

2024 Annual Report



GUERNSEY

**CARING FOR
EX-OFFENDERS** LEAGUE

Reintegrating individuals into the community

Welcome

Opening Comments

As I sit down to write about the ongoing work and achievements of GCCEO, I am amazed to realise that we have had the privilege of supporting a total of 104 ex-offenders over this past year, which is by far the highest number of individuals we have worked with in any one year since our inception in 2013. This is thanks to the tremendous hard work of the whole team - service users, volunteers, prayer team, donors and grant providers, directors and employed staff, together with the support of the other professional and third sector agencies with whom we link.

A great big shout-out to you all!

The support we have been able to provide throughout 2024 has been so broad in nature that it would be impossible to give a full and thorough breakdown of all that we have been involved in. Therefore, rather than a detailed analysis of all our work, we are going to give the opportunity for some of our service users themselves, to have a voice. I hope that, by doing so, we will be able to demonstrate the difference that GCCEO has made in the lives of those individuals with whom we are involved.



Mary Hervé
Co-ordinator

Service Users have their say



GCFEO has been a great help to me in many ways. In terms of my mental health it helped me feel part of the community, not isolated. It also helped me explore my faith via the 'Thursday Church', through which I have many new friends.

Doing my Community Service with GCFEO has not only awakened the hidden craftsman in me, giving me something other to focus on than my offence, it has also been of great support. On my first meeting with Mary Hervé, she sat down with me for about an hour to lend an understanding and non-judgemental ear, and that support has continued ever since. It has been invaluable in me getting through a very difficult time in my life.

GCFEO have been amazing, they are always willing to help anyone as best way they can. They are really nice people and have been so nice to me. Since coming here from prison they make me feel safe, calm, and relaxed. They are always easy to talk to and don't judge you. They are really nice people and I just want to thank them so much for making me feel welcome.



Profile

Suzette March

We are thrilled to introduce you to Suzette March who joined the Guernsey Caring for Ex-Offenders staff team as Activities Key-worker in August 2024. Suzette has been a volunteer mentor with the charity since it started back in 2013.

She is married with two adult children, two adult step-children and 10 grandchildren.

Prior to joining GCCEO, Suzette worked for 26 years with Health and Social Care, based at the Kindred Family Hub. In this role she worked with many island families helping to facilitate good parenting skills through various courses such as Incredible Years (2-13 years) and more latterly a Caring Dads course.

Suzette has also worked with Health and Social Care as part of the Occupational Therapy team.

Interests outside of work include being a keen cliff walker and swimmer. Much of her free time is spent supporting and looking after her family.



Faith is an important part of Suzette's life and she is a member of Holy Trinity Church. She strongly believes that making time to listen to God is key and that it was God who opened the doors and made a way for her to come and work with GCCEO.

A warm welcome to Suzette.

Caves - Michelle Stringer / Activities Manager

Our workshops at the Caves are overseen by our GCFE0 Activities Manager, Michelle Stringer and our GCFE0 Activities Key-worker, Suzette March. During 2024, we had 35 people who attended sessions, which is an increase on the previous year.

We continued to provide a variety of activities for 3 days each week. Creative activities included craft, gardening, woodworking, art and sewing. Social activities included games sessions, drop in chat opportunities and our Wednesday lunches were always a real hit. During the Autumn months everyone was busy creating tile mosaic pictures, which look great and will be for sale this year.

We took residency in the OSA Pop Up Shop in Smith Street for a week in June and were, once again, able to sell our handmade items to raise funds. We will be trying other opportunities this year.

As well as the activity sessions; which are valuable for social interaction, building confidence and helping to form routines, we continue to provide a resource for the prison and probation services.

We helped several people with either day release from prison on temporary licence or community service orders and supervised adult family contact.





Employment - Andrew Kewell / Deputy Co-ordinator

During 2024, we were fortunate to secure employment for 18 service users. This followed 181 detailed applications and enquiries. Throughout the year we also provided in-work support to a further 15 service users to help them maintain their employment.

We are always looking for new employers who would be prepared to work with us in providing job opportunities. This can vary between States of Guernsey Kickstart and Work to Benefit schemes to paid positions from the get go.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the Guernsey Job Centre as we work together to secure employment for ex-offenders.



Funding

In order to continue providing this service, secure funding is absolutely crucial. Not only does this provide for the charity's immediate needs but offers us the opportunity to forward plan with confidence, allowing us to develop in a way that provides the best for the needs of those we serve, and thereby their families and the community as a whole. A big thank you to all our donors and grant funders.

December 2024 saw the end of our current 3 year year funding arrangement with Employment and Social Security and following a successful application, we are delighted to announce this has been renewed for a further 3 years, starting from January 2025.



Vision & Mission

Guernsey Caring for Ex-Offenders' ('GCFO') vision is to reduce re-offending by reintegrating ex-offenders (of any faith or none) into society through the local church.

Working in partnership with other agencies, GCFO seeks to support ex-offenders to live changed lives. We believe that by breaking the cycle of crime, individuals, families and neighbourhoods can be transformed.

Guernsey Caring for Ex-Offenders LBG

Holy Trinity Church Centre

Trinity Square

St Peter Port

Guernsey GY1 1LP

W: GCCEO.org

E: GCCEO@suremail.gg

T: 07781 124052



Front Cover image painted by
Service User at GCCEO Activities Centre