



Good News! New Leaf is an Approved Provider

We are delighted to announce that, following an assessment by the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation, New Leaf has been awarded their Approved Provider Standard quality mark. The APS logo is a national quality standard mark which is recognised by funders and commissioners as evidence of safe and competent practice. For a project such as New Leaf, it is the equivalent of an Oscar!

If you would like to keep up to date with New Leaf, you can find more information on the website www.newleafproject.co.uk at facebook.com/newleafprojectmentoring or on twitter [@NewLeafProject1](https://twitter.com/NewLeafProject1).

Project update

February and March were relatively quiet months for the project with 13 referrals from across the Thames Valley. We ran three rounds of volunteer training for 7 new mentors. We are also working with a Prison Outreach group at Kerith Community Church in Bracknell to look at working in partnership and delivered training to 7 of the prison leadership and volunteers. April is proving to be much busier with 25 referrals received to date – we will therefore be putting our new volunteers into action very quickly! We are still very short of volunteers across the project and would love to hear from you if you are interested in volunteering or supporting the project in any way – Caroline Stevens, New Leaf Manager

Collection Team volunteers

Collection days are an invaluable part of the New Leaf mentoring process. It begins the mentees journey into rehabilitating back into the community. We encourage the matched mentor to support on the day of release but this is not always possible, therefore, we require a bank of volunteers that would be available to help on these days.

Collections can take anything from a few hours to all day and the time involved cannot be determined beforehand so volunteers will need to be available for the whole day.....

You do not need to be able to drive as collection can be arranged.

If you are interested in supporting these days or want further information please email gaynor@newleafproject.co.uk or phone 07581 056232



Little Kingshill Baptist Church and their annual Christmas tree collection raised an incredible £900 for New Leaf in very soggy conditions! Barclays Bank matched monies raised with a generous £750 from their Community Fund.

Anne, New Leaf Mentor, was successful in getting New Leaf onto the Waitrose Beaconsfield community matters token collection which raised £250.

The Douglas Martin Trust kindly donated £300.

Thank you to everyone!

Community Packs

Most prisoners are released with less than £50 – many are homeless and it takes 6 weeks on average for benefits to start. New Leaf provides a Community pack on release providing basic essentials and toiletries. The items are collected from the local community in a manner similar to a foodbank and the packs are co-ordinated by Aylesbury Quakers. We received funding from Big Lottery Awards For All in 2013 to evaluate the packs and the impact they have on the recipients. The comprehensive evaluation was undertaken by Rosemary Hallam; a copy of her report can be downloaded at <http://newleafproject.co.uk>

How can you help?

We need local churches, schools, groups and families to donate and collect items for packs or alternatively a financial gift to help fund a pack. The cost of each pack is approximately £14.50



Volunteer Lesley Johnston receiving an honorarium for her work on the packs

Pack Contents:

Small towel and flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, plastic toothbrush holder, soap x1 bar, plastic soap dish, small waterproof wash bag, **small** shampoo/shower gel (sachets or travel bottles), diary and pen, wipes, rain poncho, emergency shelter, foil blanket, razors and shave foam, sanitary pads, hand sanitizer, plastic cutlery, bin bags x2, tin opener, wind-up torch (sold in Pound Shop, and Amazon do two for under £3)

“Carrie took me to Bronzefield to meet K my new mentee. I had been a visitor before so I had some idea what to expect but I was very nervous meeting her for the first time. Carrie made the transition a lot easier having met K before. Coming away from a positive meeting left me feeling far more confident that we could help her. We were lucky to have the time to meet K again before she came out on a tag. I had a really good idea of what was important to her and how I could best help so I had my starting point. K was released and collected by family and so I met with her the following day in a café. I had a community pack for her and a list of things 'to do'. The community pack was a great source of help to K especially having the diary which we used straight away booking in phone calls and meetings. Also the ability to be able to physically give her an aid helped our relationship no end”.....**Mentor Mel**

New Team Member

We recently welcomed Howard Newlands as New Leaf Volunteer Co-ordinator. Howard will be responsible for recruiting, training and supervising our volunteers.



Mentor Training

If you are interested in training or would like more information please contact

Caroline Stevens

caroline@newleafproject.co.uk

or phone 07979 855843



Can you help?

We need faith communities who can offer support to ex-offenders in the local area

If you would like one of the team to come and talk to your faith group or organisation, then please contact

Carrie Franklin

carrie@newleafproject.co.uk

We are a faith based project and ask those of you from faith backgrounds to please pray for the project...whilst others may wish to hold the project in their thoughts - thank you