



Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 30TH APRIL 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 FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 2021

We received nine referrals this quarter. Of these cases two were already in the community, including one individual who has served over 30 years and prison and who was feeling very isolated following his release, and 7 were in HMP Norwich. Two were inappropriate referrals due to the nature of offence or level of risk posed. One person received support whilst in prison but then moved to another area on release, one was released briefly but recalled to prison shortly afterwards (we will continue to work with him during this time). One person who was referred declined to engage with support. The other two people are still awaiting release and our Mentors and staff are engaging with them to prepare for this transition.

We are now able to visit clients at HMP Norwich, on legal/professional visits and it is anticipated that this opportunity to build relationship will increase our engagement success rate.

We have supported 2 clients into independent accommodation this quarter, and another has participated in 2 short courses and secured an offer of part time employment with encouragement from his Mentor.

THE VOLUNTEER MENTORS

We have completed a seven-week training course with 10 participants. Of these 8 have opted and been accepted as new Mentors for CCN. We are in the process of seeking references and beginning the induction process with our new volunteers.

We also ran a training session for new and existing Mentors in partnership with the Wonder+ project (part of the St Giles Trust) about working with c offenders. We continue to liaise with resettlement and probation staff at HMP Peterborough around increasing our support offer to women leaving this establishment.

We continue to hold Volunteer support meetings online via Zoom, and this quarter our Mentors heard from a GP Salvation Army addiction specialist, and the coordinator from an organisation specializing in dyslexia and improving adult literacy. We provided 29 one-to-one support sessions to Mentors this quarter.

SERVICE NEWS AND DEVELOPMENT

We have trained 2 volunteers who are offering Penpal support to prisoners who still have significant periods of custody to serve. This enhances our offer, provides a referral route into Mentorship, and is a more efficient use of our resources, releasing Mentors to work with clients who are approaching/post release.

Our base at St Stephen's Church has been closed for much of lockdown. We are now able to make use of the space for one-to-one meetings with clients again, in line with social distancing measures, and the community café is open for refreshments to be consumed on the tables outside or takeaway. We anticipate that this opportunity for a return to face-to-face support will improve the outcomes for our clients.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Abby Erwin, who will begin work as CCN Mentor Coordinator (a new part-time post) on the 14th of June 2021.

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

Melanie Wheeler, Manager, 30th April 2021