We need your help. Find out more about our work and donate, at:

wpwt.org.uk

Wandsworth • Prison • Welfare • Trust

Please help a man starting again with almost nothing



Please donate today

Your gift will provide practical, immediate help to men leaving prison with little more than the clothes they stand up in. Together, we can help ensure that a man's first day of freedom is not spent cold, isolated, hungry, or unable to reach the people and services that can help him move forward.

A fresh start begins with the basics. Please help us provide them.

Wandsworth Prison Welfare Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1198674)

Imagine walking out of prison with nowhere to go, very little money, and no one waiting for you. Imagine trying to do this around Christmas, when everyone else is enjoying a holiday.

For many men, this is the reality of release day.

Many leave prison with only the clothes they have been wearing inside, a small amount of soap and toothpaste, and hardly any cash. That may be all they possess in the world. No warm coat. No suitable shoes. No phone. No travel card. No support network. No place to call home.

Yet from the moment they are released, they are expected to begin rebuilding their lives. They must contact probation services, arrange benefits, speak to housing teams, attend appointments, and try to avoid the circumstances that led them into prison in the first place.

More than one man dies every day in the year after leaving prison.

Our trustee Daniel shares his experience:

"After spending nine months in Wandsworth Prison, I was released with a prison issued one way rail ticket to my home in Doncaster and vague directions from staff for getting across a city I'd never been to before.

Wearing the clothing I entered the prison nine months before, which now certainly didn't fit, with no mobile phone and no money beyond a few pounds I managed to save up from my prison job, I walked out. I had to rely on strangers to direct me from Wandsworth to Kings Cross Station. I didn't dare buy a coffee or a sandwich in case my money ran out.

I was lucky. I got back home to my family who offered their unconditional support, but not everyone has that.

Now, three years later as a trustee of Wandsworth Prison Welfare Trust, I've managed to restart my life and volunteer with WPWT to help those who were in the same situation as me. I know well the massive impact leaving Wandsworth Prison can have and the difference small items such as warm clothing or a mobile phone can have to help you to turn your life around in those crucial first few days."

WPWT helps men make that difficult transition from prison to the community by providing:

- Warm, waterproof clothing suitable for the season
- Trainers and other basic clothing items
- A loaded Oyster card so they can travel to appointments and services
- A simple, working mobile phone so they can contact probation officers, social services, housing providers and benefits teams
- A waterproof sleeping bag for those facing homelessness or sleeping rough

These are not luxuries. They are the basic tools needed to survive, stay in contact with support services, and begin the process of creating a stable future and not seeing a return to prison as the best option. Every item we provide gives a man a better chance of succeeding at one of the most difficult moments of his life.

Please help us support men who are leaving prison alone, uncertain about the future, and with very few resources. Together, we can provide the practical essentials that offer dignity, hope, and the opportunity for a fresh start.

How Your Donation Can Help

For a man leaving prison with almost nothing, a few practical essentials can make the difference between despair and a real chance of starting again.

£10 could help provide basic toiletries and essential items.

£25 could help provide warm clothing.

£50 could help provide a mobile phone or travel support.

£100 could help equip a man with clothing, transport, and a simple mobile phone

Any donation, large or small, will help someone take those first difficult steps towards rebuilding their life.