

# Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2022



## Community Chaplaincy- Norfolk (CCN)

CCN is a Christian charity which works alongside people leaving prison (Clients), 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 give 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 2022**

We received ten referrals this quarter. Referrals have come from Probation services both in prison and in the community, from staff at HMP Norwich Visitors Centre (Spurgeons), Resettlement and specialist housing staff in HMP Norwich and two individuals referring themselves to our service. Of these referrals two people were released before they could be seen due to the short time-scale between receiving the referrals and release day, one was an unsuitable referral as he was not going to be living in Norfolk upon release, two have been assessed and allocated Mentors, two have been assessed and are in the process of being allocated Mentors, two are awaiting initial assessment and one presented with very complex mental ill health which was beyond the scope of our volunteers.

Mentors engaged with a total of 37 Clients in this period, with 32 currently on our database. We support two men who are receiving pen-pal only contact and we trained two more pen-pal volunteers in May.

We met three Clients from the gate this period, from HMP's Highpoint, Wayland and Norwich, supporting them to attend Probation, register with GP's, apply for welfare benefits, source food and clothing and access accommodation. You can read an account of the CCN day one release work recently published by Russell Webster here <https://www.russellwebster.com/first-day-out-of-prison/>

## THE VOLUNTEER MENTORS

We currently have 20 active Mentors, who continue to receive regular one to one supervision from our Mentor Co-ordinator, Abby Erwin. This quarter our Mentors have also benefited from training delivered by the Housing Specialist - Accelerator Prisons Project from HMP Norwich, and from the Learning, Development & Support (LDS) Programme Lead at St Martins Housing. The ongoing professional development of CCN volunteers is integral to our model. Our volunteers dedicated over 170 hours of time to supporting prison leavers this quarter.

## EVENTS AND SERVICE NEWS

The CCN Annual Summer Social, held at Bittern Meadow in Postwick on July 18<sup>th</sup>, was attended by 25 staff, Mentors, Trustees, Clients and their friends and family members, who enjoyed a barbecue. The importance of simple, safe socializing as part of reintegration cannot be underestimated.



Our Chair of Trustees, Rev. Matthew Hutton DL retired from the Board on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. We are immensely grateful for his steady, hardworking dedication to CCN. Chris Tomlinson is our newly appointed Chair, and we look forward to our next chapter under his leadership. Read the [press release](#).

We featured on the BBC Radio Norfolk breakfast show during National Volunteers Week in June, showcasing the working relationship between a CCN Mentor and Client, coinciding with an opportunity for prospective volunteers to drop in at St Stephen's Church to find out more about the work of CCN and to sign up for our Autumn Mentor Training. The story was covered by Network Norwich, read more [here](#).

## SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO STAY OUT OF PRISON

Over 60% of our current clients are released from custody and living in the community. The level and intensity of support provided by staff and volunteers is increased, particularly initially following release. The table below shows the range of custody free time Clients are achieving, and the ongoing nature of our work – change happens over time, not overnight.

Custody Free time	1+ months	6+ months	12+ months	18+ months	24+ months
No. of ongoing Client cases as at 28 Jul 22	7	6	3	3	3

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

Melanie Wheeler, Manager, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022