

More about the Prison Arts Foundation (PAF)

We are a registered charity that seeks to provide access to the arts for those people who have offended in Northern Ireland.

Our mission is to inspire creativity and encourage personal and social change in offenders within the criminal justice system, through the arts

Our aim is to release the creative potential of those previously excluded or from marginalised communities, those serving custodial and community sentences. We contract professional artists and practitioners to engage, teach, enthuse and give inspiration to participants in inclusive and tolerant workshops in a variety of art forms.

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**Registered Charity NIC101557 and limited by guarantee Company
No. NI607881**

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Foundation


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New arts mentoring scheme taking talent to the next level.....

We can offer one-to-one mentoring across a range of different art forms such as painting, writing, music, crafts, performing arts. You will work with your mentor to identify the goals you would like to achieve and receive support from your mentor and the PAF to achieve these.



Who are PAF Art Mentors? They are experienced artists, writers, producers and craftspeople who have been trained to provide support to someone who has been involved in the criminal justice system.

What mentoring pathways are there? We have two different mentoring pathways offering unique and bespoke support to people who have experience of the criminal justice system and who would like to continue with their arts based practice. All mentees will be matched with a mentor who will work with them on a one-to-one basis to identify the goals they would like to achieve in the arts and have regular mentoring sessions to realise these.

First Step pathway: is open to anyone who has been involved in the criminal justice system.

Creative Futures pathway: is designed to support either Koestler or Listowel Award-winners or those who have an existing body of work who would like to develop their practice in the community or in custody.

A typical mentoring session might involve:

- Going to an art exhibition to look at other artist's work
- Receiving feedback on something you have recently created
- Asking your mentor for advice on your arts technique
- Being introduced to other local artists, art organisations or art groups
- Doing a joint project with your mentor to develop your skills
- Finding out about courses or events in your arts field
- Building your confidence
- Your mentor supporting you to perform a piece of your work
- Your mentor suggesting resources to expand your knowledge
- Working on an application to college or further education

How do I become a PAF Mentee?

If you would like to be mentored then you should get in touch with us, either by post, phone or over the internet to get an application form. **(our contact details are on the last page)** Alternatively, you can ask your Probation Officer, Prison Coordinator, Support Officer or a member of the arts or education team at your establishment to contact PAF on your behalf.

You can attach additional information to your application form as it will really help us in finding you a suitable mentor – for example you could send examples/photocopies of your work, or include a letter or supporting statement from an arts tutor, teacher or PAF's own Artist in Residence. Please note, that a failure to disclose relevant information such as convictions may mean that we are unable to consider your application.

Once we have received your application, we will seek a reference to support your participation in the mentoring scheme and there is space on the form for you to give us details of who we should contact.