



Clean Sheet: From prison to employment: June 2022 Update

Context:

Clean Sheet is a registered charity with a simple purpose – to create social change by offering people with convictions the hope of a better future by finding real, sustainable employment.

Our vision is that people with convictions:

- have significant opportunities to secure employment; and
- reintegrate and impact positively on their communities and wider society.

During 2021, Clean Sheet helped 254 Members (people with convictions) to find work or training. Members found work in a variety of industries including: care, construction, distribution, education, food, IT, manufacturing rail, retail and transport. Roles varied between entry level to management level roles.

Clean Sheet has a Directory of over 100 employers who have committed to assess someone based on their merit and their skill, rather than their conviction. Once a Member has secured a position the charity provides 12 months post-employment support.

As a result of Clean Sheet's support, people with convictions take positive steps to move forward with their lives and not go on to reoffend. Anecdotal evidence indicates that reoffending has reduced as a result of Members finding work. Many of the Members talk about the positive impact of work in terms of being able to provide for their families – one Member shared that finding work meant that he could provide for his three young children. During networking events former Members have shared about starting life afresh through finding work.

The Trusted Executive Charitable Foundation (TTECF) has been supporting Clean Sheet in enhancing their CV support capacity since July 2021 with an initial grant of £5,000.

June Update:

Clean Sheet: TTECF as a Critical Friend

Clean Sheet's employer partnership model is based on corporate social responsibility and invites voluntary contributions from employers for opening up their vacancies to Clean Sheet Members.

As part of the partnership with TTECF, Clean Sheet has been able to pull on wisdom from two members of The Trusted Executive Foundation's¹ Advisory Board. They spent time with Sam Graham, Clean Sheet Chief Operating Officer, to help Clean Sheet refine and develop its employer partnership model. By playing the role of a 'critical friend', they provided invaluable insights into re-shaping and adapting the employer partnership model, which Clean Sheet is taking forward.

Speaking about the support, Sam Graham, said: *"We have found it incredibly useful to pull on wisdom from TTECF in this way. We had developed our employer engagement model from scratch and have been seeing some success. However, having an honest critique from two business professionals about how we could develop this further has been invaluable. We are really glad for the wider support from TTECF."*

Clean Sheet awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise!

In April 2022 Clean Sheet received the Queen's Award for Enterprise in recognition of excellence in promoting opportunity through social mobility.

¹ The Trusted Executive Foundation (TTEF) is a not for profit company. Their mission is to gift over £1m to UK-based Christian charities, that are inclusive at the point of need, over the next ten years via TTECF.

Over the five years measured by this award, Clean Sheet helped 976 people with convictions to find work. In addition, 85 people progressed into Further Education, two into Higher Education and 58 people started their own businesses.

Speaking about the award, Sam Graham, COO, said:

“We are absolutely thrilled to have won the Queen’s Award for Enterprise! Helping people to move forward positively after prison so that they don’t go on to reoffend or go back to prison is a win for everyone – it breaks the cycle of reoffending and helps to create a safer society. Every day we help to change lives and create social change and this is a real privilege, even though there are many setbacks that Clean Sheet Members have to overcome to find work. Our team shows incredible determination and care and we are so pleased that this hard work has been recognised by this award.”

Now in its 56th year, the Queen’s Awards for Enterprise are the most prestigious business awards in the country, with winning organisations able to use the esteemed Queen’s Award Emblem for the next five years.

This award reflects the professional ability and consistent coaching relationship which Clean Sheet’s staff and volunteers provide; clearly they do this with humility and kindness which are all part of “the Nine Habits of Trust” (<https://trustedexecutive.com/nine-habits-of-trust>).