Art of the Possible: The Place of Art Therapy in Work with High Risk Offenders

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Summary

The paper outlines the aims of art therapy in relation to working with high-risk offenders acknowledging the need for research to establish whether and how it can impact upon reoffending behaviour. A short vignette of practice is provided followed by a discussion of the necessity to find a language which is understood by all practitioners. It concludes with further information on the possibility of links between art and probation practice. In the article, the offender is referred to as "he" and the Art Therapist as "she". The principles of Therapeutic practice are equally applicable in the case of male therapists and female offenders.