

Introducing The Forward Trust

The new name for Rapt and Blue Sky



forward

forward

We are Forward (formally Rapt and Blue Sky), the social enterprise that empowers people to break the cycle of crime or addiction to move forward with their lives. For more than 25 years we have been working with people to build positive and productive lives, whatever their past.

We believe that anyone is capable of lasting change. Our services have supported thousands of people to make positive changes and build productive lives with a job, family, friends and a sense of community.



Case study

"I never thought it would be possible to break the cycle of addiction and crime. But I now live in a beautiful flat, have a full time job and a girlfriend. I feel so positive about my future and know that I will continue to move forward with my life"

Lee former Forward client



A word from our Chair

26 years ago a group of people got together to set up a project that would offer support to people with drug or alcohol problems in prison. Today that small project has grown into a huge organisation working in 20 prisons and in the community offering substance misuse services and employment services to addicts and ex-offenders. We support some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in society to turn their lives around by helping them to break the cycles of addiction, crime, unemployment and destructive behaviours.

At our core is the belief that anyone is capable of transformational change, no matter how entrenched their addiction or prolific their crimes. We have thousands of examples of people making real change in their lives and moving forward with a family, a job and a community.

We now enter an exciting new phase of our development as Rapt and Blue Sky merge to become the Forward Trust. By combining the skills and expertise of these two organisations with over 35 years' experience between them, we hope to help more people break the cycle and move forward with their lives.

We know there are many people who are affected by addiction or crime. As the Forward Trust we intend to show that change is possible, building on our track record to offer support to many more people. Anyone, given access to the right support, is capable of moving forward.

David Bernstein

Chair, Forward Trust



A word from our CEO

I'm proud every day to see the impact our work has on our clients, their families and their communities. I'm inspired to see the positive lives our former clients have made when they have broken the cycle of addiction or crime. But we know that our services could support many more people. As Forward we will be able to bring together the expertise, skill and experience of two organisations to help drive change forward.

At the heart of our work are inspirational role models and peer supporters who have always been key to the successful delivery of our services. More than one third of Forward's own employees are ex-offenders or in recovery from addiction themselves. They offer living proof that change is possible and are a vital source of support and motivation to others. By truly keeping the client at the centre of our work we are better able to innovate, collaborate and develop our services to show clear evidence of the ongoing impact of our work.

We are looking to strengthen the relationships we have with other agencies and charities who play a vital role in offering a high quality, seamless service for the long term support of our clients.

It's an exciting time at the Forward Trust and we want you to be part of our development. To see how we can work together please visit our website, forwardtrust.org.uk, or contact me.

Mike Trace

CEO, Forward Trust

How we help to break the cycle

15,000

people are supported by Forward every year

34%

of Forward staff are in recovery from addiction themselves

14,994

hours are contributed by Forward volunteers each year

75%

of Forward recovery apprentices gain employment after their apprenticeship

300

ex-offenders will find work with Blue Sky in 2017/18

43%

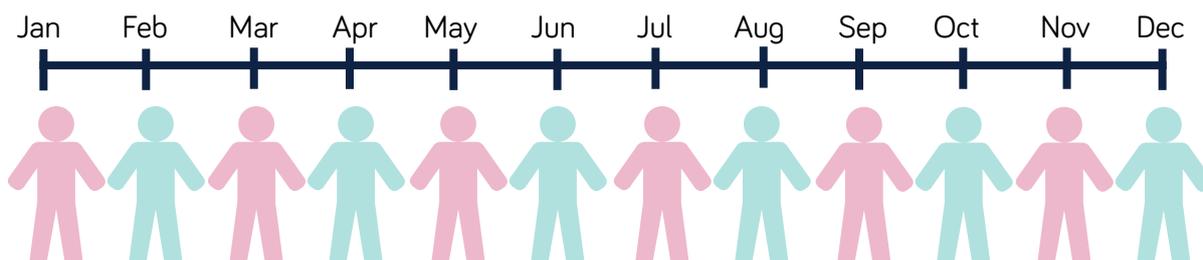
of people employed through Blue Sky secured an onward job last year

200

people - the number of prison learners BlueSky will engage with in 2017/18

£18,600

savings generated to the public purse for every ex-offender who completes six months of employment



Only 31% of prisoners who complete Forward's intensive prison rehabilitation programme are **reconvicted within one year**. This compares with 49% completing a less intensive programme.¹

For every 100 people completing the Forward intensive rehabilitation programme an estimated



Blue Sky's employment model reduces reoffending by up to

23%²

¹Source: Kopak, A. M., Dean, L. V., Proctor, S. L., Miller, L., & Hoffmann, N. G. (2014) 'Effectiveness of the Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners Trust (RAPt) programme', Journal of Substance Use

²Source: Ministry of Justice Data Lab Re-offending analysis: Blue Sky 2013

Drug and alcohol services



Clinical services

Case study

“Having broken the cycle of addiction and crime I feel like I've got a new lease of life. I feel like I can move forward with my life and start contributing to society instead of taking away.”

Karl, former Forward client



Health & wellbeing

About our services

Forward empowers people to break the cycle of addiction or crime to move forward with their lives. For more than 25 years we have been working with people to build positive and productive futures. We believe that anyone is capable of lasting change. Our services have supported thousands of people to make changes to create better lives with jobs, family, friends and a sense of community.

Our evidence based drug and alcohol services are tailored to an individual's needs, strengths and motivations. We adapt our approach for each client, whatever they are ready for, however long we have with them and wherever their location. From brief workshops to minimise risk and build motivation, through to longer term intensive programmes that tackle deep-rooted behaviour, our programmes build an array of skills to support our clients.



Individual support

An estimated
2 million
people in the UK are
struggling with an
addiction.



Group support

Prison drug and alcohol services

Forward delivers one of the country's most highly regarded drug and alcohol services in prisons. Our experience in supporting thousands of people spans more than 25 years and 25 prisons, having opened the first intensive treatment programme in a UK prison at HMP Downview in 1992.

Our prison drug and alcohol programmes were the first to have been independently accredited for reducing re-offending by the Ministry of Justice. The 'Rapt' intensive treatment programme results in an 18% reduction in reoffending and 65% reduction in the volume of crime compared to other drug treatment programmes.



Aftercare services

Community drug and alcohol

Forward has more than 14 years' experience in supporting people in communities across the country. Our services are tailored to the individual needs, strengths and motivations of our clients – whether they are looking for support to build a life free from drugs and alcohol or need help to stay safe and reduce risks.

We offer a wide range of evidence-based services, from brief advice sessions to residential treatment. As well as offering psychological and social support we provide high quality clinical services, from substitute prescribing to detoxification.

Aftercare

People who complete our intensive treatment programmes, known as the Rapt programmes, can access Forward's recovery support service. To date, the service has helped thousands of clients through continued care to help build the resilience and strength needed to maintain recovery from addiction and live a positive and productive life.

Family support

Our family and friends services offer additional support to help our clients rebuild meaningful relationships as well as offering support to their loved ones through a range of interventions, referrals and ongoing support.

Case study

"There's so much shame and stigma that people who have loved ones with addiction can feel – I can't believe how much the family service has helped and taught me. It's given me the tools I need to stay strong, as well as to support my husband in his recovery."

Jackie, Forward family support client



15,000 people are supported by Forward every year

Forward's Intensive prison programme results in an 18% reduction in re-offending

70% of residents at Forward's rehabilitation treatment centre - The Bridges, completed the programme last year. The national average is 45%

34% of Forward staff are in recovery from addiction

Where we work

Forward currently provides drug and alcohol services in 20 prisons and 10 community programmes across Hull, London, the Home Counties and East Kent.

Work with us

For information on partnership opportunities please contact: partners@forwardtrust.org.uk or visit us at: www.forwardtrust.org.uk

For every 100 people completing Forward's intensive programme an estimated £6.3 million is saved on reduced crime and resentencing

Employment services



Grounds maintenance

Case study

"On leaving prison after eight years, my prospects weren't good. I thought, 'Who's going to employ an ex-offender?' but then I found Blue Sky and I've never looked back. Best thing I've ever done."

Irvin, Blue Sky employee



Warehouse & distribution

About the service

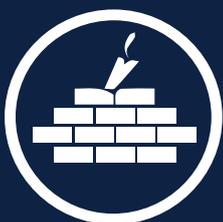
Our employment services help people to break the cycle of re-offending and addiction through training and employment activities that are grounded in the real world of work. Operating across Justice, Welfare to Work and Local Authority commissioning frameworks, our services include:

- Into Work: Direct employment of ex-offenders through our award-winning Blue Sky agency and wider brokerage services, plus in-work support
- Skills: Accredited vocational training based on employer needs
- Motivation: Activities and interventions to engage, inspire, and prepare offender/learners for real jobs
- Starting Out: Apprenticeships and Volunteering
- Enterprise: Self-Employment and Enterprising Routeways. (We invest in our own enterprises – and start-up enterprises – led by and employing people in recovery from crime or addiction).



Waste management

Our services are informed by years of working with some of the hardest-to-reach people in the community, in custody and through the gate. Our expert team includes people with lived experience, who can promote inspirational peer support with our target client groups. 34% of Forward's staff are ex-offenders or in recovery from addiction.



Construction

Our current employment and skills contract delivery portfolio includes NOMS CFO3, NOMS Learning and Skills Development, Work Programme, Prison Reform contracts, and Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS).

Employer engagement

We hold long-standing relationships with employers in a range of sectors including local and national companies as well as local authorities:

- We invest heavily in understanding the operational needs of our commercial partners.
- We provide key social and economic reporting to support the strategic priorities of our partners
- Skills gaps identified by our commercial partners help inform our vocational training in prisons and in the community
- Our employability and motivational work is underpinned by insight into the attitudes and behaviours required to sustain real jobs



Catering

Informed by the client's voice

Forward builds trust with thousands of people in recovery from crime and addiction every year. Our work is informed by the barriers we know exist for the people we support, and by ongoing analysis of the impact of our employment work.

Here's what our customers tell us:

Barriers to employment

- **Discrimination:** "Employers just put the phone down when they hear about my past."
- **Loss of confidence:** "I've forgotten how to work"
- **Lack of trust in mainstream services:** "What system?"
- **Social isolation:** "I feel so terribly lonely that I wouldn't be happy even if I win the lottery."

Our solutions

- **Creating opportunity:** "Really happy with Blue Sky, they gave me an opportunity when so many others let me down"
- **Growing confidence:** "I am really enjoying my job, i.e. as a Recycling loader. The job has boosted my confidence."
- **Building trust:** "Blue Sky treats us like human beings with normal interactions and no judgements."
- **Developing social networks:** "I've met new people through work who are on the same journey."

Over 1,400 ex-offenders have been employed through Blue Sky since 2005; of these clients, 43% move on to permanent jobs

Blue Sky Agency has received 168 Work Programme referrals (100% starting paid jobs with 50% sustaining employment for at least 13 weeks)

Blue Sky Agency's employment model reduces re-offending by up to 23% (MoJ Data Lab)

"Working with Blue Sky has proved to be a real productive partnership on the ground thus enabling Quadron to meet our high standards."

Martyn Bradley, Operations Director, Quadron

£18,600 is saved for every ex-offender who completes our employment programme (Deloitte/Pro Bono Economics)

Where we work

We operate across London, Home Counties and Southern areas, and are also developing new initiatives in the West Midlands.

Work with us

For more information on how to partner with us please contact: employment@forwardtrust.org.uk

or visit us at:
www.blueskydevelopment.co.uk or
www.forwardtrust.org.uk



75% of people who complete Forward's Apprenticeship scheme gain employment on completion



Case study

"I completed the Rapt prison programme in 2008 at HMP Send and was released in 2014. Since then, I've opened my own business and become a mother. Forward has given me more opportunities than I ever could have imagined and they are still here for me, still supporting me."

Lacie, former Forward client

forward

Forward Trust, The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR
Tel: 0207 582 5677
info@forwardtrust.org.uk
www.forwardtrust.org.uk

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