

Vision

Participating in
a **positive** future



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Welcome to the final edition of our newsletter for 2017 and the countdown to Christmas. It is quite scary to think that when we start the New Year, DTV CRC will be heading towards contract year five of seven.

We are awaiting news from the Ministry of Justice with regards to what the second iteration of contracts may look like, but there seems to be a rising tide of support for local models of service delivery and commissioning. Whilst this is far from confirmed, ARCC and DTV are well placed within the local landscape and our strength of partnership working is something which has been noted within our most recent inspections, which is good news.

We have embarked upon some interesting projects over the past year and have benefitted from some close partnership working. We have delivered over 78,000 hours of Unpaid Work on Community Projects such as Finchale College in Durham and The Denes in Darlington. We also signed a joint statement of intent with the local Reform Prisons and National Probation

Service Director to look at what a 'good' prisoner journey in our local establishments looks like and we are working much more closely with our PCC's on the reducing reoffending agenda.

Next year, we will be looking at work particularly around the 18–25 year group, services for female participants and also those groups of the most persistent reoffenders in our communities and targeting resources accordingly. We want to work with our core partners to develop innovative services and really try to jointly tackle some of the root causes of crime in our areas.

I look forward to working with you all in the new year and in the meantime, wish you and your colleagues a very Merry Christmas!


Bronwen Elphick
Chief Executive





DTV CRC colleagues recognised at this year's Nepacs Awards

DTV colleagues recognised at Nepacs awards

DTV CRC colleagues were amongst the winners at this year's Nepacs awards in September. The awards are presented to individuals, teams or organisations in the North East for helping prisoners or ex-offenders to resettle in the community and rebuild their lives.

DTV CRC Peer Mentor, John Traynor was awarded one of the six main Nepacs awards for using his past experiences to engage with offenders to help turn around their lives.

Highly commended certificates were also presented to: Jannette Smith, North Road Women's Group Hub, Kay Richmond, South Team IOM Team and the Through the Gate Team's at HMP Holme House, HMP&YOI Low Newton and HMP Kirklevington Grange.



Peer Mentor John Traynor with his responsible officer, Lindy Madgin-Ellison

SAVVY team

We are on our final journey towards SAVVY deployment and are in the very intense testing stages of SIT (System Integration Testing), RAT (Rollout Acceptance Testing) and UAT (User Acceptance Testing).

Each stage has three or four cycles and we have to pass each one in order to be allowed to move on. We have passed most of SIT, a large proportion of RAT and we have started UAT.

We have passed as many tests as any other parent organisation in far less time and although extremely intense, we are monitored by MOJ ICT and MOJ security at every step.

Hearing how other CRC owners are progressing and comparing that to ourselves, we feel we are in an extremely good place.



SAVVY team

Just For Women Centre

DTV CRC works in partnership with the Just For Women Centre in Stanley - a small independent not-for-profit organisation ran by Linda Kirk, which helps women in the community who are first time offenders or may suffer from mental health issues or unemployment issues.

DTV participants are referred to the Just For Women Centre to complete their community payback hours. To date, DTV CRC has referred over 110 participants to the centre, understanding that addressing issues such as unemployment, domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse and mental health can significantly help to reduce reoffending.

The project ensures that participants can work their community pay back hours in a safe non-judgemental and all-women, working environment. One participant, Clair, was referred to the Just For Women Centre by DTV CRC after receiving 140 hours community payback order for a drink driving offence.

After receiving community hours, Clair was referred to the centre in April 2016 and began to work her community hours by undertaking physical tasks and paying back to the community. Whilst at the centre, a vacancy for an admin and IT role became available so Clair gave up cleaning and took on the role. She began working at the centre more frequently and by September 2016, Clair had completed her community payback hours.

Since then, Clair has gone on to progress in the role and now carries out full-time admin duties.

While attending the centre, Clair has received counselling to help her come to terms with what has happened in the past, she has also attended courses to understand the issues around mental health and depression. DTV CRC have continued to support Clair whilst at the centre, checking in every two weeks and offering additional levels of support.

Just For Women's Centre records show of the 110 participants that have been referred to the centre, only one has gone on to reoffend, which is proof that addressing issues and offering one-to-one support can help participants to gain control of their lives and make positive changes for their future.



Linda Kirk, Just For Women Centre, Dave Harland, Responsible Officer and Clair



SOUND training

The first SOUND course was successfully delivered in the summer at our female-only hub - A Way Out in Stockton.

SOUND is a fast-paced learning programme aimed at people wanting to improve their reading levels over a period of six weeks. SOUND is aimed at a small target group of four and we are pleased to say that two of the participants attending the first course successfully passed. Initial feedback from participants was extremely positive. They said they enjoyed every session, felt engaged throughout the process and were excited by their individual progress, which has resulted in one of those wanting to repeat the process a second time to improve further.

Age UK – support for participants over 50

A new partnership arrangement has been made between Age UK and DTV CRC to offer increased support to participants over 50 years old. The project, which operates from Hemlington Recreation Centre Hub, is available every Thursday and strengthens the work they already offer to people in prison.



Beyond November

DTV CRC has been in discussions with EDP, which is a charity delivering recovery-based substance misuse services in communities and prison in the South West of England. They run a project called 'Beyond November', which makes a poppy brooch from recycled copper and leather as well as spent shotgun cartridges.

Discussions are ongoing about becoming a sister project to this with Unpaid Work helping to manufacture the brooch items here in the North East in conjunction with Finchale College.



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