



Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 30 APRIL 2020



Community Chaplaincy- Norfolk (CCN)

CCN works alongside people leaving prison, together with their families, offering mentoring and holistic support within prison, at and through the prison gate and in the wider community. The service is open to offenders of any faith or none. CCN supports clients towards changes in attitude and behaviour, to enable desistance from crime, reducing the likelihood of returning to prison and improving their chances of reintegration into the community.

Through provision of Volunteer Mentors offering regular appointments, CCN gives clients support to engage with positive activities, reducing the likelihood of the continuation of addictive or anti-social behaviours by identifying and encouraging personal interests, working towards engagement in education, training or employment.

CLIENT WORK OVER FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 2020

We received eight referrals this quarter. Numbers were significantly reduced by the outbreak of Corona virus Covid-19 and the subsequent lock-down. Of these seven cases, one declined support at the prison gate and one was an inappropriate referral. We continue to work with referring professionals to reinforce our referral criteria and clarify what we can offer, namely Mentor support for individuals approaching release into Norfolk who are not convicted of a sexual offence (our insurance not currently allowing us to support those with this type of criminal record).

Since Covid-19 we have been writing to five of the six new clients, enclosing pre-paid envelopes for them to reply. The other new client has D Category status, meaning that he is released daily on temporary licence, during which time he can make and receive phone calls.

We have had 26 clients on our books this quarter in total and as at the end of April 2020 we have 16 active clients. We closed two cases due to their release destination being outside Norfolk (beyond our scope of support) and another case due to the level of risk posed deemed to be too high for our volunteer Mentors to manage safely. In five of the cases closed this quarter, the client either declined further support or did not continue to engage. One client case was closed as he and the Mentor agreed that he was successfully reintegrated into a positive way of life and no longer needed support. We operate an open-door policy and clients are welcome to return for 'after-care' or further support at any point if they wish.

Tragically one of our clients took his own life recently. The suicide rate among ex-prisoners is much higher than that of the general population (read more <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/nov/18/freed-prisoners-killing-themselves-at-a-rate-of-one-every-two-days>). Staff and Mentors are deeply saddened by this loss and our CCN community will miss him.

NEW PATRON AND NEW TRUSTEE

We are delighted that Lady Dannatt (Pippa), HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, has accepted the invitation to become our Patron. And, also within the Quarter, we have strengthened our body of Trustees, with the appointment of Lady Agnew (Clare) who was High Sheriff of Norfolk 2019/20. She joins: Rev Matthew Hutton (Chair), Chris Tomlinson, Paulo Mussi, Clare Kybird and Martin Edwards

ADAPTING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Our service continues to operate, supporting our existing clients, with staff and Mentors working from home, as our venue at St Stephen's Church in Norwich City Centre has been closed since the end of March.

We succeeded in completing our Mentor training online via Zoom and are proud to confirm the recruitment of five new Mentors this quarter, bringing the total number of active Mentors to 15, with a further seven people due to complete training once lockdown eases.

We are hosting Trustee and Mentor meetings via the Zoom platform and maintaining contact with our existing clients by telephone whilst face to face appointments are not possible.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement, which we greatly appreciate.

Melanie Wheeler, Project Leader, 30th April 2020