

Corporate Partnerships

Join our mission
to create a fairer,
more humane, & more
effective criminal justice
system for all



BELONG
MAKING JUSTICE HAPPEN

“ It's a lot of help, the most I've had in prison. I've got the most out of these sessions of anything. I felt really supported.

Participant serving at HMP Brixton who accessed Belong Mentoring.



Why Support Belong?

A system under strain.

A challenge we all share.

A call for collective action.

The Criminal Justice System in England and Wales is facing significant and growing challenges that affect the communities in which we all live and work.

The prison population is rising rapidly, with many prisons overcrowded. By 2027, without further efforts to reduce crime, demand could outstrip capacity. To manage this, some prison sentences are being cut short - 56% of prison sentences are 12 months or less - despite evidence that short sentences can hamper rehabilitative efforts. This is creating a cycle of reoffending and imprisonment that makes communities less safe.

Violence and self-harm in prisons are also rising, with self-harm now at record levels and assaults up 28% in the year ending December 2023.

A lack of resources across the system remains a major concern. Workforce challenges in prison and probation services have led to high vacancy levels, poor retention, and an inexperienced, understaffed workforce, creating significant risks of increasing crime rates.

In the year ending March 2024, police recorded 5.4 million offences, 4.5 million of which were victim-based. The latest Victims Survey, covering over 3,000 people, found that 70% felt their crime was not investigated thoroughly enough and nearly half were dissatisfied with the police response. Whilst most victims felt supported during the court process, only 38% believed the system was fair, just over a quarter believed it was effective, and just 23% believed they could receive justice by reporting a crime.

These challenges are compounded by the unmet needs of those involved. Many victims and perpetrators of crime face multiple, complex disadvantages such as trauma, mental health disorders, substance misuse, housing instability, and barriers to employment and education - making recovery and rehabilitation extremely difficult. These issues affect not only the individuals directly involved, but the communities and economies in which businesses operate.

The situation need not be this way.

We are on a mission to create a fairer, more humane, and more effective criminal justice system.

We invite you to be part of the solution.



About Belong

Belong is a leading UK charity which enables hope, rehabilitation and recovery for victims & perpetrators of crime.

We do this by engaging people of all ages in mentoring, psychotherapy and restorative justice programmes in prisons and communities. Our programmes help individuals to improve their wellbeing, increase their interpersonal skills and address practical problems that can be linked to offending and victimisation. These can be things like housing problems, issues with debt and finances, unemployment and poverty. We also use our frontline knowledge to help develop a fairer, more effective, and more humane criminal justice system where there is:

1. Increased, higher quality support in communities engaging people who have offended, been victims of crime or who are at risk of offending or victimisation.
2. Fairer sentencing with equal, non-discriminatory application.
3. Reduced trauma and harm in prisons enabling greater productivity and rehabilitation amongst people serving prison sentences.

Our Programmes

Mentoring

Belong provides one-to-one, holistic, tailored mentoring services in custodial settings and in community settings, for people of all ages in contact with the Criminal Justice System.

The service helps participants to build their confidence and deal with issues relating to accommodation; education, training and employment; health; drugs and alcohol; finance, benefits and debt; children and families; attitudes, thinking and behaviour.

Locations: Various locations delivered within prisons and in community settings

Annual running cost: £53,000

Me-Time

Me-Time is a programme which delivers group and one-to-one creative psychotherapy interventions for people on probation. It is aimed at people from Global Majority backgrounds, who are disproportionately represented within the criminal justice system.

Participants are supported to use verbal and non-verbal tools to process experiences of trauma; improve communication and conflict resolution skills; improve their mental and emotional wellbeing and learn to express and manage difficult thoughts and feelings.

By enabling participants to make progress in these areas, creative psychotherapies tackle the root causes of offending behaviour and maximise participants ability to live crime free lives.

Locations: HMP The Mount and in the East of England

Annual running cost: £76,000

Restorative Justice

We provide restorative justice interventions in response to crime and anti-social behaviour committed in the community and in response to incidents and violence that occur in prison settings.

Where it is safe and those involved are willing, restorative approaches give victims of harm opportunities to communicate with perpetrators to explain the impact of offending on them and have their questions answered. This enables people who have committed offences to develop empathy, learn about the impact of their offending on others and find ways of making amends or restoring relationships.

Locations: HMP Coldingley, HMP/YOI Isis, HMP The Mount

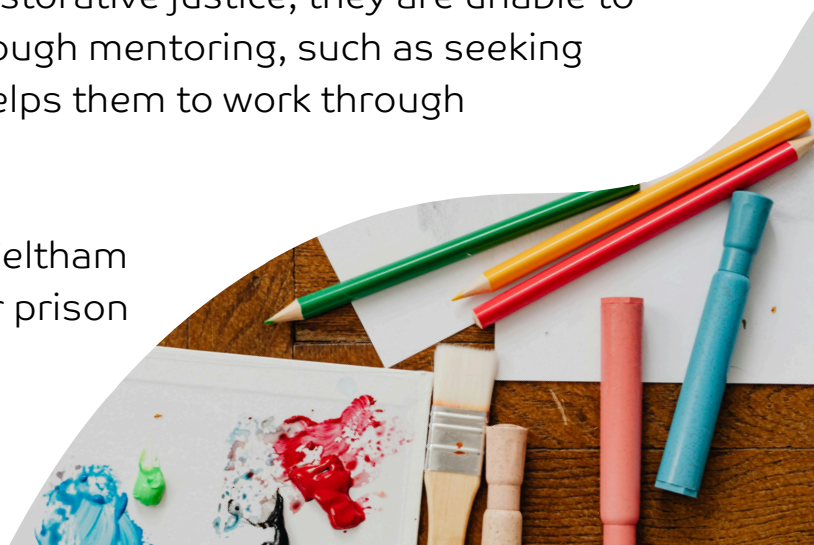
Annual running cost: £72,000

PLAN A

Prison, Life and New Achievements (or PLAN A for short) is an innovative, evidence-based programme which involves young people in up to three interventions concurrently: one-to-one mentoring, group or one-to-one creative psychotherapy and restorative justice (RJ). Support is available for up to 6 months during custody and after release from prison. The inclusion of three strands of intervention in PLAN A is unique to this programme, with each strand complementing the other, enabling other strands to be more successful and increasing the likelihood of overall engagement. For example, for many young people, until they have overcome trauma through creative psychotherapy sessions, or dealt with guilt and shame related to their offence through restorative justice, they are unable to engage in the support offered through mentoring, such as seeking employment. PLAN A therefore helps them to work through issues in a holistic way.

Locations: HMPYOI Isis and HMP Feltham

Annual running cost: £80,000 per prison



Training

Standard training for prison and probation workers in the UK can fall short of providing the personal skills needed to help people to manage the complex disadvantages and conflicts they face in prison. We work with criminal justice professionals to deliver specialised training in:

- Restorative approaches
- Mediation
- Conflict resolution
- Trauma informed approaches

Our training techniques include group and individual tasks and role-play. We also offer a Train-the-Trainer course in mediating conflicts.

Locations: various prisons and communities

Annual running cost: Fluctuates depending on the duration of training.

Influencing

Alongside our frontline work with perpetrators and victims of crime, Belong is also working to bring about change in the criminal justice service through influencing policy change. Through our work with beneficiaries, Belong has identified three priority areas needed to achieve widespread systemic change. Alongside continuing to scale and replicate the support we provide to individuals and communities, working towards these three outcomes is critical to our vision. Our three priority areas are:

- Increased, higher quality support in communities engaging people who have offended, been victims of crime or who are at risk of offending or victimisation.
- Effective, fair sentences that are applied equally, without discrimination.
- Reduced trauma and harm in prison so that prisons are more productive and rehabilitative places.

Our Impact

775

People were supported by Belong services last year. An increase of 329 on the previous year.



45%

of those supported were aged 18-25

75%

were from Global Majority Ethnic backgrounds

63%

of young people increased access to education, employment & training

Of those who engaged with our Restorative Justice Service:

89%

decrease in their involvement in violence

63%

decrease in their involvement in threatening and antisocial behaviour

Our services were delivered across

11

prisons and young offender's institutions, plus many community settings.

Among young people who engaged with PLAN A:

84%

showed improvement in mental well-being

81%

improved their resolve not to reoffend

Corporate Partnerships

A corporate partnership with Belong could help to solve some of your biggest business challenges.

If you are looking to achieve any of the following, we can work together with you in partnership to help achieve this.

- Solve a critical social issue and demonstrate social impact
- Meet CSR and ESG goals
- Contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Develop a positive culture
- Increase capability by attracting and retaining top talent
- Provide team building opportunities
- Improve your brand reputation
- Increase product awareness, sales and attract new customers



Get Involved

Strategic Partnerships

We can work with you to create a partnership that aligns your goals with our mission. We will take the time to discuss your needs and tailor our partnership to ensure it helps you achieve the results that matter to your organisation.

A multi-layered partnership with us could include a range of activities such as employee skill sharing, joint research, project funding and events.

Whatever your needs, we will ensure that together we build a partnership that is not only dynamic and engaging but that is focused on the objectives of everyone involved.

Programme Support

If there is a programme or area of our work that you are particularly interested in getting involved with, we can work with you to develop a mutually beneficial support package which includes benefits to you, such as brand exposure, in return for programme funding and knowledge input.



In-Kind Support and Volunteering

By engaging your employees to share their time, skills and expertise to support us with short term projects you could add significant value to the efficiency and operation of our charity whilst developing the skills, wellbeing and loyalty of your team. Equally, donations of equipment, meeting room space or auction prizes could really help to improve our bottom line, with little to no cost to you.

Employee Fundraising

Creating a socially conscious organisation with a shared purpose is proven to attract and retain good staff, boost morale and increase productivity. We can work with you to engage your employees through team fundraising ideas and by working with you on schemes such as Payroll Giving and Matched Funding.

Cause Marketing

Together we can create a joint marketing initiative that boosts the sales of your product or service while simultaneously providing point of sale donations to Belong, increasing awareness of our cause. This is an excellent way to increase your customers whilst supporting our beneficiaries.



The Difference You Will Make

By joining us on our journey, you can help us to develop a fairer, more humane, and more effective criminal justice system.

We want to...

Increase the number of people supported through mentoring, restorative justice and psychotherapy interventions from 520 to 1500.

Increase the number of young men receiving 3-stranded support through Plan A from 50 to 100.

Expand the number of UK prison and Young Offenders Institutes we operate in from 11 to 20.

Increase the number of criminal justice staff trained through our programmes from 50 to 200 annually.



Which will enable us to...

Reduce reoffending rates amongst participants.

Continue improving the wellbeing and safety of participants. Currently 80% show improved wellbeing and 89% show reductions in violent behaviour and self-harming.

Enhance community integration with mentees, fostering social connection and positive reintegration.

Build capacity in the system and improve the conflict resolution skills amongst participants.

Dan's Story

Dan was 18 years old when he started to engage with the PLAN A programme in prison. He'd been convicted for a violent offence and was struggling with spells of self-harm. He shared having been a long-term carer for his parent before prison. Members of his family had also been stabbed during his childhood.

Dan engaged well with creative psychotherapy right away, attending all 15 of his hour-long sessions. He learned about trauma responses and how past experiences, socioeconomic factors and societal expectations can impact decision making and emotions. He also showed interest in learning more about neuropsychology and furthering his understanding of his ADHD diagnosis. Dan's creative output indicated a great desire to move forward and think carefully about life beyond his prison sentence.

He moved on to the second strand of PLAN A - 18 sessions of restorative practice, however, he was very hesitant about the idea of engaging with the victim of his offence, still caught up in his justification for what had taken place and very far from being able to give a heartfelt apology. He shared a sense that he had to 'eat or be eaten' and, with his additional caring responsibilities at home, he was under a lot of pressure to provide. Through exploring loss, influences, victimhood and the ripple effect, Dan developed stronger empathy and changed his thinking around his previous choices. He expressed a desire to train as a Youth Worker and contribute towards making his neighbourhood safer for future generations. His prison records showed that he was avoiding violent situations and that he had stopped self-harming.

Through engaging with PLAN A, Dan accepted responsibility, improved his wellbeing, understood more context around victimhood and crime, and developed ways of moving forward. Belong continues to support Dan and we hope to see him through to his eventual release.



Contact Us

If you would like to find out more about Corporate Partnerships with us we would love to hear from you.

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