



This document outlines a description of the intervention in the provider's own words and a response to the April 2026 evaluation of their intervention.

This wording is from the provider and does not reflect the views of the Justice Data Lab.

LandWorks in their own words

“LandWorks is a specialist rehabilitation and resettlement charity based in the South West of England. LandWorks provides a supported route back into employment and the community for people leaving prison or at risk of going to prison and serving community sentences.

The charity provides placements that combine real work experience and training with comprehensive resettlement support in a safe, non-judgmental environment where participants, referred to as trainees, can gain the stability and social and employability skills that will enable them to develop a crime-free identity and rebuild their lives.

The model is based around a ‘working day’ with the aim that participants become accustomed to work practices, gather relevant training and work skills, build self-worth and confidence, and start to take responsibility. Trainees engage in a series of enterprises based at the LandWorks site, including a market gardening, pottery, and woodworking, all producing items for sale to the local community. The working day has a clear routine and this structure helps build confidence and social skills, such as all trainees and staff eating lunch together with freshly made food cooked in the onsite kitchen each day.

In addition, each trainee has a personalised placement plan and access to a range of support while at LandWorks. This includes the opportunity for 1-1 counselling, as well as practical support with housing, finances, future employment, and co-ordination with substance misuse and mental health services. As far as possible, support is provided directly at the LandWorks base, simplifying access and breaking down barriers to engagement that otherwise exist.

All referrals are from statutory services. They are available for people serving community orders, suspended prison sentences and on licence following prison release. Until 2020, placements were also available for people on day release from prison (Release on Temporary Licence, ROTL) but placements were suspended at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and have not been restarted. Placements last for six to nine months on average – with flexibility about the number of days attended each week but up to full-time. Placements usually end when people have gained some stability in their lives and built the confidence required to maintain a new life outside of the criminal justice system. Wherever possible there is a clear next step, ideally some form of employment.

Post placement, LandWorks offer continuing contact and support, responsive to individual needs (referred to as ‘graduate support’), and the vast majority of former trainees remain in contact.”

Response from LandWorks

“We are grateful to the Justice Data Lab team for undertaking this research. It is very encouraging that there is clear evidence from the analysis that after involvement in LandWorks people are significantly less likely to be reconvicted for a further offence. We understand that it is less likely to find a statistically significant result like this from a small sample size and therefore the analysis of LandWorks can be considered to be a very positive and notable result.

The analysis is an important addition to the range of evidence that we have – from qualitative research, management information and evaluation – that LandWorks is making a real difference to people’s lives, not only reducing their likelihood of reoffending but also providing a platform for lasting change. Short term reoffending rates only tell one part of the picture, and our participants regularly report improvements in skills, confidence, mental health, family relationships and a wide range of other important areas associated with reducing the long-term risk of reoffending and providing the basis for a more positive life. We regularly work with people with unstable lives, multiple needs and who are some way from being ready to enter and sustain employment. Over the course of a placement, we can see the improvements that are made as they build the confidence, skills and relationships needed to start again.

We note that the Justice Data Lab analysis of a cohort of 90 people did include a small number who started LandWorks placements but were removed at a very early stage by HMPPS, not being allowed to continue their placement either because ROTL (Release on Temporary Licence) placements were suspended or because of a recall to prison. This means that they did not get to benefit from the full LandWorks programme.

Overall, we believe that this is a very positive report adding to the evidence that the LandWorks model - combining purposeful activity and highly personalised support delivered in a positive environment and over sustained periods – can make a real difference.”

Further information

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Contact

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/media-enquiries>

Other enquiries about the analysis should be directed to:

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