



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
for Leicestershire**

Prevention | Partnership | Protection

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Police Headquarters
St John's
Enderby
Leicestershire
LE19 2BX

Date: 8 April 2021

Dear CSP Chair

Over the past year the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner has been working with Leicester City Council and the Department for Work & Pensions to establish a partnership group, with the aim of supporting organisations in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) to employ ex-offenders into their workforce.

As part of the success of the partnership group we have held a number of recruitment and networking events which have resulted in ex-offenders gaining employment, as well as growing the group to involve partners including, Leicestershire Cares, Probation and New Futures Network. We have also established a website which we are developing to become a single online home for opportunities open to ex-offenders.

However, we recognise that there is still work to be done to support organisations to employ ex-offenders, and also to strengthen the pathways for ex-offenders to access training, work placements and employment opportunities. Gaining stable employment is an important step to moving away from a life of offending and people with a criminal record can offer a wide range of skills that are often overlooked by employers.

Reducing reoffending and supporting those individuals furthest away from the labour market will have relevance to your local plans. We would like to work more closely with Community Safety Partnerships to drive this agenda forward.

I am therefore writing to request your support for the enclosed charter and to ask you to promote it to your partnership.

The charter includes:

- Ban the box – Pledging to peruse the ban the box agenda to ensure a policy of fair recruitment for ex-offenders
- Events – Being involved in job fairs and interviews days to support with employability skills
- Online Portal – Promoting the online portal which is being developed to highlight jobs, training and volunteering opportunities available to ex-offenders

You can find the charter [here](#) and more on our [online portal](#).

It would be of great benefit we believe, that the theme of continuing to support ex-offenders into work or be work ready, has a strategic place within your local Community Safety Partnership plans.

If you have any questions or would like a discussion regarding the charter, please contact my office who will be able to set up a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Kirk Master
Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner

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