

The Aspire Project



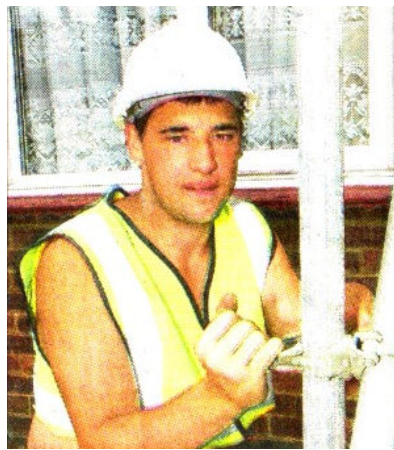
Mentoring to help break the cycle of crime and jail

Safer London Foundation

Safer London Foundation the Metropolitan Police charity and is working to reduce crime and create safer neighbourhoods across London.

Project overview

Safer London Foundation's Aspire project supports ex-offenders, through the use of trained mentors, in accessing sustainable employment and training opportunities. Research shows that ex-offenders who have employment are up to 50% less likely to re-offend; the Aspire Project has links with a number of employers who have committed to supporting the initiative.



Dan left prison without a job to go to. His mentor helped him to secure employment with a scaffolding company and supported him in applying for a grant to buy a pair of work boots he needed for the job. She also helped him to apply for a college course which will lead to him gaining the qualifications he needs to progress in this field. Dan said: "My ultimate dream is to have my own business. I am really excited about the prospect of doing the course, without my mentor I don't think I would ever have had this opportunity."

What will the role involve?

Mentors are matched to offenders (who have been assessed as posing a low risk of harm), who are either approaching the end of a prison sentence, or serving a community based sentence.

They provide identified practical and motivational support; we contact is initially on a weekly basis, stepping down to monthly. The average time commitment is three to four hours per month, with flexibility around your work commitments.

Training and support

After an initial two day training course, designed to give participants an awareness of the criminal justice system as well as knowledge about the issues facing offenders, mentors are likely to visit (accompanied by the Aspire Project Manager) those serving custodial sentences in prison. Regular support will be available from the Aspire Project Manager, both face-to-face by appointment, or by phone (John Karran - 07809 397193), we also hope to organise networking events where mentors can socialise and exchange ideas and experiences.

To find out more about becoming a mentor contact John Karran, Aspire Project Manager:
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