Partners and communities working together to reduce harm, crime & anti-social behaviour, by inspiring young people to meet their potential in a positive and rewarding environment.

**Aims of Great Expectations**

- To reduce harm, crime & anti-social behaviour involving young people, through an ethos of positive engagement, prevention and intervention.

- To target engagement at young people displaying a vulnerability to actual or future involvement in harm, crime or anti-social behaviour.

- To equip and inspire young people to make better life decisions.

- To utilise the skills and attributes of the individual young person and their community as part of the solution.

- To promote an ethos of ‘work for reward’ amongst young people.

- To develop relationships and break down barriers between young people, partners & communities.

**Further Information**

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**Great Expectations Mentors**

All serving prisoners have been thoroughly and rigorously interviewed and assessed by the Police and Prison service to ensure their suitability. All have undertaken the necessary safeguarding training to be able to work with young people.
The History of Great Expectations

The concept of Great Expectations was developed as a result of an increase in gang related activity within the City of Gloucester in 2013 and formed part of the Avenger Task Force, a multi-agency team aimed at safeguarding young people, families and communities from gang related activity and supporting gang members from exiting the gang lifestyle.

The Avenger Task force was successful in the disruption of known gang activity and as a result the focus of the team has shifted to prevention and Great Expectations.

Great Expectations works with young people who are vulnerable to or involved in criminality and has a three tiered approach.

Tier one - Custody Experience
A one day programme aimed at young people who have been identified as displaying anti-social, reckless or inappropriate behaviour that if continued could result in them coming to the attention of the Police and ending up with a criminal record. Parents/Carers of the young person referred to the programme are visited and consent for them to participate is obtained. On the day of the intervention the participant will be collected by uniformed Police in a marked Police vehicle and taken to the custody suite where they experience what it would be like if they had been arrested and are walked through different stages from being booked in by the custody Sergeant to interview and fingerprints. A reflective practice session is then facilitated by the team and the current serving prisoners who provide a very real insight into the effects that a life of offending and custody has on your future and your family. After the young person has taken part in tier 1 further support and positive engagement is provided by the Aston Project which works alongside Great Expectations to inspire young people to meet their potential in a rewarding environment.

Tier two - Court & Prison Experience
A two day programme aimed at young people who have displayed anti-social, reckless or inappropriate behaviour as a result of which they have been arrested and received either a community resolution or youth caution but have not yet been to Court. Great Expectations works in partnership with the community Magistrates and each participant will get to take part in a mock trial within a working court. Serving Magistrates run the court session and each participant appears in court for an offence that they have previously committed, it matters not if they plead guilty or not guilty as they are sentenced to a visit to prison which takes place on day 2. The Prison visit involves each participant being booked in and taken into the Prison and having some interaction with Prisoners who provide a real insight into what happens if they choose a life of crime and the realities of prison life. During the intervention the participants will be accompanied by staff from the Great Expectations programme and receive support post course to help them engage positively in their communities.

Tier three – 7 week programme
A 7 week intensive programme aimed at young people who are on the verge of ending up in custody as a result of displaying high risk behaviour within their communities. The programme takes place one day a week over the 7 week period and is facilitated by Police, YST and current serving prisoners.

Each week a prisoner will share their personal story from childhood onwards providing an insight into how the choices they made and the situations they faced lead them ultimately to being in custody. The programme addresses criminal behaviour, weapons, substance misuse, peer pressure, consequential thinking, decision making and the realities of crime and prison. This programme also includes a visit to Prison. Post Course the participants receive support through mentorship and infobuzz who provide tailor made packages for all tier 3 participants to assist them in achieving a positive future free from crime.