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Letter in support of funding for A Better Tomorrow

I currently work for the Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and my role is that of Offender Manager. I work specifically with drug and alcohol users and priority offenders. Prior to having access to A Better Tomorrow (ABT) many of these clients were hard to reach as by their very nature as they are chaotic and difficult to engage with as they were normally of no fixed abode and many of the traditional housing providers would not offer them settled and suitable accommodation to become abstinent., thus increasing their risk of offending and overdose.

Since I have been referring clients to ABT I have found a reduction in offending in those clients who have participated in the ABT project. They are less chaotic, have a focus, boundaries and a purpose in life. One client in particular has completely changed his life for being a prolific offender in and out of jail to undertaking qualifications and supporting those around him. This has come from the stability and support of ABT which has then allowed me to address his offending behaviour in a productive and safe way, which was impossible when he was both homeless and using Class A substances. Another client of mine lapsed and was returned to jail for further offending and ABT have still supported him whilst in custody with a view to him returning to the project on his release. They encouraged him to access counselling in jail and facilitated a letter of apology to one of his victims after he attended a SORI programme in jail which looks deeper into victim awareness. This has motivated him to apply himself to other courses as he feels he has a future away from substances and crime with both their and my support, which he has not thought before.

I find their approach to providing both support and accommodation refreshing as they do not turn their back on anyone and will offer ongoing floating support to those who may have lapsed and encourage them to keep attending support groups with a view to them re-entering the project at a later date.

[SECURITY MARKING, if any]

They offer a unique Service in the Telford area by the fact that they provide safe and stable accommodation combined with 121 support and group sessions and utilise the support of other local Recovery Services in this area.

Their presence and input has aided several clients of mine to move forward in their recovery and lead productive lives, and I fully support the work they do and support this application for further funding to enhance and expand their Services in my local catchment area.

I can be contacted at the address above.

Tina Aldridge
Offender Manager

[SECURITY MARKING, if any]