

## **Covid 19 statement**

Belong are committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of our staff and service users. We are taking the following steps to adapt our services during the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **How we've adapted our interventions**

We are still working face-to-face with service users in custodial environments and will continue to do so, as we are deemed by HMPPS to provide essential and business-critical services in prisons. In line with HMPS and government guidelines, we have put group work on hold (including group creative therapy sessions). We are continuing to deliver our services on a one to one basis where possible.

We have adapted our provision to offer one to one mentoring, therapy and emotional wellbeing services remotely, UK wide, to young people and adults transitioning to the community from custody, on license in the community, or serving community sentences. To find out if you are able to refer or request a referral from a professional you are working with, visit our page here

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/belongmakingjusticehappen\\_mentoring-therapy-prison-activity-6714503954899705856-dGWk](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/belongmakingjusticehappen_mentoring-therapy-prison-activity-6714503954899705856-dGWk)

Many of our service users have suffered from the devastating social, economic and health impacts of Covid 19. We are supporting service users in custodial environments by offering in cell learning, emotional wellbeing and creative kits. We are utilizing in cell telephony and learning to provide additional wellbeing support where possible.

We have taken steps to keep people leaving prison safe, motivated and engaged. Our team has put together hygiene release packs to young people and adults leaving prison, containing critical items to keep people safe on their journey home, such as face masks, hand gels and wipes.

We are still delivering restorative justice services, and if you are a victim of crime, you can still self-refer to us by contacting us on [enquiries@belonglondon.com](mailto:enquiries@belonglondon.com).

### **How we've protected our staff and volunteers**

Our team are being supported to take all necessary health and safety precautions in line with HMPPS, PHE and government advice as we continue our vital work.

Staff working in prison-based roles are utilising in cell telephony where possible, and all one to one sessions are delivered using social distancing measures. All staff and volunteers are provided with hygiene equipment such as hand gels and hand wipes. Individual steps have been taken based on each prisons risk assessment, which is reviewed by Belong's senior management team weekly.

All staff based in the community are working from home.

**We have seen an increase in demand for our services during the coronavirus pandemic, and we need your support. If you would like to support us to continue to adapt to coronavirus, give what you can today: <http://bit.ly/32REUeW>**