

New Futures Network

GMI support the New Futures Network 'Unlocking Construction' Initiative across the Northwest

GMI showcased their intent to make a real difference in ex-prisoners lives with visits to HMP'S across the Northwest in support of the 'Unlocking Construction' Initiative.

The New Futures Network (NFN) is a specialist part of HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). They broker partnerships between prisons and employers in England and Wales and its these partnerships that help businesses fill skills gaps and prison leavers find employment.

Responsible Business Partner, Daniel Proffitt was invited to a number of events across the fortnight, going in three prisons across the region to promote the construction industry to prisoners who wanted to go straight into employment upon release.

First was a trip to HMP Berwyn in North Wales, the UK's largest prison and were a lot of inmates are released into Greater Manchester and Merseyside. A tour of the facility was followed by the chance to meet prisoners and staff.

Then it was onto HMP female prison STYAL, alongside the Body Left Behind Organisation. Daniel and Document controller Ellie Miley spoke with a group of 10 female prisoners who wanted to enter the construction industry on release. Ellie gave them a first hand account of the industry from a female perspective and the type of roles females occupy.

Finally, Daniel and Health and Safety Manager Karl Wilson visited HMP Buckley Hall. Here they completed skills workshops alongside the inmates before being able to speak with them regarding future opportunities over a bacon butty and a brew. The prison specialises in delivering Health and Safety Qualifications (NEBOSH) so Karl was able to give learners a real insight to the role and has subsequently been able to set up online Mock Interviews for those prisoners due for release.

The whole fortnight was a great advert for collaborative working and the impact that GMI wants to have across all the regions was highlighted by our commitment to attending such events across each region.

