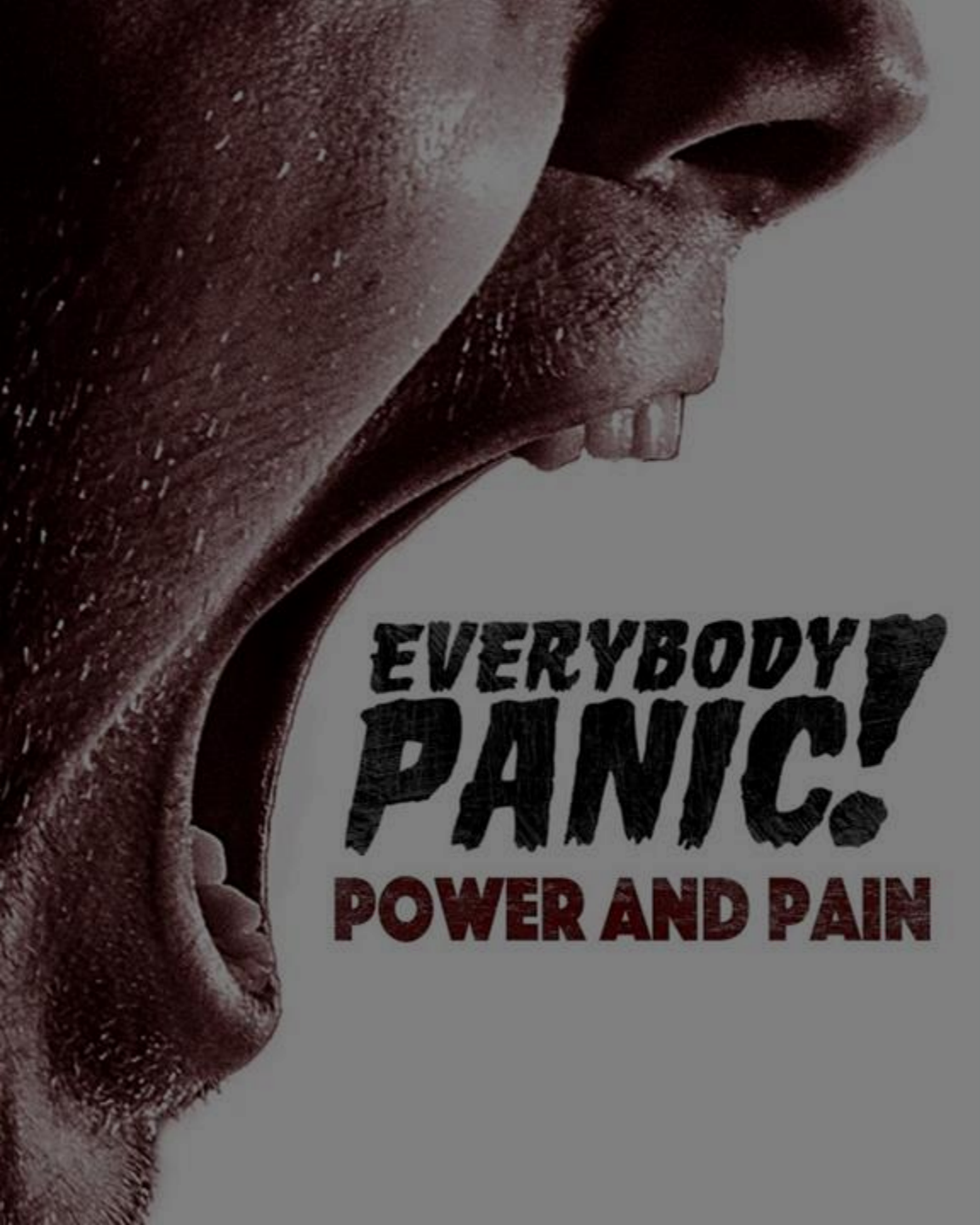




THE IATROGENIC OUTCOMES OF
'WELL MEANING' PENAL PEER LED
INDUCTION

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EVERYBODY! PANIC! POWER AND PAIN

Revisiting the Pains of Imprisonment: a contemporary insight

“..it has become increasingly obvious that the pains of imprisonment are not uniform or constant. Different personal needs shared by prisoners, in turn produce different perceptions of prison environments and different reactions to imprisonment. One man’s (or woman’s) meat can indeed be another’s poison; Prisons possess diverse ecologies and house diverse populations; transactions of prisoners make for a complex mosaic of stress and adaptation”

Transition Specific Pain

“Whilst most inmates, including long-term prisoners, adjust successfully to prison life, many do not cope well with the pains of imprisonment. Maladaptive responses such as emotional disorders, self-mutilation, suicide attempts, and prison misbehaviour are most common during the early phases of induction” (Adams, 1992: 27)

Entry shock

Fear of the unknown

Lack of social support

Physical environment


Fear and nervousness about release (Jones, 2007)

FOUNDATIONS OF PEER SUPPORT AND PEER LED INDUCTION

- Peer Support:

“the provision of education, support or counselling between individuals who are of equal social status or who share similar characteristics or who have common experiences” (Woodall et al, 2015)
- Core values of mutual reciprocity, shared problem solving, empathy and experiential exchange (Blagden & Perrin, 2014).
- Peer Led Induction:

utilises peer support workers alongside staff as a power-sharing initiative to deliver support and information, advice and guidance specifically to prisoners entering a penal establishment

A man in a dark suit and white shirt stands on a platform formed by two hands reaching up from the bottom. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**IATROGENESIS:
IT'S NOT WHAT IT
SAYS ON THE TIN**

- “injury, hurt or damage generated by an institutional practice which is justified on the basis of helping, assisting or healing individuals with problems requiring remedy” (Scott, 2016: 1).



**THE FOUNDATIONS
OF IATROGENIC
'PRISON MADE
PAIN'**

Motivation: The Abuse & Misuse of Power

- i) 'Feathering the Nest'

“They are manipulators [...] out for themselves” (Joey)

- ii) 'The Peer Support Paradox'

“Luckily, I knew a few fellas from my last prison, and they showed me the ropes and what I needed to do [...] no-one else did” (Pauley)

THE FOUNDATIONS OF IATROGENIC 'PRISON MADE PAIN'

- i) 'Intervention-itis'

"It makes sense from the higher ups [...] saves them resources and plugs the gaps that exist [...] I guess its clever management or maybe desperation. (Officer Lily)

Top-Down vs Bottom-Up Process:

"If they bothered to ask us or listened when we tried to feedback and acted upon it [...] things would be so much better" (Officer Emily)

"I mean, we are the ones doing this day in and day out [...] we see where the issues lie, what they are [...] it's not a quick fix admittedly but it can be improved [induction]" (Officer Kev)



THE FOUNDATIONS
OF IATROGENIC
'PRISON MADE
PAIN'

ii) 'Papering Over the Cracks and Ticking the Box'

"They just trot things out willy-nilly, without any thought about the logistics and practicality [...] they just want a quick fix, no thought about how to go about it though" (Officer Kev)

"They are relentless [...] the only time we see them is when they are chasing us up for not meeting a target or ticking a box [...] always the negatives, the things that affect them" (Officer Emily)

"It's just another example of arse-covering and crossing off another thing on their action plan" (Officer Kev)

"They put something in place, tick their box then we are left to try and make it happen [...] Induction is no different". (Officer Woody)

THE FOUNDATIONS OF IATROGENIC 'PRISON MADE PAIN'

An intervention “not sufficiently grounded in sound [evidence and underpinned by] criminological theory is unlikely to succeed and may do more harm than good” (Zane et al., 2016: 153)

“Most misunderstandings in the world could be avoided if people would simply take the time to ask, “What else could this mean?” (Shannon L. Alder, n.d.)

Programme Theory

“a tool to help people “better understand what works, for whom and under what circumstances” (Maden et al, 2017: 2).



TIGHTNESS

- Tightness

It best “captures the feelings of tension and anxiety generated by uncertainty” (Crewe, 2011a; Freeman & Seymour, 2010)

Prisoner Tightness

not knowing what to do, when to do it or how to do it for fear of getting it wrong

Staff Tightness

“those who perform dehumanising tasks become themselves dehumanised”, those who inflict pain have pain inflicted upon themselves (Scott (2006: 29)

An hourglass with orange sand is centered on a wooden shelf. The sand is more abundant in the top bulb than the bottom bulb. The background is a dark, muted green.

IS SOMETHING BETTER THAN
NOTHING?
