



Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 31ST JULY 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 MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2021

We received twenty referrals this quarter. Referrals have come from Prison Chaplaincy, prison and community Probation staff, family services and via prisoners referring themselves to our service. Of these referrals, one person declined to sign up, 1 is being deported to Iraq, two signed up but have since disengaged, three were unsuitable referrals due to the length of sentence left to serve (we will revisit them closer to release time), one has engaged and is in the community, and nine have engaged but are still in prison. For these nine clients we are in the process of allocating Mentors, who are visiting via the legal/professional visits, and beginning to build working relationships.

We are very pleased to say that we have received our first productive referral from the female side of HMP Peterborough, after extensive work to determine effective partnership practices. We will be co-operating with the St Giles Trust Wonder+ Team to offer a package of support to the woman in question.

Our Mentors are currently engaging with a total of 35 clients, including two who are receiving pen-pal only support. This quarter we have supported a client to sign up for a training course in the offshore energy sector, and another to engage with an outdoor activity program to reduce loneliness and isolation.

THE VOLUNTEER MENTORS

Six of our eight new Mentors are now working with their first clients, having received additional training in our assessment processes and use of our secure database, Iizuka.

As part of our commitment to ongoing professional development for our volunteers we held a group session with a guest speaker, the Head of reducing re-offending at HMP Norwich, for our Mentors to ask questions. Some of our volunteers attended suicide prevention training online. We also held a social event, an evening barbecue for staff, clients, volunteers, and Trustees, to show our appreciation and promote positive working relationships in our CCN Team.

Our new Mentor Coordinator, Abby Erwin has been taking over the volunteer management, providing support sessions to each volunteer, initially in collaboration with the Manager, and then independently.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND SERVICE NEWS

We have been working with HMPPS on the creation of a formal information sharing agreement, and continue to strengthen working relationships with HMP's Norwich, Wayland and Peterborough, as well as regularly corresponding with Probation staff and accompanying clients to Probation appointments.

We have had meetings with staff from our local Sexual Assault Referral Centre and have arranged some training for our Mentors. Many of our male clients report experience of sexual assault, and we want to feel equipped to support them effectively.

We continue to consult with a range of professionals with expertise in working with people convicted of sexual offences, to inform and safeguard ourselves, as we investigate how we can support this client group.

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

Melanie Wheeler, Manager, 31st July 2021