

Site

Greater Manchester NPS

Name of project / initiative

Personal Independent (Unpaid Work) Placement

Overview

While we take care to provide as wide a range of unpaid work options as possible, to accommodate a range of personal circumstances, such as childcare responsibilities and existing paid employment, unpaid work has traditionally been undertaken in groups and requires the person on probation to travel to the place of work. However, there are people who, often because of significant health and disability issues, are unable to undertake a traditional unpaid work placement. Since the alternative to unpaid work is a custodial sentence, this would normally mean them ending up in prison. During Covid, NPS was encouraged to develop "Projects in a Box" (PIAB) that people could do as unpaid work from home. While PIAB is being ended as a national initiative, we want to make sure that some working from home opportunities remain for those who could not complete a traditional placement. Our first project is in partnership with a national charity (Care 4 Calais) in which people on probation parcel up donated clothes for the charity to pass on to refugees. We are now looking at developing a similar initiative in partnership with Sue Ryder.

Longevity

Since July 2021

Benefits

The main benefit of this initiative is keeping people who would otherwise end up in custody, out of prison, reducing disruption in their lives and saving public money, while also doing something genuinely useful to help people in need.

Uniqueness

We think that this is a fairly unique approach. It draws on the principles of PIAB, but unlike many PIAB projects, is financially self funding.

Applicability

We think that this approach could be expanded within our region and nationally – meeting a need that would otherwise remain unmet.

Requirements

There are few special requirements for implementation other than someone to take the idea forward and build the necessary partnerships – it does not require public funds.

For more information:

Contact: Adam.Powsney@justice.gov.uk, Community Payback Operational Manager
See also: [KnowX.uk/GMNPS-KBT22.pdf](https://www.knowx.uk/GMNPS-KBT22.pdf) [Case Studies]

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