

June 9, 2011

ONE* Service contracts SOVA and YMCA for volunteers to mentor ex-prisoners

The ONE* Service has contracted SOVA and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough YMCA to recruit, train and support a network of volunteers to mentor men released from Peterborough prison. Prisoners will initially work with specialist staff to address their immediate needs on release. The community volunteers will then provide additional guidance and support as they return to life outside prison.

The ONE* Service began operations in September 2010 and its services are offered to all short sentenced men leaving HMP Peterborough prison up to 12 months after release. Services include housing and employment assistance, accessing drug and alcohol addiction treatments as well as mentoring and behavioural support. Specialist case workers are assigned to each client throughout, provided by organisations such as St. Giles Trust and Ormiston Children & Families Trust.

YMCA and SOVA provide volunteers with the training, support and guidance they require to deliver an engaging and motivating service to clients. Volunteers will bring their life experience and skills to connect clients to their community and support them through the challenges they face on an on-going basis in the year after they leave prison

The ONE Service is managed by Social Finance and funded by the first Social Impact Bond.

Notes to Editors:

1) **The ONE* Service** is currently recruiting volunteers to work with those released from HMP Peterborough. The majority of clients will be living in Peterborough & Cambridgeshire but some will return to other areas in the UK (primarily London and East of England). Anyone interested in volunteering with The ONE* Service should contact:

YMCA (Peterborough Area) - 07814 755146

SOVA (Cambridgeshire and rest of UK) - 07713 080850

2) **YMCA Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (YMCA)** is a charity delivering and supporting many local initiatives which allow people to grow to their full potential by providing a supportive and inclusive community. This includes recruiting volunteers for projects in the local area. YMCA volunteers engage in activities ranging from sport and art to individual mentoring and support. The YMCA has a decade of experience hosting volunteers and has strong links with the local community.

<http://www.theymca.org.uk/>

3) **Supporting Others Through Volunteer Action (SOVA)** is a national voluntary sector criminal justice organisation working to support individuals at risk of social exclusion and/or offending as well as those resettling in the community after custodial sentences. The organisation was started in 1975 by a group of volunteers working within the Inner London Probation Service. SOVA projects exist across England and Wales and are developed in partnership with local agencies. SOVA's mission is to strengthen communities by involving local volunteers to promote social inclusion and reduce crime.

<http://www.sova.org.uk>

4) **Social Impact Bonds** are an innovative financing mechanism which provides non-Governmental financing for social interventions. If the interventions are successful, the Government commits to repay the investors. For more information, please visit: [www. socialfinance.org.uk](http://www.socialfinance.org.uk).

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