



NEW LEAF UPDATE

In these early days of the new landscape with Transforming Rehabilitation, I hope that you will find an update of our position and plans helpful. Changing times are always a challenge and we need to be cautious in the current period of uncertainty.

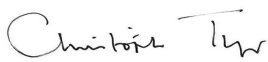
You will be aware that, through the Thames Valley Partnership, we are part of the successful consortium led by MTCnovo that has secured the contract for the through-the-gate resettlement work for the Thames Valley and London. We shall figure in the former and hope to influence in the latter. Although the contract officially went “live” from the 1st February, the reality is that it will not be until after the 1st May that we shall begin to feel any difference. The plain fact is that there are many aspects that still have to be finalised and we are in discussions about how the reality will look and how it will work in practice. We are well aware that our core values need to be part of the new processes.

There will be two aspects to our work: the work under the contract in Transforming Rehabilitation and our other work independent of the contract and outside it. How the two aspects will shape up is being worked out at present but we expect that our existing work will continue and expand in new directions too. For example, we are in active preparation for a social enterprise initiative and have leads which are being pursued in this direction.

As is frequently the case, finances and our cash flow are a concern. Traditional sources of funding are now often no longer relevant, appropriate or available. We have existing funds to last us for the next two months or so and reasonable expectations of new streams of funding. We will continue with our existing methods of delivery with mixed and different models that will come as we progress into the new world. As always we will provide ample preparedness for changes.

The future is bright and exciting but we need to be flexible and adaptable as the new world unfolds. We are in a good position since we have been assured that all reports of the work that has been and is being done is well regarded as a model of excellence. Being on the inside, with such a reputation, brings us a measure of influence in the planning for the new landscape and we shall also embrace necessary change. We hope that you are and will be as excited as we are as we all commit ourselves to the future development of our service.

With every good wish,

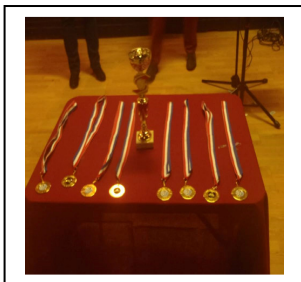


His Honour Christopher Tyrer DL
Chair, New Leaf Strategic Group



Quiz Night

More than 60 people took part in a fun quiz night at the Poacher's Pocket in Chilton, close to the home of the Thames Valley Partnership, on Friday 6 February. Tables representing Probation past and present, the Quakers, the Poacher's Pocket, a book group and others competed for the honour of winning a fine trophy and individual medals. After ten gruelling rounds, including two highly original music rounds provided by the Robert Fox Experience and the Saturday Strollers emerged as worthy winners. Great food was prepared by Nancy from the Poacher's Pocket and our own Lesley had prepared wonderful hampers for the Raffle. Altogether the raffle and ticket sales raised over £500 and great fun was had by all. We might be about to make this an annual fundraising event.



Quiz Master Geoff Emerson

Mobile Phones

The New Leaf Project has a number of volunteer and full time workers who have meetings in the community with ex-offenders, which can place them in potentially dangerous situation. Thankfully this is a rare occurrence but each New Leaf worker has a telephone number to call to ask for assistance, should they need it. Urgent assistance can only be guaranteed if the emergency contact is aware of a proposed meeting and available to answer of course so we have now successfully received funding from The Big Lottery - Awards for All to put in place a replacement for this. The new line will be manned 24/7 so that an alarm will be sent to an Alarm Receiving Centre and be answered by competent emergency operators.

This required a new phone from Doro AB a Swedish company providing easy to use mobiles with secure connections to the alarm centre. This Doro Secure 680 also has GPS location enabled so that each New Leaf worker can update their position before going to a meeting and also set a timer to cover the duration of the meeting. If the time-out occurs or the worker presses the Assistance button on the back of the phone then a call is placed to the alarm receiving centre and the operator can talk hands-free to the worker and also see the last recorded location.



The same phone is used for the normal daily use of the New Leaf worker and a handy charging cradle will ensure the phone is always charged and ready for a meeting in the community, with the secure knowledge that this service is always available for them.

All of this has been made possible thanks to the hard work of Tim Netherwood, Volunteer Mobile Lead.

New Cabinet Office Funding

New Leaf is pleased to be one of a cohort of 4 community chaplaincies who, under the lead of NPC (New Philanthropy Capital), have been successful in securing funding from the Cabinet Office Impact Readiness fund. The funding of over £21,000 for each Community Chaplaincy will enable us to continue to strengthen our evaluation and monitoring systems. The funding includes 10 tablets which volunteers will be able to use in the community to directly input meeting updates into the new CCA monitoring database. This funding and technology will complement the development of our new phone (see above).

New Leaf Support Works!

Caroline has been hard at work this quarter completing our 2013 evaluations overview. New Leaf achievements over 2013 included:

- Expansion of the scheme into Berkshire;
- Expansion of scheme to include young adult offenders aged 18-21;
- Addition of Reading HMP/YOI to our serviced prisons (up to closure).

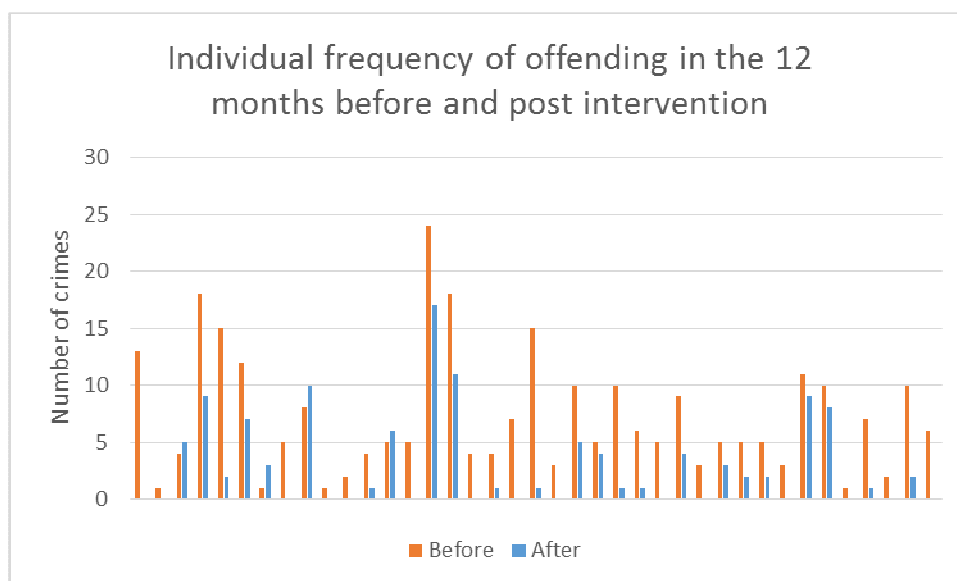
"I am finding my involvement with New Leaf stimulating and rewarding. It's providing a different environment and experiences to those of my usual working and social environment. I've enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with other volunteers. I wanted to challenge myself whilst helping a cause that I felt was worthwhile and so far this proving to be everything I was looking for. My only regret is that I am unable to spare more time for the project" – Mentor quote

The outcomes identified as part of these evaluations are:

- 1) A reduction in offenders committing offences during the first two months following release compared to the national average (20% compared to 32%), and also a reduction at 12 months post release (50% compared to 58%).
- 2) A reduction in the average frequency of reoffending from 6.6 offences per year per offender before intervention compared to 2.6 offences per year post intervention as well as a 59% reduction in the total number of offences committed in the year post release from 217 to 88. Only 4 offenders showed an increase in the number of offences committed in the year post intervention.

"If I hadn't been collected by my mentor I wouldn't have got home without having a drink or using drugs" – Mentee Quote, July 2013

The individual changes in the frequency of offending for those entering into long term through the gate mentoring in 2013 are shown below:



- 3) A 58% reduction in the number of days sentenced days spent in custody from 3386 in the year before intervention to 1486 in the year post intervention, resulting in a saving in the region of £279,020.
- 4) A reduction in serious acquisitive crime (including violent crimes, criminal damage and burglary) resulting in cost savings to the public purse equivalent to £99,848. Due to the limited data available on the cost for specific crimes the true cost savings are likely to be much greater; 80 crimes committed in the year before intervention are not included in the evaluation, compared to only 28 in the year following the intervention. The estimated total cost savings are £378,868. The cost of the project was £106,215 for the financial year, giving a return of £3.57 per £1 invested.

“Without support from New Leaf I wouldn’t have achieved everything I did” – Mentee, November 2013

This is great news for the project and shows that the work everyone has been doing really does make a difference. A huge thank you to all our volunteers and staff for all their hard work in making this possible.

Mind the New Leaf Gap

Arising out of the Autumn 2014 event, a group came together to look for fresh sustainable funding streams for the project, under the working title ‘Mind the New Leaf Gap’. Crowd-funding has been enthusiastically explored, something many of us knew very little about! Our merry ‘task-and-finish’ group has grown, and it’s been great to see emerging talents come into play.

We’re preparing a video, together with related support material and hope to go live with the campaign in May. Learning and co-creating at its best!

As the demand for New Leaf support of ex-offenders grows, finding additional funding is more important than ever. If you would like to help us ‘Mind the New Leaf Gap’ please get in touch.

Thank you and we’ll let you know more as we get closer to our ‘go live’.

Maureen Ghirelli, Lead on Mind the New Leaf Gap

Interested in Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering for New Leaf as a mentor or feel you may be able to contribute in some other way please contact Katrina to discuss further by emailing katrina@newleafproject.co.uk.



newleafproject.co.uk



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