



# Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk

## Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025

### COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY NORFOLK - CCN

CCN is a Christian charity which works alongside people leaving prison (clients), 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.

CCN trains and supports volunteer mentors to meet regularly with clients and support them to engage with positive activities, reducing the likelihood of addictive or anti-social behaviours by identifying and encouraging personal interests, and working towards education, training or employment.

### CLIENT WORK JANUARY – MARCH 2025

We received 10 referrals this quarter. Referrals have come from Community Offender Managers (2), Resettlement Team at HMP Norwich (4), Chaplaincy Teams at HMP Wayland (1) and HMP Norwich (1), Shaw Trust CFO Evolution (1), Citizens Advice (1) and Self-Referral (1). Of these referrals, 4 are engaging with Mentors, 2 were declined due to risk, 2 were paused until nearer release date, 1 was released before he could be assessed, and 1 did not engage.

A total of 27 Clients were open cases in this period, with 25 on our database as of 31st March. The age range of current clients is 23 – 73 years. We closed 2 cases this quarter due to disengagement. We are currently supporting 2 clients in HMP Norwich, 1 in HMP Wayland, and 24 in the community. One client reoffended and returned to prison this quarter.

16 mentors are currently actively engaging with clients. This quarter, along with ongoing emotional support and encouragement, mentors have supported clients to engage with 12-step recovery services, to apply for and move into supported accommodation, find volunteer opportunities, and helped them celebrate periods extended periods of sobriety and avoiding reoffending. Mentors and staff met 4 prison leavers at the gate this quarter and provided day one support to attend probation and other appointments.

We were pleased to receive the below positive feedback recently, from a probation officer based in Cambridge who requested support for a client who was being relocated to Norwich at late notice:

*"I just wanted to say a MASSIVE thank you to you and your team. (...) It was tricky to navigate through this, with not only incredibly short notice, but trying to align timings without being able to contact (the client). However, you have all been so reassuring and no ask has been too much!"*

*I briefly spoke to (the client), who told me that (the mentors) were ‘amazing and so lovely’, and she mentioned how meeting them really eased her anxieties. This has set her up really well and ensured that she has managed to not only get to her probation appointment on time, but to her accommodation too! The work you do doesn’t go unnoticed, and it is so reassuring to have a service like CCN who are able to support our service users.*

*I am so grateful to you all for helping with such short notice, and for easing my concerns with how to help my case navigate through this release in an area I am unfamiliar with.”*

## **FUNDING NEWS**

We have put in applications for several grants this quarter. The current charity fundraising landscape is challenging, but we are hoping for good news, and are fortunate to have funding secured to keep us running until April 2026.

We have also been working with a fundraising consultant, Ali Collins, through our package of support from the Lloyds Bank Foundation, developing a new fundraising strategy. We aim to diversify our funding sources, reducing our reliance on grants from trusts and foundations, which currently make up over 90% of our total funding, through increasing individual and corporate donations. In March, we delivered training on working with prison leavers to a local support housing provider, and are looking to expand our training offer as a means of generating earned income.

We were grateful to receive a generous donation from The Hadley Trust in February.

## **GOVERNANCE**

We are pleased to welcome two new Trustees, Jo Gillies-Wheatley and Roy Burrows, who joined our Board at the beginning of the year. Jo and Roy both bring a wealth of professional experience to CCN, and have already been a huge support and asset to us.

We also said goodbye to two of our Trustees, Sarah Watson and Claire Watson, who stepped down in March to focus on other commitments. They are greatly missed, and we are thankful for the contributions they made during their time with CCN.

If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a CCN Trustee, please put them in touch with us. We are always looking to add new skills and expertise to our Board, and are particularly looking to recruit Trustees with a knowledge of the Criminal Justice System, and marketing and social media.



## EVENTS AND SERVICE NEWS

In January, our mentors attended a Mentor Support Meeting, at which Jack delivered training on avoiding corruption when working with prisoners and prison leavers. At our March Mentor Support Meeting, we were joined by Kat Smith from the CFO Evolution project where she supports people into work and training in HMP Norwich and Norwich Probation.

In February, we were invited to speak at the Great Yarmouth Civic Society about our work. One of our clients and his mentor also attended and spoke about their experiences with CCN. The talk was well received, and we continue to seek opportunities to present about our work to a range of different faith and community groups. We also attended Illuminate Norfolk, a celebration of the Norfolk Community Foundation, with two of our mentors.

The staff team attended Safeguarding training and Trauma Informed Practice training in February. Several of our mentors also attended free external Safeguarding and Mental Health training.

We ran a mentor training course in January, which was attended by 8 trainees. 4 of these trainees are now up and running as mentors, with 3 actively working with clients and 1 awaiting their first client assignment. 2 trainees were only able to attend one of the two sessions, and will complete the training at our next course in May.

We are currently recruiting for our next course at the end of May. We currently have 9 people who have expressed an interest in attending, with a great range of professional and life experience.

**Thank you to all our funders, donors, volunteers, and supporters – our work would not be possible without you.**