

Case 8: Prison, United Kingdom

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This pilot didn't run but we felt that it would be useful to write briefly about it. The project contact was one of the first to take an interest in the project when we began publicising it and were looking for pilot sites. This particular prison already had a coaching and mentoring programme and the plan was to tap into this to see how the ALL-SR approach would work and if there were any differences or similarities with the coaching programme already in place at the prison. Also, if the ALL-SR approach could learn from the programme in the prison which worked with low-literate learners. The coaching programme already running was part of the education programme at the prison and was attached to the literacy course. The coach-mentors were overseen by the literacy tutor who was the contact for ALL-SR.

Since this was a restricted site, several levels of permission were needed and were obtained with support from prison officials and the literacy tutor. The project was fully supported by the Education Manager at the particular prison. Correspondence between the ALL-SR team and the literacy tutor continued for almost 6 months. A member of the ALL-SR team visited the prison with resources to meet the coach-mentors who were prisoners participating in the education programme at the prison and had agreed to pilot the ALL-SR approach. Coach training materials were left with the literacy tutor who oversaw the coach-mentor programme at the prison. However, the pilot could not take place. Reasons could be changes in staff in the education section of that prison or the literacy tutor's illness. The coach-mentors had been very keen to try out the ALL-SR approach but direct contact between them and the ALL-SR project team would have been against regulations.