Strengthening Engagement Transition Project

Case Study: Faith in Throughcare, Glasgow

Faith in Throughcare provides a mentoring service to individuals returning to their communities after serving a short term prison sentence. Working in North Glasgow, Greenock, Dundee and Kilmarnock, the service has been supporting communities since 2010. This case study explores engagement between Faith in Throughcare and 1) HMP Barlinnie Throughcare Working Group and 2) HMP Barlinnie Throughcare Forum.

1) HMP Barlinnie Throughcare Working Group

Organised by Glasgow Community Justice Authority and chaired by the Scottish Prison Service, the Throughcare Working Group brings together statutory and third sector partners working in HMP Barlinnie. The following organisations are represented –

- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Criminal Justice Social Work
- Third Sector Organisations
- Glasgow Community Justice Authority
- Housing and Homelessness Services
- Community Learning and Development
- Scottish Prison Service
- Department of Work and Pensions – (Job Centre Plus)

A benefit of the Working Group is the link it offers to community planning. The fact that Community Planning Partners attended the Working Group meetings added weight to the discussions. Findings, concerns and information were fed back into the CPP from the Working Group. This created an effective space for presenting evidence and giving feedback to statutory partners.
Networking across sectors is a key factor in the success of the Working Group. Staff at Faith in Throughcare became aware of useful training courses and resources as a direct result of participation.

The face-to-face contact with statutory partners was also a benefit as it enabled smaller third sector organisations to feel engaged and more able to contact someone they had already built a relationship with.

2) HMP Barlinnie Throughcare Forum

Another channel through which engagement with the third sector is facilitated is the Throughcare Forum, chaired and facilitated by the Scottish Prison Service. This Forum also involves the following—

- Third Sector Organisations
- Chaplains
- Scottish Prison Service
- Statutory Partners

While delivering the mentoring service, Faith in Throughcare developed positive relationships with the Scottish Prison Service. By demonstrating the added value volunteer mentors could bring, Faith in Throughcare managed to showcase the complementary role of the third sector.

Initial contact between Faith in Throughcare and SPS Throughcare Support Officers (TSOs) also established an effective collaborative relationship. There were early discussions as to how the two organisations could best work together to meet the needs of individuals. Faith in Throughcare was able to support Officers in their newly appointed post by offering advice on where they could meet people in the community.

The success of this relationship is reflected in the referral system at HMP Greenock. If individuals require more in depth support or are not yet engaging successfully with TSOs, they can be referred to the Faith in Throughcare Service via the Link Centre.

Faith in Throughcare illustrates the unique role of the third sector by providing a link between the statutory partners and faith communities. Without a third sector organisation acting as a facilitator, statutory partners would be unlikely to engage or access diverse faith groups within the community.
Factors that enabled successful engagement

- Networking led to access to training and resources
- HMP Barlinnie Throughcare Forum provided a link between third sector organisations and community planning
- HMP Barlinnie Forum is an effective space for expressing views

Factors that challenged successful engagement

- Initial perceptions of Faith in Throughcare being primarily a faith/religious organisation rather than one focusing on supporting faith communities to fight poverty

For further information on the project:
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This case study was developed by the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum (CJVSF) as part of the Strengthening Engagement Transition Project. Funded by the Scottish Government, the project is exploring third sector involvement during the transition to the new model for community justice. More information on the project can be found on the CJVSF website.

About CJVSF
The Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum (CJVSF):
- Supports voluntary sector providers to continuously improve their own criminal justice services through collaboration and sharing of good practice
- Assists voluntary sector providers to understand, navigate and influence the complex and changing environment in which they operate
- Promotes broader awareness of the activities, value and impact of voluntary sector services within criminal justice.

The CJVSF is hosted by CCPS (the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland) and receives financial support from The Robertson Trust and The Monument Trust. Further details about the Forum can be found at: www.ccpscotland.org/cjvsf

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