

# **POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE**

## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Report of	<b>OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER</b>
Subject	<b>PEER MENTORING WITHIN SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROVISION</b>
Date	<b>TUESDAY 28 JULY 2020 – 1:00 p.m.</b>
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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the panel of the peer mentoring work that has been undertaken within substance misuse provision across Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland.

### **Recommendation**

2. The Panel is asked to note the contents of this report.

### **Background**

3. Peer mentoring is something which the PCC has invested in since July 2016 when Turning Point were contracted to provide Substance Misuse Treatment Services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
4. Turning Point have a subcontract in place with Dear Albert, who are a peer led organisation, to provide a range of peer mentoring support to those battling a substance misuse problem.
5. The PCC has further invested in Dear Albert through his Prevention Fund which has enabled Dear Albert to expand their through the gate provision, ensuring that progress made in prison is carried through to the community.
6. The PCC was pleased to award Dear Albert with the Safer Community Award for Vulnerability Protection at his Safer Community Celebration event in January of this year in recognition of the great work they undertake on his behalf.

### **Dear Alberts Approach To Peer Mentoring**

7. The benefits of peer mentoring for both the mentor and the mentee are well established. A peer mentor can act as a credible positive role model, demonstrating that change is possible and giving hope to those who are earlier on in their journey of change or recovery. Dear Albert harness this power most effectively in their approach

which is set out fully within appendix 1 of this report which Dear Albert kindly prepared specifically for this panel. As they set out:

- *“Dear Alberts approach to Peer mentoring, peer relationships and Lived Experience is unique in that the organisation is 100% peer led. All staff and volunteers within the organisation have... extensive personal and professional experience of how (substance misuse) can be resolved.”*
- *“By being 100% Peer led Dear Albert is able to harness and build on the existing skills and assets of individuals and in doing so build a sustainable wider recover community for the mutual benefit of all members. This ties in with pursuing a genuine asset based community development (ABCD) approach... (using) psychologically informed environments (PIEs) that entrust and facilitate individuals to develop their own recovery capital and grow personal responsibility, hope and ambition.”*

### **Through The Gate Provision**

8. The PCC's funding for expanded through the gate provision, under the project title of “make a fresh start”, commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and a 6 month monitoring report was submitted in May. Through the PCC's funding they have engaged with 92 individuals in prison and a further 22 individuals within the community.
9. The monitoring report states that *“Exposure to the local recovery community and mutual aid while in HMP Leicester has facilitated further recovery engagement on release. Participants have become involved with positive activities such as volunteering and taking part in other recovery groups.”* And positive feedback has also been received from other health professionals working within the secure estate.
10. Dear Albert have efficiently adapted their provision in light of the pandemic and are supporting people using video conferencing as well as through the production of interactive content via the newly formed Dear Albert TV.

### **Further Use Of Peer Mentoring**

11. The PCC does place an emphasis on mentoring more generally and it can be seen in much of our provision, indeed this was a central theme to the knife crime funding which was considered at the panel's last meeting. Peer mentoring however, is more difficult and resource intensive to deliver but we recognise that it has unique benefits.
12. The Violence Reduction Network has co-production as one its strategic objectives recognising that effective violence prevention strategies needs to be co-designed and co-delivered in partnership with those communities most affected, including those in contact with the Criminal Justice System as a result of previous violent behaviour. This will include working with providers to develop internal peer mentoring schemes drawing on local and national expertise.

### **Implications**

Financial: None

Legal: None.

Equality Impact Assessment: None.

Risks and Impact: None identified.

Link to Police and Crime Plan: Vulnerability and Prevention

**List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Dear Albert report for panel

**Persons to Contact**

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## Appendix 1