

Connect to Community

Connect to Community seeks to support men and women leaving prison to achieve their goals and to build a positive pathway after prison, by providing friendship that connects and integrates people to live transformed lives in the community.

Activity Volunteer mentors will be trained to befriend and support an individual over the first year of their journey away from re-offending after release from prison. Initial period on release from prison can be quite intense and may require a couple of days of intense help, thereafter the mentor and mentee may meet on a weekly or fortnightly basis.



Time Frames There is a one-day training course. As the relationship between volunteer mentor and mentee is a befriending one, the number of times they meet is left for them to agree.

Financial Costs/Contribution

There are no initial costs other than a nominal fee for the training course. Individuals are £15 and church groups (of 2 upwards) are £25.



Civic Partnership

Training from Connect to Community will help churches to establish a team of support around the volunteer mentor and the mentee. Using untapped resources within the church to help with issues of employability, budgeting, dealing with social services etc.



Project Support

Volunteer mentors participate in a one day training course and Connect to Community staff are always available for assistance when required through phone calls and visits.

Physical Resources

It is probably best if the mentor has their own transport though not essential. Expenses incurred in assisting their mentee can be recuperated by the mentor.



Human Resources

Connect to Community has a Reintegration Co-ordinator, a Resettlement Worker and a Referrals & Communication Worker, who are on hand for advice for both the volunteer mentor and mentee. The volunteer mentor needs no previous experience but a heart to help some of the most vulnerable in society.

"Connect to Community is like winning the lottery. If you never had that support you'd be either sleeping on the street, have no money and left to do it on your own. If it wasn't for Connect to Community I'd be back in by now"
Chris, a former mentee

Replications

Connect to
Community has
30
projects across
the UK

"I'm delighted Connect to Community exists. They come in and meet with the prisoners before they get out and it gives them reassurance that someone is on the end of the phone who can help them." Dorothy Russell
Chaplain HMP Shotts