

Probation **FOCUS**

News for Essex Probation Partners

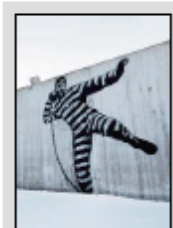
Cutting Crime – Protecting the Public – Working in Partnership



Offenders with personality disorders: New project offers more effective response



IOM Seminar: Police chiefs learn about the good work so far

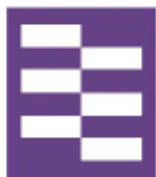


A glimpse of prison life – Norwegian-style

One year on: **Peer Mentoring Scheme** starts to bear fruit



Essex
Probation



**Breaking News:
National Probation Champion announced! She's from Essex !**

One year on... Peer Mentoring scheme begins to bear fruit

reports Neeve Bishop, M-OM, West Essex Delivery Unit

As Essex Probation's Peer Mentoring Project marked its first anniversary in June, LDUs continued the work of identifying service users (mentees) to work with our newly qualified Peer Mentors.

Harnessing experience

Peer Mentors are ex-offenders who have recently completed their Orders and Licences or are nearing the end of their Supervision experience. A typical mentor is an offender who has made significant changes in their life, overcoming obstacles to move away from offending and risky behaviours. In partnership with User Voice (a specialist ex-offender led company), Essex Probation is harnessing the unique and invaluable experience of those who have successfully improved their outlook and situation. Training is provided to the potential Mentors by User Voice, resulting in a recognised qualification in Mentoring.

Giving something back – improving opportunities

Mentors are able to offer offenders a complimentary service to the supervision

provided by OMs. With first-hand experience of how it feels to be managed through the Criminal Justice System, Mentors give encouragement and reassurance. Giving something back to others is highly rewarding both emotionally and practically. In so doing, Mentors are able to add to their list of achievements whilst improving their own employment opportunities. Essex Probation is committed to supporting mentors further by providing employment to successful candidates in the form of a six-month fixed-term contract under the new Case Supporter role.

We will recruit more Mentors

The opportunity to mentor or be mentored will be discussed with all service users managed by Essex Probation, beginning at induction and continuing throughout their Supervision.



Promoting the scheme at West Essex DU



User Voice's Zoe Kennerson flanked by West Essex mentors Melissa Whitfield and Basil Jackson holding Certificates of Achievement signed by Mary Archer and User Voice founder Mark Johnson