

## sixtyone **Sixty-One: “Helping offenders live free from crime”: August 2022 Update**

### **Context:**

SixtyOne is the founder of a Bristol city-wide partnership that supports prisoners before and after release. They enable individuals, churches, charities and businesses to provide the relational and community based support offenders need to live free from crime. This includes MentorMe which is SixtyOne’s biggest project.

The Trusted Executive Charitable Foundation (TTECF) has been supporting Sixty-One’s “MentorMe” programme in Bristol since March 2019 with a series of grants totalling £38,170 (@August 2022).

### **August ‘22 Update:**

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#### **Time for celebration**

Taking time to celebrate together strengthens relationships and encourages resilience through life challenges amongst everyone involved in MentorMe, including mentees and mentors.

The MentorMe programme currently supports 63 ex-offenders who are supported by 46 volunteer mentors.

In August Sixty-One held an event to celebrate their mentors and mentees, as well as their hub leaders. The event was attended by 59 people (including staff and volunteers) including 23 mentees. On this occasion there was a BBQ, ice creams, as well as garden games, which everyone enjoyed. Some volunteers from a local church generously gave up their time to cook the food and clear up afterwards, meaning that Sixty-One staff could spend time talking and laughing with those attending the event. A mentee performed one of his poems, which went down very well. SixtyOne aim to do three events a year, and so are already planning the Christmas event, which will include Christmas crafts, hot chocolate, and, of course, mince pies!

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#### **Increased capacity**

MentorMe have been a staff team member down since May, but are delighted to say that we have recruited someone who will be starting in the New year. They have a lot of experience working with vulnerable people and they will be a great addition to the team, enabling us to share out the ever increasing workload.

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#### **Extending impact**

Esther, Sixty-Ones Senior Project Liaison Officer for MentorMe, is also currently exploring potential partnerships working with other departments based in HMP Bristol to increase the amount of referrals for MentorMe from the prison. Watch this space!

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#### **Light in dark places**

Sixty-One are currently in the throes of organising their yearly Christmas Gift Project that encourages churches to help them to fund and pack Christmas gifts bags. The bags are delivered to three local prisons and bring so much joy to those who are incarcerated at Christmas. The price of each bag has been impacted by the cost of living increase, and so covering the costs for this project is becoming more difficult. However, the team continue to pray and move forward in faith for the necessary financial provision for this project.

These are great examples of people giving their time and care to support and mentor people who often consider themselves outcasts from society. Kindness, coaching, evangelising (celebrating) successes, and being open, are some of “The Nine Habits of Trust” (<https://trustedexecutive.com/nine-habits-of-trust>).