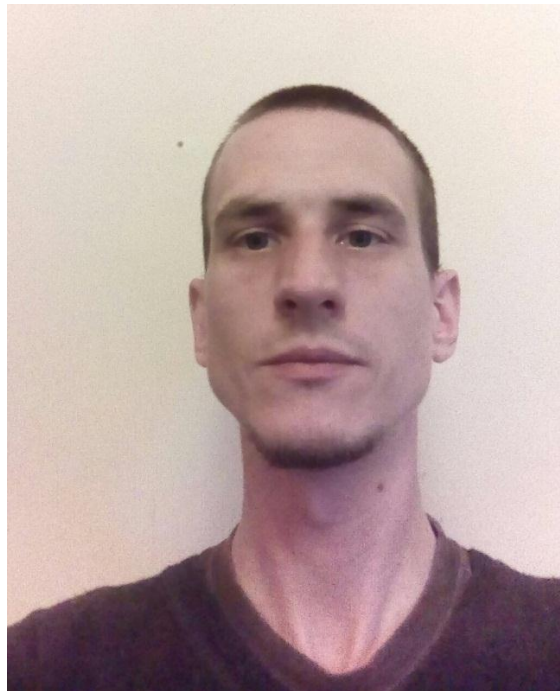




HMPPS Choice –Winner

Dave Meadows, The Bike Project, Achieve North West Connect



Achieve North West Connect (ANWC) deliver a bespoke project to a small number of male offenders with significant mental health difficulties at the National Probation Service's Approved Premises for men with mental health needs, St Joseph's, Salford, and Greater Manchester.

The Bike Project delivers one-to-one tuition every week. Dave Meadows, is the bike mechanic who trains the participants to repair and recycle broken and dis-repaired bicycles. If the residents "do up" one bike, it is given to a more disadvantaged child or adult in Africa or Europe. This supports the participants to feel that they are giving back.

Dave was recruited as a part-time bike mechanic in May 2016 to work on the project: to support men with significant mental health problems.

Dave works at St Joseph's two days a week showing the residents how to strip, rebuild, and maintain push bicycles. He has the personality, attitude, qualities and dedication to engage with, sometimes very challenging, residents and he provides tuition at the right pace for his group. Other challenges include moderated resources, and semi outdoor environment – not good as winter approaches!



HM Prison &
Probation Service



He tutors 3- 4 participants per week to ensure that there is plenty of one-to-one support. The Bike Project, and Dave, have proved so popular amongst residents that a limit of attendees to 2-3 per day – for safety reasons.

If the residents “do up” one bike, it is sent to a disadvantaged child or adult in UK or Ghana, Africa. If they “do up” 2, then they get to keep the bike for themselves.

The residents have upcycled about 80 bicycles to day all with Dave’s support.

This practical work supports the participants with independent living, developing practical and vocational skills, team building and problem solving skills- all worthwhile personal, social and employment skills.

For those participants who want to make more of this training, ANWC have created a pathway to employment. Bike mechanics is a growing industry with a greater number of safe cycle routes throughout Greater Manchester. This means more people on their bikes and more people needing their bicycles fixed and serviced. The pathway offers the participant the opportunity to learn to be a qualified bike mechanic with training and qualifications and equipment available through ANWC partner- The Margaret Carey Foundation.