

Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED JANUARY 2022



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 2021 & JANUARY 2022

We received only five referrals this quarter. Referrals have come from Probation services both in prison and in the community, from Access Community Trust (accommodation provider) and one individual referring themselves to our service. Of these referrals one was an inappropriate referral due to the level and complexity of need of the client, the others have engaged with Mentors. We are pleased to receive a referral from the Breckland area and hope to recruit more Mentors to support clients in this part of the County. Referral numbers have been lower than usual due to staff illness, Christmas break, lockdowns in HMP Norwich, and a focus on current clients and Mentors. We anticipate a steady rise in referrals again during the next quarter.

Mentors engaged with a total of 38 clients in this period, with 28 currently on our database. We also supported two men who are receiving pen-pal only contact. The ethnic breakdown of the clients we supported this quarter is 3 black British, 1 white Irish, 1 mixed race, 1 black Caribbean and 34 white British. This is indicative of the predominantly white British population in Norfolk.

Four CCN clients who have served longer sentences were released this quarter, including one IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) prisoner. Mentors work hard to support such clients with the significant challenges of this transition.

THE VOLUNTEER MENTORS

We currently have 16 active Mentors. We recently ran an eight-week training course and recruited three new Mentors as a result, one is already active, the others are in the process of providing references and a DBS check. Another course is scheduled to begin mid-March, and there is plenty of interest from potential participants. See <https://norfolkchaplaincy.org.uk/volunteering/> for further information.

Many of our clients experience poverty and find managing money challenging. We invited guest speakers from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to present at our recent Mentor Support evening, and CAP services are available to individual clients for help with budgeting and debt management.

EVENTS AND SERVICE NEWS

Approximately 50 people came along to our Annual Meeting on the 4th of November, including our supportive and valued Patron, Lady Dannatt, the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk.

We held our Winter Social event at St Stephen's Church in December (see picture). A pleasant evening of refreshments and entertainment was enjoyed by clients, mentors, staff and Trustees, encouraging social interaction and strengthening relationships with our service users. We are pleased that a good percentage of clients regularly drop in to our city centre base for informal support, and we are undertaking consultation with our clients about how else we can support them through the provision of group activities.



We are currently conducting interviews to appoint new Trustees to join our Board and look forward with anticipation to the benefits of new skills and perspectives which this will bring to the CCN family. Sound financial management and good governance is integral to the running of CCN. We very much appreciate all the generous grants and donations received during 2021 and will continue to offer our core business of providing volunteer Mentors to support ex-offenders in Norfolk.

As ever, thank you for all your support and encouragement

Melanie Wheeler, Manager, 31st January 2022