



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

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

## **Changing Tunes in their own words**

“Changing Tunes delivers music-based learning and mentoring sessions in prison settings, led by professional musicians. Activities include learning musical instruments, songwriting, music recording, and preparing performances and concerts through both group and individual sessions. The intervention is delivered on an ongoing, open-access basis rather than as a fixed-length course, with participants able to engage for varying periods depending on their attendance, ranging from a few weeks to several years. Sessions are typically delivered at least weekly throughout the duration of the organisation’s contract with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). Participants are referred through advertising within prisons and are assessed for participation by local prison staff. Changing Tunes does not apply its own formal eligibility criteria or screening process and access is open to any individual permitted to participate by the prison. Changing Tunes also run post-release Hubs where participants who have engaged in the work in Prison are able to continue to engage after release. This work supports prison leavers returning to the community.”

## Response from Changing Tunes

“We are grateful to the team at Justice Data Lab for their work on this report. Whilst the results do not accord with our own sense of the matter we acknowledge their value.

The Changing Tunes model relies on two separate but importantly linked elements; our in-prison work and our work in the community. In many ways the community-based work is where we have our greatest impact, supporting participants’ re-entry into society and their resettlement. However, only about 5-10% of the people we work with inside can access our post-release programme, greatly reducing our potential impact. This drop off will be reflected in the figures contained in this report and hence the efficacy of our model across a wide range of our participants.

Reducing re-offending is one aim of our work but is not the full picture. Much of our work inside focusses on participants surviving their sentence, providing purposeful activity, self-expression at a time of imprisonment and mental health support. It is these elements rather than explicit offence reduction that prisons and prisoners alike appreciate in our work.

We recognise that reducing re-offending is not a one-time event but instead is more of a process. Changing Tunes’ long-term commitment to prisons means that participants can return to our service again and again should they return to prison. Many participants that we work with on the outside comment on how it was Changing Tunes that helped them get through their sentence and also gave them a focus on release.

Diving into the data it is very interesting to note the high levels of complexity identified within our participant cohort. This reflects our open approach and willingness to work with anyone. It also reflects our partner prisons’ approach to targeting our work to some of the most complex individuals in their care.

In our own monitoring and evaluation systems we compliment statistical output data with case studies and outcomes. Using this approach and linking outcomes to our Theory of Change we can see quite clearly how Changing Tunes contributes to Desistance from Crime as detailed by Shadd Maruna in his research into our work.

([www.artsevidence.org.uk/evaluations/narrative-based-evaluation-changing-tunes-music-ba](http://www.artsevidence.org.uk/evaluations/narrative-based-evaluation-changing-tunes-music-ba))”

## Further information

### Official Statistics

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards.

Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing [regulation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk) or via the OSR website.

### 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:

#### **Justice Data Lab team**

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