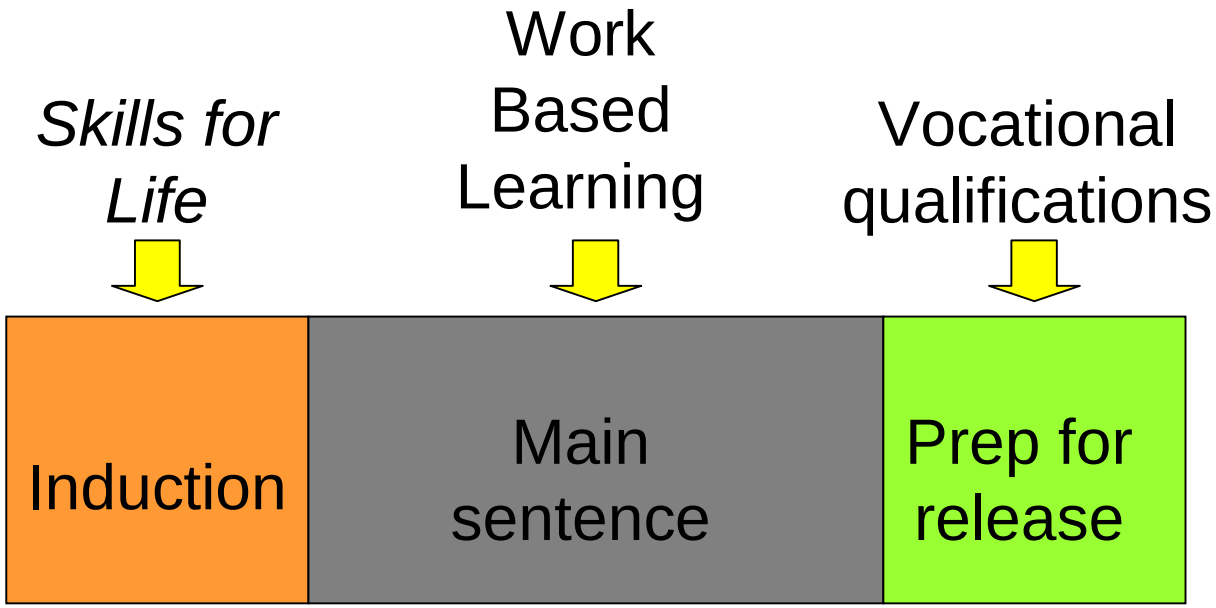
Skills ➔ employment ➔ reduced re-offending



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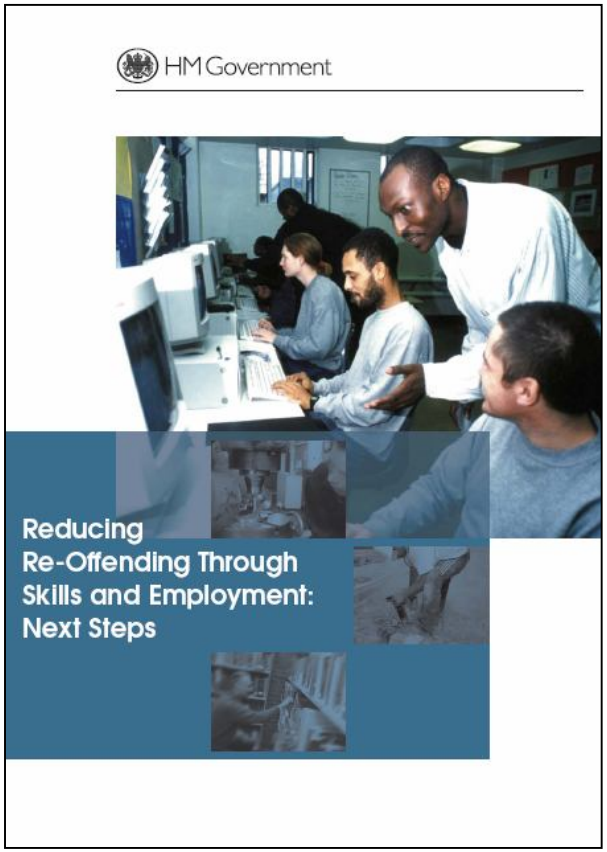
Policy background



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Two test bed regions

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The immediate agenda

- redistribution of learning provision, in a controlled way so as not to destabilise prison regimes.
- developing a system based on shared performance targets and a performance management regime that supports those shared, outcome-focused targets.
- define an appropriate regime for under 12 month offenders.

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The immediate agenda (cont.)

- Implementing a ‘skills for employment’ offer for short term sentenced prisoners: a short intensive programme including functional skills (literacy, numeracy and information technology) with signposting to provision upon release.
- Assessing everyone for learning and skills needs (– and saying why an assessment could not be carried out)
- Making sure we have in place a single consistent record of an offender’s learning needs, the learning they plan to undertake, and the progress they have made.

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The immediate agenda (cont.)

- Putting in place a core curriculum of courses delivered throughout the prison estate and accessible through mainstream further education providers to offenders in the community
- Making payments to providers conditional, in part, on increasing attendance on courses by those offenders who need them, and on the progress that those individuals make.
- Implementing a new data system

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The immediate agenda (cont.)

- Measure the effectiveness of work aimed at helping offenders gain employment.
- Engaging with employers nationally, regionally and locally to offer training and employment to offenders that meet employers' needs.

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