A day in the life of a Recoop Prison Co-ordinator role

What will I do?
All of our planned activity is designed as 'purposeful', meaning, it allows the older population to engage in activity that is of benefit to them. You will be provided with the tools to be able to deliver your service. However, we encourage ownership, flexibility and creativity.

Admin - when will I have time to do it?
Administrative tasks are carried out throughout the day; some planned, some unplanned, reacting to the needs of the service user, prison departments and other stakeholders within the establishment, i.e., probation, and local authority.

Recoop staff have 30 minutes for lunch which leaves around 1.5 hours to complete admin tasks, as a as an hour at the end of every day (between 4pm & 5pm) to wrap up for the day and be well prepared for tomorrow.

What is my main objective?
The primary objective of your day will be to support the needs of the older prisoners, encouraging independence whilst bringing a sense of purpose and hope to their day.

What is co-design/delivery?
Time for prisoners stands still and so we encourage co-design and co-delivery of our services. Not only does this bring a sense of purpose and upskills prisoners in preparation for their lives outside, but it enhances development of our services by having the support and expertise of those who are living the journey.

Is it all plain sailing?
No. There are many challenges working in a prison environment. Prisons operate at a much slower pace and it can often take months to have things actioned. Forward planning and patience are vital.

Is it worthwhile?
Yes. The satisfaction you will get from supporting this population cannot be underestimated. Working with older prisoners is extremely rewarding.

What are my hours?
The 'regime' is different in each prison with prisoner movement times between 8.30 and 9.00. Our day in prison starts around 8.30, but there is flexibility as we manage our own diaries.

A typical day will start between 8.30 and 9.00. Lunchtime movement is between 11.30 and noon, when prisoners go back to their Wings, collect lunch and complete other tasks.

The afternoon generally operates between 2pm and 4pm and our day ends at 5pm.











