

# RELEASE MATES TRUSTEE CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

[WWW.RELEASEMATES.ORG](http://WWW.RELEASEMATES.ORG)



**Release Mates**



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**Release Mates**

# A WELCOME LETTER FROM CEO & FOUNDER DAVID DUNN

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in Release Mates.

After my release from prison in 2022, I wanted to establish a service which was positive and pro-active in supporting prison leavers on the day of their release. I wanted it to be fun and exciting, to think outside the box, to push boundaries, and above all else, to change the lives of those people society had given up on.

Release Mates was born and has done exactly what it set out to do. We are a small team of prison leavers in stable recovery from addiction who continue to prove that positive, pro-social change is achievable.

By supporting people with practical issues upon release from prison and using our own lived experience of the criminal justice system to trigger a motivation for positive change, we have seen remarkable results.

The time has now come to invite people to join our team as we form the inaugural board of trustees to our charity. This is an exciting time for all involved and we seek to welcome those who share the same passion and excitement for our work as we do!

Warm Regards,

David Dunn



[david@releasemates.org](mailto:david@releasemates.org)

- Release Mates has an ethos around it of determination which is driven by our passion to succeed for those we serve. Since its inception in July 2022, Release Mates has supported over 300 prison leavers.
- We run a discharge lounge at HMP Lancaster Farms where we support men leaving the prison with clothes, food, use of our phones, help setting up Universal Credit claims, toiletries, and advice on housing and drug and alcohol rehabilitation.
- Release Mates offers a more intense level of support to those who need it. Men and women are referred into our service for full day of release support which includes the above, transport, and accompaniment to the day of release appointments they are expected to attend, a proper brekky and a decent coffee! This level of support is reserved for those who may struggle to navigate their day of release due to mental health, addiction, or physical health needs. This support is offered to people returning from any prison to Lancashire or Cumbria.
- In the time we spend with each person, we use our own lived experience of the criminal justice system to show pro-social change is achievable

## ABOUT RELEASE MATES

# WHAT TO EXPECT



Our inaugural board will be made up of 3 trustees. We have 2 vacant positions available.



Our conversion from CIC to CIO is being handled by Bates Wells Solicitors who act on our behalf pro bono after Release Mates' success at The Stephen Lloyd Awards 2023.



It is hoped that each trustee will offer advice and support to the management team of Release Mates to help progress the service.



Experience is fundraising is preferred, but not essential



We anticipate 3 online board meetings and one in-person meeting per annum



A very rough estimate of time required for each position is 4 hours per month, plus the quarterly meetings

We are seeking 2 people to join the inaugural board of our CIO. :

Trustee:

- You and your co-trustees must make sure that the charity is carrying out the purposes for which it is set up, and no other purpose. This means you should:
- Ensure you understand the charity's purposes as set out in its governing document
- Plan what your charity will do, and what you want it to achieve
- Be able to explain how all of the charity's activities are intended to further or support its purposes
- Understand how the charity benefits the public by carrying out its purposes

**ROLE DESCRIPTION: TRUSTEE**

## Lived Experience of the Criminal Justice System Board Member Roles and Responsibilities:

- As above and the following:
- To ensure that first-hand experience of the criminal justice system remains the lifeblood of the service.
- To liaise with the board to help lived and learned experience combine to achieve the best possible outcomes for those we serve
- To assist in developing the organisation
- To be a voice on our board for those who we seek to support

Eligibility checker [here](#)

**ROLE DESCRIPTION: LIVED EXPERIENCE**

# HOW TO APPLY

For further information or an informal chat, please contact David Dunn:

Telephone: 07399 082994

Email: [David@releasemates.org](mailto:David@releasemates.org)

Applications close at midnight on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024



**Release Mates**