We’re highlighting in this PrisonerActionNet Spotlight projects using peer mentoring in their work with prisoners and ex-offenders. Examples of peer mentoring projects are listed below, along with the topic for this month’s forum discussion, a request for your project examples, and much more.

PEER MENTORING

Mentors who are ex-offenders and have made a success of building a crime-free life can act as role models for prisoners who want to understand the kind of attitudes and behaviour they will need to adopt for a different, non-criminal, way of life. (more)

FORUM DISCUSSION

On the forum this month we’ll be discussing: What is the best way to match mentors with mentees?

Please share your thoughts on the PrisonerActionNet FORUM by clicking here

EXAMPLE OF THE MONTH

Forward Assist Peer Led Support Groups
Forward Assist peer led support groups provide a much needed forum that facilitates the opportunity to meet and associate with other veterans on a daily or weekly basis. The group assists individuals to navigate and access the multitude of organizations and services available to them in the civilian community.

It also offers a safe environment and a chance to meet and be with others who understand the multiple and complex issues facing individuals that have served in today’s Modern day Armed forces. The aim of the group is to empower and give group members the skills and experience and opportunity to run and facilitate groups themselves and provide mutual support and mentoring to those less well settled Veterans who have not yet reached a level of stability. (more)
MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Bridget Moss, Development Manager, Prison Advice & Care Trust (PACT)

What inspires you?
'Coming across people who would never claim to be doing anything extraordinary and yet make all the difference to the lives of others.'

What's the most important thing you've learnt?
'To listen and then sometimes to listen again and again because I have learnt how easy it is to kid oneself that you have really heard another person...' (more)

MORE PEER MENTORING PROJECTS

In2Change, 4 Change Project
The 4 Change Project is an initiative that aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour among young people aged 10-17 and support the rehabilitation of prisoners... It allows young people to experience prison first hand, and challenges their perceptions about custodial sentences and the behaviour that will lead to custody... (more)

HMP High Down, Lighthouse Mentors
The Lighthouse Mentors project reduces re-offending by providing mentors for prisoners coming towards the end of their sentence and upon release. Members visit mentees on a social visit and have a special visiting order. Prisoners receive about three visits from their mentor whilst in prison and every couple of weeks upon release... (more)

Shannon Trust, Toe by Toe Reading Plan
Prisoners with moderate reading skills use an easy to follow manual to teach illiterate prisoners to read. The trust provides a copy of the manual to all mentors and learners involved with the programme. The programme has been set up in nearly all UK prisons... (more)

About Turn CIC
About Turn CIC offers support and guidance to ex-servicemen and women who are experiencing difficulties in adjusting to civilian life, in particular those experiencing homelessness or housing problems, those incarcerated in prison or those involved with the wider criminal justice system... (more)

Visit PrisonerActionNet for more peer mentoring projects.
Do you know of or are you involved in a peer mentoring project such as those listed above? Please let us know:

- What did the project aim to achieve?
- What activities did the project involve?
- What would you say the project has achieved?
- Has the project been assessed or evaluated?
- Are there any other aspects of the project you would like to tell us about?

Please reply to this email or email amyd@lemosandcrane.co.uk