

To whom it may concern

27<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Dear Colleague

### **Alternatives to Violence Programme**

The Prison Service Violence Reduction Strategy implores each prison to do all that it can to minimise violence. This includes addressing the needs of those who use violence and aggression by for instance enabling them to develop more effective social skills so that they can function in the world of people without causing harm.

The Alternatives to Violence Programme provides a well structured and accessible experience for prisoners to learn how to communicate and express their feelings, without losing control and in a way that they can be heard and acknowledged by others. AVP can demonstrate success in many establishments and most importantly feedback from prisoners demonstrates personal success and satisfaction with the new skills gained.

AVP is a good addition to a Violence Reduction Strategy and I commend its use in that context.

Yours sincerely

Gill Brigden

Head of Violence Reduction  
Safer Custody Group