



SPS Strategy Framework for Spiritual and Pastoral Care, Religion and Belief

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SPS Vision for Spiritual and Pastoral Care, Religion and Belief:

- The Scottish Prison Service recognises the importance of a person's beliefs and values, their life-journey, experiences, assets/talents, potential, needs, losses, hopes, choices and relationships. Underlying this Strategy Framework is a broad understanding of spiritual and pastoral care which encompasses a whole person approach with the capacity to enable change.
- The SPS supports the individual's right to freedom of religious belief and practice and of non-religious belief and practice. Making provision for those who wish to practise their religion or belief in prison is a part of spiritual and pastoral care.
- The SPS recognizes that all people have an intrinsic worth which is not altered by what they have done.
- Spiritual and Pastoral Care recognise that a sense of self-worth or esteem is critical in a person's ability to change their lives and behaviour. Such person-centred care offers purpose, a sense of hope and direction to people in prison, to support re-integration into communities and families, to further desistance and reduce the risk of re-offending.
- Spiritual and Pastoral Care sign-post people in prison to resources, including from Faith or Belief Communities and the voluntary sector, which they can draw on as they seek to make a new future for their lives.
- Spiritual and Pastoral Care concern those matters that affect every human being, such as the quest for meaning in life, the search for a sense of well-being and the integration of one's self and one's relationships. Spiritual and Pastoral Care offer accompaniment to individuals on their daily journey, enable honesty and the acceptance of responsibility towards restoration and recovery, involve realizing potential and flourishing as persons, focus on strengths and gifts, develop learning and skills including those that enable relationships, celebrate the good and share ways of coping with life's challenges from loss and bereavement to reconciliation and inclusion into the community.
- In line with the Equality Act 2010 religion means any religion and the right to declare no religion. Belief means any religious or philosophical belief and the right to declare no belief. This Strategy is therefore of relevance to all prisoners.
- This Strategy provides a broad vision of the role of staff. It acknowledges all staff are involved in delivering individualised care; it seeks to enable staff to recognise spiritual and pastoral, including religious and belief, care needs, and to know when to refer to Chaplains for specialist care.
- Spiritual and Pastoral Care complements care already offered; it's about the way we are or care for each other including prisoners and staff.
- The Strategy supports the promotion and development of community life in prison in preparation for participating in the life of the communities to which people will return. Throughcare may involve supporting a person's links with the Faith or Belief Community to which they belong.
- The Strategy considers a balance of rights, goals and outcomes, and the resolution of any dilemmas in this area.

Goals and Outcomes of the Strategy Framework:

- Clarity in meeting spiritual and pastoral care needs.
- Meets reasonable requirements of people in prison who wish to practise their religion or belief.
- Recognises the value of positive belief in relation to mental well-being (*The Impact of Spirituality on Mental Health* (2006), The Mental Health Foundation) and that the Nine Offender Outcomes are strengthened by an awareness of spirituality and the beliefs a person has.
- A wider awareness of the Chaplaincy service amongst staff leading to increased referrals and a confident staff engagement concerning spiritual, pastoral and religious or belief matters.
- Greater respect for people, enhancing individualised holistic care, through adopting an asset-based approach, contributing to case management and improved throughcare.
- Positive effect on the culture of the organisation.
- Provides opportunities, services and interventions for prisoners and their families that help make prisons and the wider community safer, developing links with Family Help Hubs and other prison/community initiatives.

Foundational Aspects of the Strategy Framework

- Recognition of the requirements of a prisoner's religion or belief as may reasonably be supported allowing for private observance and communal worship within the context of the prison operating regime.
- Recognition that prisoners may observe recognized Days of Religious Observance (Direction under Rule 83(3)(b)).
- There will be provision for a person to change their religion or belief.
- Only recognised religious or belief representatives may minister to persons in prison. Religious or belief representatives must be aware of and comply with the rules, regulations and protocols of the prison in which they work/visit. Standard procedures and suitable facilities are to be provided. Religious texts, items and materials as may reasonably be required are permitted.
- Opportunities to meet with a Chaplain are to be offered. A prisoner may also have reasonable access to their community religious or belief representative (unless there are valid reasons to contact another community) facilitated by a Chaplain.
- The deprivation of religious rights may not be used as a disciplinary measure or punishment, however it is recognized that there may be exceptional circumstances where the right to practise a belief will be restricted, were it considered necessary for the maintenance of good order and discipline within the prison, in the interests of the safety of any person within the prison and for the protection of the health of any person within the prison.
- A prisoner is entitled to possess religious books, items and materials for their own personal use which are appropriate to their religion or belief where there is no compromise to safety or security of the operation of the prison or other persons; it may be that an individual risk assessment will be required.
- No coercion or pressure to practise a religion or belief, at all or in a particular way, is permitted.
- A prisoner should not be dissuaded from the practice of their religion or belief should they so choose.