

Housing Support



A poem by Project Worker Michelle

*On the day you're released – you
vow you won't go,
Back to "that place" – those officers
you'll show*

*That's what you said to them as you walked out the gate
That "this is your last time" – no more! - Before it's too
late*

*You need to make changes that won't bring you back
As you walk down the drive looking for the right track
You've been clean for some months and you're not
going to use
Because you know just how much, your body's abused*

*Then you come outside homeless - with no money to last
How long will it take you to go back to your past?
To your "friends" that are waiting to give you your hit
Your relationship with heroin – will you this time commit?*

*As you walk down the high street all the faces are there
With the same desperate look showing months of despair
Whilst living in the chaos that heroin has brought
Leaving you – and those close, absolutely distraught*

*You have to make sure that you have it each day
And nothing or no – one will stand in your way
It doesn't matter if its family, the young or the old
Its heroin you love, your own brown fool's gold*

*You have to go out and start your cycle of offending
To buy your much loved heroin – cos' your body's
depending
And you can't let it rattle because it's a place that you
hate
Where do you end up – if you can't score –tempting fate*

*So there you are again, locked away in a cell
Spending time in that comfortable hell
Waiting to hear just how long that you'll get
Sitting there as you rattle – breaking into a sweat*

*All of a sudden - prison feels like your home
And for most of your years it's all that you've known,
But where do you start to get out of this mess
The chaos, - finding hits - with the accompanying stress*

*You have to look in the mirror and say what you see
Did you aspire to this – is it all that you'll be?
Only **you** have the answer, and can make a life change
To try other things, that will sometimes seem strange*

*You have to walk paths where you sometimes will fall
But all that will matter – is that you give it your all
There's support that is out there and waiting for you
That will be there by your side in all that you do*

**So make a choice as to what path you will take
One that's brand new – or the van to the gate?**



In the Spotlight....

PORCH has been receiving increased media attention recently.

- Following the recent controversy surrounding the Amethyst projects proposal to open a hostel for offenders in Redhills; **The Express and Echo** featured a short piece on PORCH and the benefits of offering offenders support in living in the community.

- **BBC Spotlight** news attended our Evaluation event to mark the end of the pilot phase of the project. One of our clients was interviewed on camera about his experiences. The piece was broadcast on the lunchtime news.

- Another of our clients has been interviewed by an **Express and Echo** reporter. His story will feature in the newspaper on March 10th.

- Four of our clients have been working with **Cricklepit Media**, a community based video production company, to produce a film about their experience of the PORCH project. The first cut was premiered at the Evaluation event. The clients have been offered an opportunity to undertake some training in video production as a result

PORCH Latest output figures

September 2006 – March 2008

Total number of referrals:

79

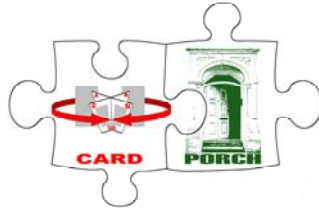
Number of offenders currently
being worked with:

28

13 of who are in prison

15 who are in the community

CARD



PORCH

Spring 2008 Issue

CARD AND PORCH NEWSLETTER

The winter months have been a period of considerable change and activity for the team.

We followed through with the momentum to merge by a team "Away Day" in December. This involved exploring how our day to day processes could best be combined and streamlined so as to operate as one integrated project. The CARD mentor co-ordinators also worked through the operational changes in their role so as to act as case managers during the period of initial contact. We did not accomplish it all in one day but there was a commitment by everyone to see it through and this process has been subsequently continued.

PORCH held a major event to evaluate the pilot period which also marked the launch of the CARD PORCH Project. More about that later.

We have made some tough decisions about evaluation. Previously, both CARD and PORCH have placed a premium on the value of external scrutiny. This principle still holds good but our current uncertain financial situation cannot justify comparable investment during the next period. We reckon to be currently collecting and collating the right type of

information. So, with some revision and modest changes, we are going to evaluate the next period largely in-house, although we will seek outside help to do case study interviews.

I am pleased to let you know that within all this, both the mentoring and housing support work continues apace. CARD has sustained our level of matches at about 22 and the PORCH caseload at about 25. These are very healthy numbers and a credit to the staff team and volunteer support.

The way in which the services provided by the CARD PORCH Project will be commissioned in the future is now becoming clearer. This new environment will favour those services and agencies which have a desirable mix of skill, knowledge and experience and be able to apply these attributes to particular client groups, perhaps in specialist settings. This reality will help shape the way in which we deliver our mentoring and housing services, which are being well received and regarded by users and stakeholders alike.

Paul Douglas.

Mentoring Support

Mentor Training 2008

Claire and Gill are looking forward to welcoming a new set of trainees onto the 7th Mentor Training course. The course will start in June and will take place over 5 days.

During the sessions, trainees will be exploring and learning about:

- The qualities of an effective mentor, the responsibilities and how the role fits with others in supporting people towards change.
- The need for a non judgemental approach and equality of opportunity.
- The policies and procedures that keep the mentoring safe and effective.
- Listening, communicating, building relationships and increasing confidence and motivation.
- Working within boundaries and managing conflict
- Action planning, reviewing and how to keep appropriate records and why this is important.

The course is always evolving to prepare mentors for new areas of work and to incorporate experience and feedback.

Here are some comments from previous courses:

"I feel very well prepared and more confident in my abilities to now be let loose!"

"Has given me a set of expectations for how I should be in the role and strategies to achieve these expectations"

"Made me aware and taught me many things I wasn't aware of"

We also usually have a laugh!!

INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AS A MENTOR?



CONTACT CAROL OR GILL ON
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Latest Output figures

March 2004 – March 2008

Total number of mentors trained: **47**

Total number of mentees assessed: **503**

Total number of Mentor / mentee matches: **167**

Number of Current matches: **25**

'effective housing and mentoring support to promote resettlement and reduce re-offending'

The CARD PORCH Project

PORCH Evaluation event

PORCH was pleased to welcome a lively gathering of stakeholders, supporters and other interested parties to The Newman Centre on 26th February, to review the work of the 'Project over the sixteen months pilot period of operation'.

During the event we:-

- heard a summary of key findings from the Plymouth research team
- saw powerful personal testimony on film by clients, who were also present to talk about their experiences
- participated in a quality debate about various issues concerning accommodation for our client group
- had a lively debate in workshops to identify issues for the future

Some important themes were re-stated including:-

- the importance of secure accommodation as the base from which sundry other activities can better be tackled
- the value of trusting personal relationships as the vehicle for interventions-particularly sensitive and painful areas-to be pursued
- the central place of the client voice in assessing impact
- greater strength coming to agencies when their individual efforts are joined up.



Recent events to disseminate good practice:-

PORCH has participated in some constructive events with other agencies:-

- **the local Drug Intervention Programme (DIP)** staged a "walk through" event for the Government Office of the South West (GOSW) managers to set out the management and support for PPOs.
- presentation to a **national conference on PPOs** held in London.

Both the above were set up for PPOs but the contribution of mentoring was integrated into the Presentations to mirror the new delivery of the merged CARD and PORCH project.

CARD/PORCH Team



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The CARD PORCH Project is a part of
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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'effective housing and mentoring support to promote resettlement and reduce re-offending'

The CARD PORCH Project

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