



Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2021



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 Clients 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, and working towards engagement in education, training or employment.

CLIENT WORK OVER NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021

We received ten referrals this quarter. Of these cases, one person was already in the community, referred from a Probation Service Officer at the Norwich Community Rehabilitation Company resettlement service. Seven people were referred whilst still in prison, seven from HMP Norwich, (including one person who was referred the day before his release) and one from HMP Wayland. One was an inappropriate referral due to the nature of the offence committed. It is important to us to balance the needs of the Clients against the potential risks posed to our Mentors.

Access to HMP Norwich was restricted again throughout December and January as part of the carefully implemented measures put in place to limit the transmission of Covid-19. However, we met seven clients at the prison gates this quarter, as part of our 'release day' support package.

We have had 31 clients on our books this quarter in total and as at the end of January 2021 we have 25 active clients. We closed six cases this quarter: three where the client either declined further support or did not continue to engage, two instances in which the client received support whilst in prison but did not continue after release, and one client was linked to support in a different area, due to his discharge destination.

THE VOLUNTEER MENTORS

As of 31st January 2021 we have 16 active Mentors. Some volunteers are currently choosing not to work with CCN clients due to other responsibilities or a need to shield for health reasons.

We have been advertising our forthcoming Mentor training extensively, with articles both in the Eastern Daily Press and on Network Norwich, as well as promotion and via social media and our contact networks.

You can see details of our forthcoming training and read the full press release at https://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/601255/Network_Norwich_and_Norfolk/Opportunities/Volunteer_link/Norfolk_charity_seeks_volunteers_to_support_prison.aspx.

We continue to hold Volunteer support meetings online via Zoom, and our Mentors learned about employment support and training opportunities available for our clients from Action Community Enterprises (ACE). We provided 25 one-to-one support sessions to Mentors this quarter.

CO-OPERATION, NETWORKING AND MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

It is vital for our organisation to co-operate with other agencies to ensure our clients can access all the help and support they need. This quarter we have accompanied four clients to appointments with their Probation Officers and assisted seven clients to source accommodation with other organisations, including St Martin's Housing, Norwich City Council, Hope into Action and House of Genesis, as well as regularly liaising with the Pathways homelessness service.

We are in discussions with the Magdalene Group and the St Giles Trust with regard to developing the support we can offer to female ex-offenders.

As ever, thank you for all your support and encouragement, which we greatly appreciate.

Melanie Wheeler, Manager, 31st January 2021