Welcome to this, the first news letter from Futures Unlocked.

Our aim is to publish this news letter every four months, to let you know what is going on within Futures Unlocked. Founded 18 months ago, based in a small office in the corner of the Chaplaincy in Glen Parva Youth Offenders Institution and employing just the Community Chaplain and a part time administrator, Futures Unlocked has grown from strength to strength. We now have four part time employees but most importantly, we have a dedicated team of 31 Volunteer Mentors who provide support to deliver our vision of “reducing the risk of re-offending” for those leaving our prisons and returning to our communities.

I hope you find this news letter interesting and informative.

If there is anything you would like to talk to us about, please feel free to contact me or any one of the team. Our contact details are on the back of this news letter.

Neil Bullen, Project Manager

Chaplains Corner

Two weeks ago one when I was seeing one of our service users Craig (name changed). I asked him the question what have I as his Mentor helped him with? This can be a very dangerous question to ask a young 23 year old. There were two key things he said to me. “You believed that I could make it from day one & you helped me succeed”.

This young man has now proved to all around him that he can do it; he has a job, a house, and is drug free. I went away feeling fantastic that he has achieved something when 6 months ago he thought it would never happen. To believe that someone can change and for them to know that, gives them hope, support and a chance of success, which they may never achieve on their own.

This is just one of many people we have helped, there are other stories some good, some not so good.

We can only succeed because of our fantastic volunteers, our great staff and trustees. We know we can’t change the world, but we can help change Craig’s world.

Our Chaplain, Kevin Armstrong, training a new Volunteer Mentor

Mentoring Facts:

- We are currently mentoring 16 clients
- We have 20 mentors fully trained
- 11 mentors in training
- We have mentored 34 clients since May 2007

Something to say?

If you would like to write a short article for this news letter about your experience of Futures Unlocked, please do so, send it to us and we will do our best to include it in our next issue.

Neil Bullen, Project Manager
HMP Leicester Prison Tour

Courtesy of the DSRT at HMP Leicester, many of the volunteers were able to attend one of the tours taking place on Wednesday 19th and Wednesday 26th November. The tour was extremely detailed and fascinating, providing an intriguing insight into prison life and the issue of drug prevention within the prison. Volunteers were taken around the VPU, segregation, Detox, Library, Education, Gym, Exercise Yards, shown inside a G4S van and were temporarily locked in a cell!! Volunteers were searched and given information on receptions and learned an immense amount about how the DSRT tackle drugs in prison, even being showed intelligence the DSRT had previously gained and given a demonstration from a dog handler. A huge thanks goes out to Dennis Warland, Terry Thorpe and the team who made this tour possible and most certainly educational!! We are also looking forward to the HMYOI & RC Glen Parva Tour on 27th January 2009, which will highlight the contrast between the two establishments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers who have previously given up their time to attend induction training, ongoing training events and helping out with fundraising!! I would also like to thank those who have previously or are currently mentoring Futures Unlocked clients and are making differences in so many individuals’ lives....keep up the good work!!!

Ellen Solla Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator

Volunteering

Mentor Induction Training

Mentor Induction Training was held on November 15th and 16th with 14 volunteers completing their induction training. The training programme included modules such as; an introduction to the criminal justice system and volunteering with offenders in the community, the mentoring relationship, skills for mentoring, handling difficult situations, exploring issues offenders face and attitudes and values in relation to crime. A big thank you goes to Jan Pearce who delivered an essential section of the training on the role of the National Probation Service, The Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Service for providing the venue and all the volunteers who gave up their time and made it so enjoyable!!

Ellen Solla Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator