25th November 2025

Dear Friends,

We are reaching out to ask whether you might consider supporting Recoop, a small national charity working with a group whose needs are rarely seen and even more rarely understood: **older people in prison**.

At the heart of this appeal is a simple belief shared by many across communities, traditions and causes that **every person has worth, whatever their circumstances**, and that no one should grow old unseen, unsupported or forgotten behind a cell door.

Who We Support
Older people are now the **fastest growing and most vulnerable group in custody**. Many live with frailty, chronic illness, mobility problems, cognitive decline, isolation and the emotional weight of long sentences or lost family contact. Prisons are not designed for ageing bodies or minds, and without support, people deteriorate rapidly, physically, mentally and emotionally.

Recoop is currently the **only national charity dedicated exclusively to meeting the age-specific needs of older people in prison**, providing companionship, purpose and dignity where it is most needed.
We run wellbeing hubs, day centres, social groups, peer-support networks and one-to-one support for those at greatest risk. Our team offers stimulation, gentle physical activity, meaningful roles, emotional connection and practical preparation for life after release, sometimes after decades inside.

In places where many feel invisible, **Recoop creates space for recognition, humanity and hope**.

Why This Matters
Our work reflects values held by many individuals and organisations:

- **Dignity & Equality** – affirming the worth of those society too often overlooks
- **Community & Belonging** – helping people reconnect with others and reduce isolation
- **Compassion & Healing** – rebuilding confidence, stability and wellbeing
- **Responsibility & Prevention** – relieving pressure on overstretched NHS, social care and emergency services

Impact Beyond Prison Walls
The benefits extend far beyond the individual.
People who receive Recoop's support are better prepared for life in the community, more stable, less isolated, safer and more able to manage daily living. This reduces the likelihood of crisis episodes, emergency healthcare, homelessness or further offending. It also reduces pressure on local authorities, safeguarding teams and the NHS.

Independent evidence consistently shows that **early, preventative interventions like ours generate significant social value, improving wellbeing while saving the public purse substantial future cost**.

Why We Need Help Now
Recoop relies predominantly on prison contracts, reducing our reliance on grant funding and donations. Delays in national prison contract commissioning, outside our control, have created a **temporary funding gap**. While our governance and finances remain strong, these delays place essential services at risk at a time when older people in custody need us most. We are currently using our reserves to meet this gap, but without some additional assistance we will need to reduce our operations to remain a going concern. Without interim philanthropic support, many older people will face **long, isolating days behind their doors with no social stimulation, no gentle activity and no meaningful human contact**. The consequences of even short interruptions can be profound.

How You Can Make a Difference
A gift of **any size**, whether from an individual, group or organisation, would enable us to continue:

- offering safe spaces for connection and stimulation,
- preventing loneliness and deterioration,
- supporting people through difficult transitions, and
- ensuring no older person in prison is left behind during this period of national uncertainty.

Your support would have a **direct, immediate impact** on people who often have no one else.

Donations can be made via:

Recoop Just Donate:
https://www.recoop.org.uk/donation/

Or by cheque to:
Recoop
5 Brayford Square, Stepney Green, London E1 0SG.

We would also be very happy to offer a short presentation, attend a meeting (in person or online), or answer any questions about our work.

Thank you for considering this appeal, and for all you do to uphold dignity, compassion and justice in our society.

With sincere thanks,



Paul Grainge

Recoop CEO
paulgrainge@recoop.org.uk