



Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 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 AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2021

We received sixteen referrals this quarter. Referrals have come from Prison Chaplaincy, Children's Services Beyond Care Team, Pathways homelessness service, ACE Training, HMP Norwich Resettlement Team and Safer Custody Team, Menscraft (a local charity supporting men), a Community Pastor, a police officer from the 180 persistent and prolific offender team and via prisoners referring themselves to our service. We are pleased that so many different organisations are aware of and referring to our service. Of these referrals, one has declined commencement of service, 1 has been assigned a Mentor but not yet engaged, two were inappropriate referrals due to nature of offence, two have moved out of the Norfolk area, five have engaged with Mentors and five are awaiting assessment. We have been attending a weekly multi-agency meeting at which the accommodation arrangements for people due for imminent release from HMP Norwich are discussed. This is proving a helpful forum to liaise with other agencies involved with our clients.

Our Mentors are currently engaging with a total of 36 clients, including two who are receiving pen-pal only support. This quarter we have supported six clients around accommodation issues, completing referrals for hostel and/or Local Authority housing, facilitating assessment meetings with housing providers and physically helping one person to move into a new home.

THE VOLUNTEER MENTORS

We currently have 18 active Mentors. We are part way through another Mentor Training course, with 8 people in attendance. The course includes modules on safeguarding, an introduction to the criminal justice system, theories of change, communication, boundaries and goal setting, as well as an additional module for those wanting to work with women.

Many of our clients present with mental health needs. To better equip our Mentors to work with these issues we invited the Manager from the Mental Health Team at HMP Norwich to speak at our September Mentor support meeting. Mentors found it useful to learn more about some of the different mental health conditions and asked questions about how to best support their clients.

EVENTS AND SERVICE NEWS

During Prisons Week (October 10th-16th) we hosted an exhibition of prisoners' artwork at our St Stephen's Church base, in partnership with Spurgeons family support service. Showcasing the work of prisoners from HMP Bure and Norwich, creations focused on the theme of 'being Dad' and included some audio recordings made by prisoners in partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. See more about the annual week of prayer at <https://www.prisonweek.org/>

We were pleased to welcome Michael Gurney DL, High Sheriff of Norfolk to speak and debate with CCN Mentors, Trustees and Friends in October.

We have had some interest in our advertisement for new members to join our Board of Trustees but are still seeking further applications. Please get in touch to find out more about this opportunity.

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

Melanie Wheeler, Manager, 31st October 2021