



Trinity Unit, HMP Wandsworth  
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SW18 3HS

20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**To whom it may concern,**

**Reference of Trailblazers engagement with Liberty Choir, written by one of volunteer mentors:**

Trailblazers is a through the gate mentoring service, working one-to-one with young offenders aged 18-30 to support them as they resettle back into the community with the aim of reducing re-offending.

*One of my recent mentees was a member of Liberty Choir, which resulted in my working closely with the Choir. We held constructive discussions to support this young man, both while he was in HMP Wandsworth and singing in Liberty Choir, and then when he was released and singing in the Community Choir. This involved liaison between the Choir and Trailblazers (for instance on the practicalities of his attending the Community Choir), as well as three-way discussions with his Probation Officer (who needed to give her approval for him to attend). The benefits of his attending Choir were very clear. He was particularly proud of performing in the annual Victoria & Albert Museum carol singing event (apparently a Liberty Choir special experience) and, at his request, we held our next meeting at the museum.*

*I have attended the Liberty Choir's annual Friends and Family Concert in HMP Wandsworth and it is heart-warming to see the pride with which the prisoners perform for their family members. If they are then able to remain connected with such a supportive group when they move back into the community, their chances of turning their lives around are much enhanced.*

Sincerely,

Georgina Webb

**Project Manager**

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