



Community Chaplaincy-Norfolk

Quarterly Report for our Supporters

QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2026

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 APRIL – JUNE 2026

We received 8 referrals this quarter. Referrals have come from the Resettlement Team at HMP Norwich (4), the Chaplaincy Teams at HMP Norwich (2) and HMP Wayland (1), and Probation (1). Of these referrals, 4 are engaging with Mentors, 1 required through the gate support on day of release only, 2 were declined due to risk, and 1 didn't engage after release.

We worked with a total of 38 clients during this period. We provide gate meet support for 8 clients released in this period, all of whom were released from HMP Norwich. We now have a gate meet volunteer whose role focuses on meeting clients at the gate and supporting with day one appointments, to compliment longer term mentoring from another volunteer, and we have found this role increases our capacity to provide gate meet support. We aim to recruit a further volunteer into this role, which is particularly suited to volunteers who have completed our mentor training course, but who have more ad-hoc availability than the weekly, long-term availability that suits the volunteer mentor role.

In June, we had the honour of attending the wedding of one of our long-term clients, who has worked with CCN for several years after serving a long prison sentence. Since his release from prison, his mentor has supported him as he overcame many barriers and found stable accommodation, a welcoming church community, and now a loving relationship. He continues to stay in touch with his CCN mentor, who was his best man and gave a moving speech about their journey together. It was a joyful occasion, and a privilege for us to see one of our clients build a life so happy and full of positivity.

At our staff and trustee strategy day in May, we considered how the Sentencing Act 2026 may affect our work. CCN supports clients with a wide range of circumstances and sentence lengths, but many referrals involve people who repeatedly receive custodial sentences of less than 12 months. These clients are often caught in a complex cycle of homelessness, addiction and repeat offending. The presumption of suspended

sentence orders for sentences of 12 months or less is likely to have a direct impact on them, making robust community support even more vital.

We also expect to receive more referrals for people who have not been to prison but have received suspended sentences or community orders. While CCN has always accepted these referrals, they have previously made up a relatively small proportion of our client base. We will update our mentor training to include more information about different types of sentencing, and how the needs of clients on community sentences may differ from those who have served time in prison. Although it is difficult to predict fully how legislative changes will affect our organisation and, most importantly, the people we support, we will continue to monitor their impact so we can respond flexibly and effectively.

While we welcome a reduction in short sentences, which often leave little time for meaningful rehabilitation and resettlement support, this must be accompanied by increased community support and resources within the criminal justice system. This support is vital for people who do not want to return to prison but, because of complex circumstances, may find life in custody easier to manage than life in the community.

FUNDING NEWS

We were grateful to receive grants this quarter from the Simon Gibson Trust, Alan Boswell Charitable Trust, the Mrs HR Greene Charitable Settlement, the Love Norfolk Fund at Norfolk Charitable Trust, the RC Snelling Trust, and the Jerusalem Trust. We also received the opportunity to fundraise through the Big Give Small Charities Week, with donations generously matched by the Postcode Places Trust, and reached our fundraising target of £2,500. We were also grateful to receive donations from East Church, Norwich, and Stalham Baptist Church, as well as many generous individuals who support us with monthly or one-off donations.

GOVERNANCE

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our Board of Trustees this quarter:

- **Dot Wilson** has volunteered as a CCN Mentor for over five years. Alongside her career in Probation and Children's Services, this has given her a strong understanding of the criminal justice system and of working with vulnerable people.
- **Chris Hull** volunteered as a CCN Mentor for four years and brings extensive experience from the charity sector and local authority work, including roles as a social worker and County Councillor.

Dot and Chris bring valuable skills, insight and experience to CCN, and we are delighted to have them join us.

We now have 6 active and engaged Trustees, but we would like to recruit 2 or 3 more to build the resilience and expertise of our Board. We are particularly looking to recruit Trustees with experience in fundraising or with lived experience of the Criminal Justice System. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please get in touch.



CCN's hard-working volunteers made our Bishop's Garden Open Day a huge success

EVENTS AND SERVICE NEWS

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Bishop's Garden Open Day on 21st June. Our prayers for good weather were answered, and around 235 attendees enjoyed homemade cakes, live music, and exploring 4 acres of gardens. Between ticket sales, raffle tickets, refreshments, and secondhand book sales, we raised over £2,200 for CCN. We are grateful to Bishop Graham and Mrs Rachel Usher for the use of their beautiful garden, the staff team at the Bishop's House, Norwich Aphasia Choir for their fantastic performance, and to all of our amazing volunteers who made the day such a success.

June was a busy month, as we were also thrilled to welcome our new Fundraising & Communications Officer, Lily Law, to CCN. Lily's background is in storytelling, and she has written for publications including Norfolk Magazine, EDP, and Tatler, as well as content and marketing for charities, businesses, and independent schools. She has already been hard at work updating our social media presence, and working on content for a refresh of our website, bringing new ideas and energy to CCN that will boost our fundraising capacity.

A new cohort of trainee mentors started our training course at the end of June. We hope to induct 4-5 new mentors as an outcome, increasing our capacity to accept clients. One of the trainee mentors is a CCN client who has worked with a mentor for two years and is now ready to progress to supporting clients himself, bringing valuable lived experience to the role.

Our Mentor Coordinator, Jack Manzi, is actively developing online mentor training, which will compliment rather than replace our in-person training sessions. This will shorten the times between courses, aiming to increase uptake from prospective volunteers who have expressed interest but might otherwise wait several months for the next course. We aim to use this increased training capacity to reach our goal of increasing our mentor team size to 30 members by Spring 2027, as well as to enable us to establish a small mentoring team in Kings Lynn.

In the spring, we made the decision to postpone our Creative Writing for Wellbeing project due to low attendance numbers. We're pleased to announce that this has now been rescheduled for the autumn, and will run over 10 weeks from Monday, 7th September. The programme is aimed at people with lived experience of prison, homelessness, addiction, or related issues, and will provide free creative writing tuition from an experienced practitioner, enabling participants to tell their own story and gain the mental health benefits of creative expression and supportive group activities. This project is generously funded by a grant from Norfolk Community Foundation.

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

Creative Writing

FOR MENTAL HEALTH



WHAT IS IT?

A series of 10 **FREE** creative writing workshops to help develop writing skills, tell their story, and get published!



WHO IS IT FOR?

People with lived experience of hopelessness: be that homelessness, prison, or living through substance and alcohol misuse, who want to expand their writing skills, tell their story, and explore the positive mental health and well being effects of creative writing

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- Expert guidance from a qualified creative writing expert
- Mental health and wellbeing benefits from creative writing
- Work published in a collected anthology



GET IN TOUCH

If you are interested, contact Jack (jack@norfolkchaplancy.org.uk) or ring 07955266737

Workshops will run from September- November 2026. Spaces are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.