

## sixtyone **Sixty-One: "Helping offenders live free from crime":**

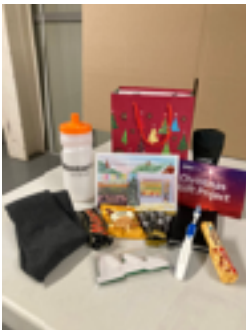
### **Context:**

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 (<https://www.sixty-one.org/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 £53,170 (@February 2024).

### **March 2024 Update:**

#### **Appreciation for gifts received:**



In December Sixty-One delivered 1500 gift bags to 3 male prisons (HMP Bristol, HMP Ashfield, and HMP Leyhill) in the Bristol area. Each bag contained a variety of gifts including, a pair of socks, a toothbrush, sweets, chocolates, tea and coffee, a christmas decoration, a water bottle, plus more. Each individual was also offered a pamphlet about the Christmas story.

Sixty-One was delighted to receive numerous letters from HMP Bristol, more than we have received from previous years, as well as letters from the other two prisons. Each letter expressed their thanks for the gifts, acknowledging the kindness and generosity they felt. Here is an excerpt of one such letter,

*"I'm writing to offer huge thanks for the Christmas gifts you organised to be sent to me and my fellow prisoners here. News Reports rarely have anything good to say about prisons in general and about prisoners in particular. It would be easy for us prisoners to feel isolated from society, despised and feared, and abandoned from any kind thought or care. It is very uplifting to receive a concrete example of how some people at least do care and can direct not only kind thoughts towards us but kind actions. Our prison - and indeed several other prisons - are embedded in your local community. It would be easy for you to cross to the other side of the road as you pass but instead you have demonstrated, as you say in your leaflet, that churches across Bristol are thinking of us."*

#### **Expanding capability**

Sixty-One has developed a partnership with The Shannon Trust who provide literacy and numeracy support to men and women in Prison, but also to those who have been released.

Sixty-One is delighted that one of our mentees is receiving literacy support from one of the Shannon trust volunteers and has reported an increase in confidence in his ability to read and write. The individual receiving support has struggled to trust others in the past, but is slowly building trust with this volunteer, whilst improving his literacy.

These are great examples of people giving their time, money and care to support and mentor people who often consider themselves outcasts from society. Coaching, kindness, and humility, and being open, are some of "The Nine Habits of Trust" (<https://trustedexecutive.com/nine-habits-of-trust>).