

**2016**  
**ANNUAL REVIEW**

**futures**  
THE KEY TO A FRESH START **unlocked**

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

**In the 2014 annual review I said that we “must now look to the future and embrace the changes our sector is experiencing” and indeed 2015 proved to be a year of changes.**

In February I stepped down as a Community Chaplain after 5 very happy years and in March I was elected to become Chair of Trustees. The board reviewed policies and procedures, budgets and business plans and in July 2015, after a great deal of consultation, we made the decision to look for bigger premises in order to offer more opportunities to our clients and to set up a Community Interest Company with a café and gallery in order to help establish longer-term financial stability.

In August we began work as a Tier 3 provider on a government contract entitled, “Through the Gate”. Although not as effective as our core mentoring, which allows our clients longer-term support than the one month assigned by the government, we are proud to have been chosen to deliver this for Warwickshire.

The results for 2015 prove as ever that Futures Unlocked is successful at reducing re-offending and the changes in the sector that are dramatically affecting the local area mean that more men and women leaving prison and returning to Warwickshire are in need of our services.

We are excited about the future and the plans we have for 2016.

Once again I want to wish all those men and women we have worked with in the last year every success for their future. They know that as long as we are in existence there will always be support for them should they need it.

As one of our previous clients said, “Futures Unlocked is amazing – you have never let me down and I know I can rely on you – if there’s anything I can ever do for you , you just have to ask”

Indeed that man has been a huge help but more of that in next years’ report.



Jackie Oglethorpe  
Chair of Trustees

# ABOUT US

Futures Unlocked was established in 2006 in HMYOI Glen Parva, a collaboration between Chaplaincy and Resettlement. We began working with clients returning to Leicestershire before extending to support clients in Warwickshire.

We are an inclusive multi-faith organisation which encourages volunteer involvement and work with clients from all backgrounds whether they follow a faith or not.

# WHAT WE DO

We offer a mentoring support service to ex-offenders through the prison gate and in the community. We work with our clients pre-release to establish their needs and plan for their release. We collect our clients from prison and bring them back to Warwickshire.

This support lasts on average 16 weeks and generally our mentors and clients work on:

- **Accommodation**
- **Education training and employment**
- **Health including drug and alcohol misuse**
- **Finances benefits and debt**
- **Family and relationships**
- **Attitudes thinking and behaviour**
- **Social integration**
- **Faith community (where applicable)**



THIS SUPPORT  
LASTS ON AVERAGE  
16 WEEKS



# THE NATIONAL PICTURE

England and Wales has the highest rate of imprisonment in Western Europe, locking up 149 people for every 100,000 of the population. The average yearly cost of a prison place is £36,237.

The probation service has now split into two parts: National Probation Service (managing high risk offenders) and several Community Rehabilitation Companies ("CRCs" - managing low and medium risk offenders). The CRC for West Midlands and West Mercia (our area) is contracted to People Plus.

Alongside all our other work, we have a contract with our CRC to deliver short mentoring episodes for clients (4 sessions over the first month of release including a prison pick up).

We have a new Justice Secretary, Michael Gove, who has announced further reforms and the introduction of academy prisons which will allow for greater autonomy for prison governors.

Meanwhile, the Prison Reform Trust reports "a catastrophic rise in suicides, violence, and disorder" including assaults on staff and use of "legal highs".

The National Offender Management Service saw its budget cut by nearly £900m during the last government. In 2014 there were 243 deaths in custody, the highest number on record. Serious assaults have risen by 35% in the last year, along with a rise in assaults more generally.

There are also fewer staff looking after more prisoners. The number of staff employed in the public prison estate has fallen by 29% in the last four years.

# OUR STATISTICS

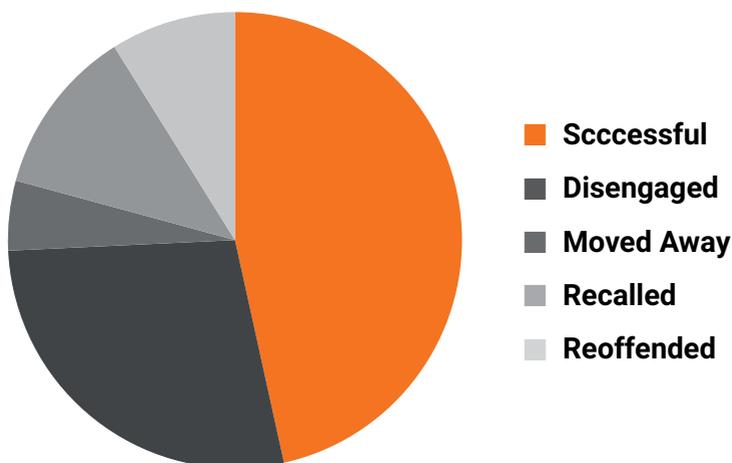
Our staff team work closely with probation and our two local resettlement prisons HMP Hewell in Redditch and HMP Featherstone in Wolverhampton. Our Community Chaplains visit the prison wings regularly to meet prisoners who have requested our help.

In 2015 we had 145 referrals into our organisation a 51% increase on last year :

The majority were for our established volunteer core mentoring which lasts on average 16 weeks. This year for the first time, we also worked with clients referred through our contract with the CRC for short-term Through the Gate support (TTG) including a prison pick up.

We matched 40% of our referrals to volunteer mentors who worked with them in the community.

## OVERALL OUTCOMES 2015



Despite the massive changes in the sector and the reduction in funding, we have maintained our successful outcomes rate of 47%. Core mentoring was more successful overall than the new TTG contract mentoring as it resulted in less reoffending and gave our clients access to open ended support to meet their individual needs.

# A CLIENT'S STORY – ACTIVE MENTORING

This is an example of active mentoring where the support takes place during physical activity, outside or whilst the client is volunteering for another organisation. We are keen to develop this model to improve the variety of support available to our clients and increase our client's participation in the community. Sometimes reflection and meaningful discussion happens more easily when we are engaged in activity.

Lee came to us in December. His weight had gone up to 16 stone in prison and he was smoking Mamba (a legal high) daily. He had severe anxiety and was living in approved premises. He was categorised as high risk of reoffending.

Since working with us he has lost 2 stone in weight, has not taken drugs and provided clean drugs tests. He has begun to save money. He is now categorised as medium risk. His ongoing assessment shows an increased wellbeing score from 106 to 156 which indicates that across health, accommodation, relationships and other areas, he has improved his situation by 50%. This score is triangulated by client, mentor and community chaplain for moderation. He continues to make progress.



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**I have a future  
and it's not doing time,  
I have a future and it's  
not doing crime.**

# OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our Volunteers have been very busy in 2015. We now have 55 trained volunteer mentors across Warwickshire. Volunteer mentors who were matched with clients also led on our training session, “meet the mentor: meet the client”.

Volunteers also helped us deliver our contract with the CRC driving the 100 mile round trip to Featherstone and Hewell to collect clients on their release day.

Volunteers also participated in new volunteering opportunities. A group of staff and volunteers trained with the Safeground team (a London based charity) to learn how to deliver “Man Up” A programme which uses drama and games to:

- **Explore masculine identities**
- **Challenge negative attitudes**
- **Build independence and self esteem**

We continue to be supported by our volunteer administrator Kate and by our volunteer trustees.

We are very grateful for their support, professionalism and generosity.

# OUR CURRENT PROJECTS

## Man Up

We delivered our first programme of “Man Up” in HMPYOI Glen Parva in November 2015 funded by a grant from the Worshipful Company of Weavers. Some very brave young men worked through the materials with us and put on a fantastic performance on the last day to invited guests. We were very impressed with their focus and their willingness to be put out of their comfort zone. It was also great fun and we laughed a lot.



## Bikes Project

We are working in partnership with Virgin Trains Rugby, HMP Onley, Halfords, Daventry Contact and Cemex to collect unwanted and abandoned bikes from the railways and take them to the Halfords workshop in the prison so that prisoners have productive meaningful work to complete whilst learning new skills. We then collect the bikes and distribute them to our clients to help with looking for work and also to local young people who need them to access education or extra-curricular activities. The Prime Minister David Cameron visited the workshop at HMP Onley and was impressed by the project.



# OUR STAFF TEAM

We said farewell to Francisca Martinez in 2015. She has been an excellent Volunteer Coordinator. She is now working closer to her home in Leicester. We welcomed Allyson College to the team. Ally had previously been a Volunteer Mentor with us and brought knowledge of our client group as well as excellent organisational skills. Jackie Oglethorpe stepped down as a Community Chaplain to become Chair of Trustees and John Guilford also stepped down as a Community Chaplain, he remains with the organisation as a Volunteer Mentor.

# OUR PLANS FOR 2016

With such incredible changes happening in our sector, the trustees, staff and mentors took time to review the business plan for the organisation. A variety of "away" days took place and it became very clear that Futures Unlocked needed to look to:

- **Develop an independent income stream**
- **Develop more "in house" opportunities for our clients to take part in return to employment opportunities**

We realised that we would need to take big, bold steps and, encouraged by the support of the local community and local funders, we started looking for larger premises to fulfil these ambitions.

In 2016 we will implement our Transformation Plan to establish a Community Interest Company to generate income to support our charitable objectives mentoring ex-offenders. We hope that this will offer us some independent security during a time of great upheaval in the sector.

We plan to open a café/shop/gallery and provide even more opportunities for our clients and their families. This will include work placements and training for our clients, training for staff and volunteers, retail space for community groups to fundraise and showcase their talents and more resources for prisoners' families.

# WAYS TO SUPPORT US IN 2016

If you are interested in the work that we do and want to help make Warwickshire a safer place in 2016 there are lots of ways to help.

You could:

- **Become a volunteer mentor**
- **Help organise or participate in a fundraising activity**
- **Donate ( a lump sum or on a monthly basis)**
- **Offer work placements for our clients**
- **Become part of the team driving forward the plans for the Community Interest Company**
- **Remember us in your prayers**

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If you would like more information  
please email us at [admin@futuresunlocked.org](mailto:admin@futuresunlocked.org)  
or visit us at [www.futuresunlocked.org](http://www.futuresunlocked.org)



# MORIARTY'S



**PRESENT THIS REVIEW AT THE COUNTER AND YOU'LL GET A  
COMPLIMENTARY DRINK ON YOUR FIRST VISIT**

**(OFFER VALID FROM 9TH JUNE TO 31ST AUGUST 2016)**

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE  
PERTNERED WITH US IN 2015...**



**The Worshipful Company of Weavers**



**The Hilden  
Charitable Fund**



- **YELVERTOFT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**
- **HEART OF ENGLAND**

**...AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO SUPPORTS US  
ESPECIALLY OUR INDIVIDUAL DONERS**

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[www.futuresunlocked.org](http://www.futuresunlocked.org)



Futures Unlocked is a  
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