



## **HMP Low Moss Exhibition at Paisley Museum & Art Gallery 1 August - 24 September 2017**

The Learning Centre in HMP Low Moss has supported Paisley's bid to become City of Culture 2021 through a programme of creative arts projects including drawing and painting, sculpture, textiles, film, photography, creative writing, music and spoken word.

Many of the inmates of HMP Low Moss have direct links with Paisley and the surrounding area and have supported this project by contributing work to the exhibition.

Our learners know more than most, that over recent years, Paisley has experienced challenges associated with economic decline. As Paisley attempts to weave itself a new pattern, we explored how the town was once a place of global consequence to the impact of post-industrial decay felt to this day.

Arts and creativity in criminal justice settings can awaken an interest in learning and can help people build new positive identities. There is evidence to suggest that engaging in the arts can also lead to new skills and employment opportunities, as well as equipping participants with a desire to actively engage in their community and culture in new and meaningful ways, weaving a positive pathway back to family and place.

This Paisley focused project has seen higher than usual attendances in the art room and music room. A Paisley 2021 event at HMP Low Moss in June 2017 provided the opportunity for prison based learners to gain an overview of Paisley's bid to become UK City of Culture in 2021 followed by demonstrations on a Paisley loom by a weave expert, a song writing master class by an expert from University of the West of Scotland and an insight into how to present the learner's work at Paisley Museum by a Renfrewshire Leisure Creative Learning Worker.