



HM Prison
68 Hornby Road
Walton
Liverpool L9 3DF



HM Prison &
Probation Service

18th August, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I first met Katie and Jeremy pre-COVID in 2020. They had written to my Governing Governor regards their Beyond the Gate idea and, as Head of Reducing Reoffending, it was passed to me to make contact.

I arranged a time for them both to attend the prison to discuss the project in more detail and I was immediately 'sold'. I thought that having an all-in-one, tailor-made prison magazine, for prisoners and their families about the support and services available, was a fantastic idea but it was Katie and Jeremy's clear passion and dedication to this project which made an impact on me that day and has continued to do so ever since. I immediately got the sign off from my Governing Governor for HMP Liverpool to be involved.

I believe that we were the second prison to sign up for Beyond the Gate but, because I became as excited and passionate about the project as Katie and Jeremy, we ended up being the pilot prison which I am still incredibly proud of. From start to finish, Katie and Jeremy led this project – actually sometimes they dragged it by the scruff of the neck during difficult times due to COVID - and the end product they produced has had nothing but positive feedback from staff, prisoners and their families.

The bottom line is that prisoners need support while in custody and on release – the type of support and extent to which it's needed may vary but it is needed. As a prison, we need a way of communicating what is available to the men. Leaflets tend to be binned, notices become outdated or torn and verbal messages can be easily forgotten. Due to the high quality nature of the magazine produced by Beyond the Gate, we are being told by prisoners that they have kept the magazine and continue to refer back to it whether it's for information or to re-read testimonials/stories.

John Moore's University are awaiting ethics approval to complete an evaluation on Beyond the Gate and I believe the outcome of that will influence the magazine improving every edition to meet the needs of the men and ultimately impact their future and the risk of them reoffending. I am so excited for the team to start working on our second edition which I know will be even better than the first.

Am very happy to be contacted for any further information that might be needed but I hope the above shows how emphatically I support Beyond the Gate and their aspirations for the future of the magazine.

Kind regards

CAROL ANGEL
Head of Reducing Reoffending
HMP Liverpool