



Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 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 AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020

We received nine referrals this quarter. Of these cases, three people were already in the community. Two were referred by Norfolk Constabulary 180 Team and through the Community Rehabilitation Company, via Anglia Care Trust. One was a self-referral, who heard about CCN from a friend who was receiving Mentoring himself. Six people were referred whilst still in prison, three from HMP Norwich and three from HMP Wayland.

We have recently been having direct contact with prisoners again. This is conducive to good engagement with clients prior to release, increasing the likelihood of building an ongoing working relationship.

One of our clients who has served 12 years, had a successful parole hearing in October and is due for release before December 2020. We will meet him at the gate. It has been a privilege to support him to make practical and mental preparation for his fresh start.

We have had 26 clients on our books this quarter in total and as at the end of October 2020 we have 24 active clients. We closed two cases this quarter, where the client either declined further support or did not continue to engage.

SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR OUR MENTORS

As at 31st October we have 20 active Mentors. Four people have recently completed their training, of whom one has completed reference checks and induction and is awaiting her first client. Not everyone who completes the training chooses to go on to become a Mentor. The nature of our organisational model is such that volunteers availability or life circumstances change.

We intend to run further CCN Mentor training in the early part of next year, with a focus on recruiting women to work with female clients. The vast majority of our current clients are men and we have identified this as an area for organisational development.

Eight of our Mentors received a day of Mental Health First Aid Training recently. Covering topics such as anxiety, PTSD, depression and suicidal ideation, this ongoing professional development will inform Mentors practice when working with vulnerable clients.

We have been holding Volunteer support meetings online via Zoom, and our Mentors have enjoyed guest speakers from The Community Chaplaincy Association, Norwich City Council and St Martins Housing.

CO-OPERATION, NETWORKING AND MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

We hosted the first gathering of our Professionals Network meeting on the 20th of October. Attended by 16 professionals from 15 different agencies, all working with people who have convictions, this quarterly event was a good opportunity to share ideas and information to ensure clients get access to the range of services available and increase their chances of successful resettlement after a custodial sentence. We will hold a subsequent event in January 2021.

Thank you for your encouragement and for making it possible for us to deliver support where it is needed.

Melanie Wheeler, Project Leader, 31st October 2020