

# Courage and commitment

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Four colleagues at a prison in the UK have selflessly volunteered to work alongside those detained who have tested positive for coronavirus.

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At HMP Oakwood – which houses more than 2,000 male prisoners in the UK – a number of those detained have tested positive for COVID-19.

The need to isolate infected inmates is posing unique challenges for how the prison is operated.

The most significant one was finding trained officers who would be willing to work on this new frontline, dealing exclusively with sick and contagious prisoners. Step forward four colleagues – [Patrick Ellis](#), [Emma Jones](#), [Katie Jones](#) and [Thomas Kelly](#).

"Their commitment, putting themselves at one of the coal faces of this pandemic, goes beyond normal heroics," says [John Whitwam](#), Managing Director, Custodial & Detention Services (CDS) and Policing Services. "What they are doing is not only selfless, it is helping to reduce the spread of the disease and keep the UK's largest prison open."

