

Family Matters

Report of a
conference held in
November 2004



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1. Welcome and Introduction

Sue Raikes, Chief Executive, Thames Valley Partnership

Thames Valley Partnership welcomed delegates to the conference and in particular welcomed the wide range of people from different organisations, indicating that there is a lot of interest in the topic of strengthening family ties of prisoners and offenders.

The Thames Valley Partnership is a charity, which brings together people and organisations to promote community safety and look for long-term solutions to crime. Some of its work is "Never Too Early" and focuses on early preventive work targeted on communities, families and children at risk. Another strand is "Never Too Late" – focusing on rehabilitation of offenders, resettlement of prisoners and working closely with the criminal justice system. Family Matters brings together these two themes because it focuses on: -

- Support and possible preventive intervention with young people and children who may be at risk,
and
- Working with offenders and strengthening family ties as an aid to resettlement.

The Thames Valley Partnership has had a long-standing interest in supporting parents in prison and the children of prisoners and was involved in some of the early parenting projects in Thames Valley prisons. The Partnership produced and promoted a leaflet "Invisible Children" for teachers and education authorities highlighting the particular needs of children with a parent in prison.

During 2004 the Thames Valley Partnership has brought together representatives from the Prison Service, Probation Service, voluntary organisations working with prisoners and their families and those who are involved in Visitor Centres and children visiting. This has been a very strong and lively steering group and the conference is the result of their work over the last few months.

But this conference is part of a process and the background document 'Family Matters' (reproduced here on page 35) represents work so far. Work on Family Matters has already been accepted as a priority by the Resettlement Sub-group of the Thames Valley Criminal Justice Board.

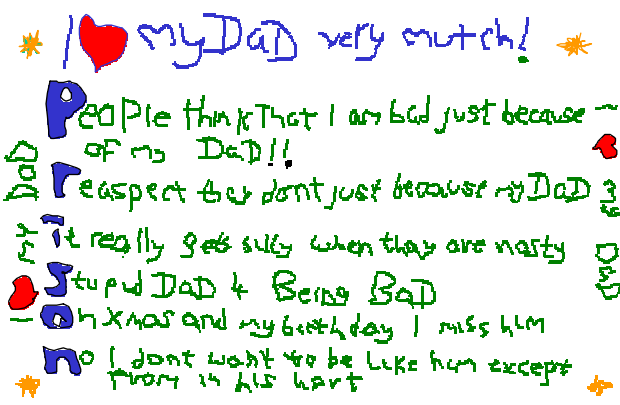
The conference will give us new ideas, new directions and we hope some new commitments to working together. The presentations and discussion at the conference are brought together here in this report.

If you have any comments or suggestions or people who should be involved in this work please do not hesitate to contact Patsy Townsend at the Thames Valley Partnership on 01844 202001 or e-mail patsy@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk

We hope you find this report of the conference interesting and challenging.

2. Family Ties are Important for Prisoners

Mary Faux, Resettlement Advisor, HM Prison Service

 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"STRENGTHENING FAMILY TIES HELPS TO REDUCE RE-OFFENDING"</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">JDITCHFIELD 1994 FAMILY TIES AND RECIDIVISM HO RESEARCH BULLETIN</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PRISONERS' FAMILIES HAVE TO COPE WITH THE PRACTICAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES OF A FAMILY MEMBER BEING IN CUSTODY. YET IT IS NO-ONE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO THEIR NEEDS, EITHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF PRISON, BEFORE OR AFTER RELEASE.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">SOCIAL EXCLUSION REPORT 2002 15.19 PAGE 116</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">2</p>
<p>CURRENT INITIATIVES AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCJB • REDUCING RE-OFFENDING : NATIONAL ACTION PLAN REGIONAL RESETTLEMENT STRATEGY NOMS • NEW SENTENCES – CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 2003 • RESETTLEMENT SURVEY • CURRENT INITIATIVES • FATHERS INSIDE • TIME FOR FAMILIES – EASTER REGION FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">3</p>	<p>REDUCING RE-OFFENDING : NATIONAL ACTION PLAN</p> <p>AIM:</p> <p>TO ADDRESS CONCERNS RAISED IN S.E.U REPORT (2002)</p> <p>HOW</p> <p>60 NATIONAL ACTION POINTS – AGREED ACROSS GOVERNMENT</p> <p>PATHWAYS – KEY AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOMMODATION • EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT • MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH • DRUGS AND ALCOHOL • CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF OFFENDERS • ATTITUDES, THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RESETTLEMENT SURVEY 2003</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1945 PRISONERS INTERVIEWED : 74 PRISONS</p> <p>KEY FINDINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOUR OUT OF FIVE PRISONERS RECEIVING ONE FAMILY/PARTNER VISIT HAD ACCOMMODATION ON RELEASE. • LIVING WITH A PARTNER BEFORE CUSTODY IMPORTANT FOR MEN BUT NOT WOMEN IN HAVING ACCOMMODATION ON RELEASE. • NINE OUT OF TEN YOUNG OFFENDERS WHO RECEIVED VISITS HAD ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED ON RELEASE. • OF THOSE PRISONERS LIVING WITH A PARTNER BEFORE CUSTODY, MORE MEN THAN WOMEN WERE LIKELY TO BE LIVING WITH A PARTNER ON RELEASE. <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">5</p>	<p>KEY FINDINGS (CONTINUED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69% OF PRISONERS RECEIVED VISITS FROM PARTNER/FAMILY. BOTH WOMEN AND ADULT MEN 67% HAD ONE VISIT. YOUNG OFFENDERS 86% HAD ONE VISIT. • SENTENCE LENGTH: LESS THAN 12 MONTHS : 60% 12 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS : 80% 4 YEARS PLUS : 81% • 48% OF ALL WOMEN RECEIVED ONE VISIT ON AVERAGE PER MONTH. 54% OF ALL ADULT MEN RECEIVED ONE VISIT ON AVERAGE PER MONTH. COMPARED WITH 75% OF ALL YOUNG OFFENDERS. • ONLY 41% OF THOSE HOMELESS OR IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION BEFORE CUSTODY RECEIVED VISITS FROM PARTNER OR FAMILY. <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">6</p>

<p>KEY FINDINGS (CONTINUED)</p> <p>CHILDREN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% OF ALL FEMALE PRISONERS HAD DEPENDENT CHILDREN UNDER 18. 20% OF YOUNG OFFENDERS. 48% OF ADULT MALES. • 57% OF THOSE PRISONERS WHO WERE LIVING WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN BEFORE CUSTODY EXPECTED TO BE LIVING WITH THEM ON RELEASE. <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>FATHERS INSIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS A PARENTING COURSE DESIGNED TO MEET THE SPECIFIC LEARNING NEEDS OF MALE PRISONERS. • HELPS TO IDENTIFY AND APPLY PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES FROM PRISON. • IS AN INTENSIVE THREE WEEK COURSE WHICH BREAKS AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL EDUCATION TECHNIQUES. • ENCOURAGES PRISONERS TO ADDRESS SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. • ENABLES EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS. <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
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Slide 1

Depicts very graphically the view of a child who's father is in prison and really illustrates why we're all here today at the conference. It is an indictment on our society that no one has responsibility for prisoners' families' needs either inside or outside. We must recognise that families are not a homogenous group there are complex relationships and diverse needs, many families are damaged, experience abusive relationships. Most will not be involved in the actual offending but will nevertheless be tainted by the "prisoner" label.

Slide 3

There is a local Criminal Justice Board in the Thames Valley co-terminus with the police area and it is there to ensure effective working between the key Criminal Justice agencies. It has established a Resettlement Sub Group who have endorsed the 'Family Matters' paper and are beginning to initiate work.

Slide 4

The Reducing Re-offending National Action Plan identifies nine key factors influencing the reduction of re-offending, one of which is Family Ties. The New National Offender Management Service is aiming to create an Offender Management Service and will have a developing Regional Resettlement Strategy. The notion behind NOMS is of seamless provision and there will be a regional agenda. Although the Probation Service traditionally had quite good contact with prisoners' and offenders' families this contact is now minimal. So the big question is who is out there to co-ordinate support for offenders' families?

Slide 5

Mary highlighted the findings of the Resettlement Survey 2003 where 1945 prisoners were interviewed in 47 prisons and the key findings are illustrated in the slides.

Mary identified some local initiatives for example in Bullingdon family members are being invited to contribute to sentence planning and in Huntercombe those young men who do not receive visits are being targeted to improve contact with family, parents and children and working towards reconciliation between those prisoners who have lost contact with their families altogether.

3. 'Sentenced Families'

Signs of change for children with a parent in prison

Gill Pugh, The Ormiston Trust

The Ormiston Children & Families Trust runs community projects and projects in six prisons where there is a partnership between the prisons and the Trust to develop facilities for families and children of prisoners. The Trust works in community and prison based projects across East Anglia. 'Sentenced Families' is action research working with 30 families, qualitative research focusing on families with children under 18 and looking at needs and support services available.

The Key Findings

Some of the key findings were as follows:

The effects of the prison sentence on the prisoner's family and children can be and often are:

- Traumatic
- Isolating
- Stressful
- Affect the physical and mental health of children, children's wellbeing and behaviour
- Families often describe being 'in shock', fearful, anxious, embarrassed and angry
- Have poor knowledge of what is going on for their partner, poor information and advice

The Impact on Children

The stress on adults is also reflected in children. The parents often try to shield children but the effects on children are commonly as follows:

- Confused
- Fearful
- Children suffering guilt or anger
- Mixed emotions in children
- 90% suffered adverse changes in behaviour
- 1/5th said the child had been bullied because of a parent being in prison

Support Needs

Research identified three main areas of support needs:

1. Need for information, both for adults and appropriate information for children
2. Emotional support at all stages
3. Family friendly visiting conditions

The National Prisoners' Families Helpline

This was found to be brilliant but not all families accessed it and felt there was a lot of room for improvement.

Prisoners' Families Helpline is: 0808 808 2003

Website www.prisonersfamilieshelpline.org.uk

'Sentenced Families' Signs of change for children with a parent in prison.

Ormiston Children & Families Trust, ISBN 0-9542553-2-1.

4. Showing of the video 'Coming Home' made by Leeds Animation Workshop in collaboration with Action for Prisoners' Families

The animated video takes the audience through scenarios featuring five prisoners – one woman and four men – and the impact of their sentences on their families.

It presented alternative findings – positive and negative and was a very informative 'walk through' illustrating the key issues for families.


After the showing of the video the audience at the conference felt that an information leaflet to go with it was important, but this needed to be managed. For example some children don't know that the parent is in prison.

The conference thought the video could be used as part of learning or parenting courses in prisons. Perhaps needs to have a named person in each and every prison to manage the video. It also identified the need for follow up support after the video has been shown.

The accompanying leaflet is linked with relationship workshops. The next video to be produced is Dads In, Dads Out and has been used for prison officers in training. The conference audience identified that it is often very difficult to get information into prisons and that in some prisons Family Liaison Officers are used and these were regarded by the conference as being a very good linking role and identified as good practice.

5. What Local Education Authorities and Schools Can Do

Pat Gifford, Gloucestershire Education Authority

 <p style="text-align: center;">What LEA's and Schools Can Do</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Policy for the Education of Children with a Parent or Close Relative in Prison</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">How the policy came into place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2000: An approach from Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups (now Action for Prisoners' Families.) coincided with the start of writing of Gloucestershire LEA's Behaviour Support Plan. • June 2000 Multi - agency meeting with Liz Dibb, Project Consultant to FPFSG. • Working party set up to write a draft policy and guidelines. • October 2001 – Gloucestershire LEA Conference – Meeting the needs of vulnerable young people in school.' • Policy published in April 2002 – disseminated to schools and LEA colleagues in June 2002. • October / November 2002 - monitoring of the effect of Gloucestershire's policy undertaken by Centre for Crime and Justice Studies funded by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">What did we want to achieve?</p> <p>Aim:</p> <p>To produce a policy with guidelines that would be an effective working document.</p> <p>The process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-agency approach: Education, Early Years; EWS; LAC Education Service; Headteacher's Associations; Health; Social Services; Probation Service; Youth Offending Team; Liz Dibb, Project Consultant, FPFSG. <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Way forward from the initial meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Working Party Chaired by Principal EWO: Each person took responsibility for an area of the Document. • 2 meetings of working party to collate information. • Final draft completed by principal EWO and submitted to Head of Pupil and Student Services. • During the process it was recognised that a separate policy to suit the needs of the Early Years Service would be needed. <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Things we would do differently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put the 'named person's' name inside the policy. • Be both realistic and vigilant about timescales. • Staff changes – handovers need to be planned. • An important role, which should be recognised – shouldn't be an add-on with no resources. • Ensure that all partners are signed up and taking ownership. <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dealing with enquiries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a checklist. • What has prompted the enquiry? • Is it for the benefit of the school or the child? • Has there been a dialogue with the family? • Offer 'Telling the Children' booklet. • Who we liaise with for advice <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">First Steps Parenting Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable men in Gloucester Prison to maintain or begin positive relationships with their children / families. • Multi-agency steering group – Probation; Health; Education; Social Services. • Series of pilot courses. • Preferred option: OCN accredited course. 10 sessions over 2 weeks. <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What can schools do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated teacher • Being aware of the situation • Confiding • Recognising the signs • Unexplained absences • Basic principles • Classroom management • Disruptive pupils • Teasing and bullying • Children in the same family • Particular problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release Prison Financial effects Children of prisoners held overseas <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
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Gloucestershire were the first Local Education Authority to develop a policy around children in prisons. They have a named person in their Authority for children with parents in prison and their policy is linked to their behaviour support plan. Pat identified the Save the Children document 'Working with children of prisoners' as being an important guide for them in developing their policy. In Gloucestershire a designated teacher has been appointed in each school and this teacher is in most cases the teacher who has child protection or looked after children responsibilities.

At the end of the presentation contribution from the audience highlighted the fact that Slough also has developed a policy in relation to children with parents in prison and also the key question was asked as to what happens to children returning to mainstream classes from a period in a young offenders institution.

6. Workshops

Offenders and Their Families – Discussion group led by two prisoners

Hugh and Steve led this group, both have recently left prison and shared with the group both their experiences of maintaining contact with their families whilst serving their sentences and identified ways that would help both them and their families during this time.

Both Hugh and Steve acknowledged that they were fortunate in that their relationships with their families were strong to start with. This however did not prevent the distress caused by the many difficulties that arose from their time in prison, in maintaining their relationships.

It started from the moment that they were sentenced, although not unexpected, they had no idea which prison they would be sent to. Steve told how he had researched the likely establishment that he would be sent to through his local library, so he had been able to give his wife two possible telephone numbers. Hugh had not done this.

Both had left the courts believing that they were going to one establishment but on arrival at that prison had been sent to another, for Hugh's family that presented another strain on them, one of not knowing where he was. Fortunately for Steve's family he had gone to the second of the two prisons he had found out about. For families the information they received at this very early stage is patchy and misleading, resulting in an additional worry, one of where their partner is. The distance for the families to travel to see their partners is normally several hours journey away, the direction to the prisons are limited and sometimes difficult to follow.

The category status that the prisoner is given will dictate the type of visit that they could receive. For example a 'Lifer' will get one day a week throughout their sentence, whilst others, on shorter sentences, get as part of their resettlement package a week at home in order to help them re-establish their relationships and seek a job before release. Those entitled to parole may only hear about the release date at the last minute, so late that it is not helpful to families and gives them all no time to adjust or plan for their partner's homecoming.

The lack of information for families was highlighted throughout. Steve told how when his wife sought help from the Probation Service they said it was not their role to assist her; she spoke to her GP who was not able to directly help her. Eventually and fortunately she heard of someone in the area who did know something about life in prisons, and was able to share with Steve's wife some of the difficulties that she may encounter. Taking time to explain to her what to expect when she and the family visited, the search requirements of her and the children (however young) when visiting, along with the need to always get to the prison early to allow for search procedures to take place, and that entry was on first come first served basis.

Both men spoke of the ordeal of waiting for their family's to come through the door of the visits centre, and how this wait made them tense and on edge. The result being in tensions spilling over and an argument at the start of a looked forward to visit.

Why?... Because, their family's journey was longer than others and they had been at the back of the queue, waiting for their search, before being allowed in.

Both Steve and Hugh acknowledged that they had the 'easy side of the deal', and that it was much harder for their wives, who now had all the responsibilities of day to day life, the rent or mortgage, bills to pay, bank accounts to sort out, children to care for. They had in effect become a single parent over night.

The key things they identified that would really making a difference to both their lives inside and more importantly for their family's lives outside were:

- The need for easily available information about prison life and what to expect when visiting, good maps and directions.
- A better visits booking system.
- Somewhere for families to go to get assistance with the day-to-day problems, for example the Citizens Advice Bureau or a one stop shop able to answer a range of questions.
- Training for Prison Officers to help them understand the pressures that prison visits may bring.

7. Fathers in Prison: a study of the impact on men and their families in the USA and Britain

Lynda Clarke, University of London

Background Statistics

- Prison Population is at an all time high and rising. November, 2003:
74,055
 - 69,638 men
 - 4,417 women (61% mothers)
- (www.homeoffice.gov.uk)



1

Background Statistics

- In excess of a quarter of a million children will be affected by parental imprisonment (where population is as above) (Ramsden, 1998)
- Up to 59% of boys with a convicted parent were themselves convicted up to the age of 32 (Farrington, 1992)



2

Background Statistics

- 25% of men in young offender institutions are or expect shortly to become fathers (HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, 1997, cited in Inside Fatherhood)
- 1 in 3 children witness their father's arrest (Noble, 1995, cited in Inside Fatherhood)



3

Background Statistics

- 30% of prisoners' children have significant health problems, compared with 10% for general population children (Philbrick, 1997, cited in Inside Fatherhood)



4

Press Coverage

- Cherie Blair inquiry: "Many [women] are locked up unnecessarily ... clear instructions for the courts [are needed] that those with children should be imprisoned only as a last resort."
(The Observer, 28-3-04)



5

Press Coverage

- "Booth warns: 'Our prisons are full of distressed women who, rather than being career criminals or a danger to anyone ... are inside because they have made some terrible mistakes or choices in their lives.' ... 'It can't be right ... that prison, for example, separates over 1700 children from their mothers ... this can only reinforce a cycle of poverty and crime.'" (same article)
- BUT: Is this not also true of dads?

6

Transmission of Criminality

(all from Smith and Farrington, 2004)

- Farrington (1995)
Criminal father as predictor of juvenile offending and antisocial behaviour among males – doubled risk of conviction, and strongly linked to antisocial behaviour at ages 18 and 32



7

Why?

- Longitudinal studies showing children at risk, or benefit, from the life histories both parents bring to their parenting (Dunn, 2000)



8

Why?

- High positive paternal involvement at 7 years associated good educational, emotional and social in later years (Buchanan and Flouri, 17,000 children NCDS)
- High levels of paternal antisocial behaviour associated with conduct disorder, remaining when maternal antisocial behaviour statistically controlled (Jaffee et al's, 2003 1,116 five year olds)

9

Why?

- ...Because research has consistently shown that chances of criminality are increased by parental criminality.
- BUT
Links with family are a protective factor against reoffending (e.g. Harriston, 2002)

10

Fathers in Prison

- “Just because they are in prison doesn't mean to say that we can't help them to be good dads. Fathering is a very, very important part of resettlement. If things are right at home, we hope these lads will think differently about reoffending.”

David Walmsley, Governor of HMP Ashwell, cited in Inside Fatherhood



11

Aims of this study

- The overall aim of this pilot study is to explore the mechanisms that promote and/or hinder the successful resettlement of fathers into the lives of their children and families following imprisonment.



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Specific objectives are:

- to assess the quality of prisoner fathers' relationship with child and couple relationship prior to release;
- to explore associations between the quality of prisoner fathers' family relationships and subsequent resettlement.
- As a pilot study, the investigation will also assess the usefulness of the proposed methodology in the UK (USA collaborators developed this)

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The Current Research Design

Round One of Interviews:

- Gain co-operation of prisons and identify fathers
- At time of first contact were within 6-8 [4- 12] weeks of prison release.
- All report an intention to contact/ have responsibility for a dependent child agree to allow follow-up self and mother
- All assessed by relevant prison staff as suitable to complete individual or couple interviews
- Individual face-to- face interview with father
- Individual telephone interview with mother/ carer of target child
- A few had couple interview

- 43 prisoners (11 in one closed prison, 16 in another and 16 in an open prison)

Round Two of Interviews:

- 4-12 weeks following release
- Follow-up telephone interviews with father and partner

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The Current Research Design: Interview with father

- a family genogram exploring the wider family and fictive kin network
- an assessment of father involvement whilst in prison and before
- involvement in prison support programmes
- visiting experiences and other forms of contact with target child
- views and plans for post-release family life, residence and employment
- socio-demographic profile



15

Other interviews

- Individual face-to- face interview with mother/ carer of target child exploring maternal report of areas covered in father's interview.
- Some couple interviews using the *Oral Marital History Interactional Interview*.

16

Study ongoing

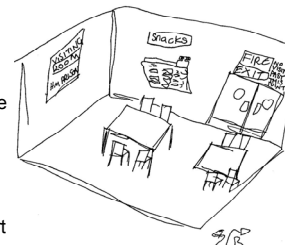
- Problematic lives/difficult to interview
- Parental status is rarely considered at sentencing and is not routinely recorded by prisons
- Ex-partners not told of whereabouts
- Around half of fathers in this study received no visits from their children
- Telephone contact with children inhibited by cost and availability

17

Relationships and Parenting From Prison

Visits

- distance to prison
- dogs and guards
- lack of toys
- not being able to move during visits, or touch each other
- children not told truth about where dad is eg. 'works at airport'
- low incomes (transport etc)



18

Relationships and Parenting From Prison

Letters and telephone contact

- telephone charges/ difficult to reach
- 'pestered' or 'checked up on' by prisoner

Running out of things to say to each other

'Prison talk' – unrealistic

Violence



19

Some emerging themes

- Pre-prison relationship is the most important predictor of the maintenance of contact and post-prison successful relationships
- Tension between men's and women's views
- Problems with prison visits (especially by mother)
- Men's family history can be important (family size, imprisonment, alcohol and drug abuse, violence)



20

Lynda presented to the conference the early findings into her recent research: "Resettlement of Imprisoned Fathers into their Families in the United Kingdom".

This research involved working with both the prisoners and their families, a similar study has also been undertaken at the same time by researchers in America, in order that a comparison can be made between the two different systems.

The study undertaken in the UK was centred around three prisons, H.M.P Wayland, H.M.P Leyland, and H.M.P Stocken.

The total number of prisoners volunteering to be part of the research project was 43; they came from a range of prison categories, (11 in one closed prison, 16 in another, and 16 in open prison).

The aim of the study was to:

- Explore the mechanisms that promote or hinder to the successful resettlement of fathers into the lives of their children and families following imprisonment.
- To assess the quality of the prisoners fathers' relationships with both the partner and the child/children prior to release.

Background to the research:

- The prison population is at an all time high and rising in the U.K., November 2003, 74,055. Of which 69,638 are men, 4,417 women with 61% being mothers. *Home office stats.*
- In excess of a quarter of a million children will be affected by parental imprisonment, (where the population is as stated above). *Ramsden 1998.*
- Up to 59% of boys with a convicted parent were themselves convicted up to the age of 32 years. *Farrington 1992.*

- 1-3 children witness their Father 's arrest. (*Noble 1995, cited in Inside Fatherhood*)

The Current Research Design:

Round one of Interviews:

- Gain co-operation of the prisons and identify fathers.
- All those fathers identified where within 6-8 weeks of prison release.
- All the prisoners reported an intention to contact/have responsibility for a dependent child.
- All agreed to follow up interviews of themselves and the Mother/main carer of the child.
- The prison staff had assessed all as suitable to complete individual or couple interviews.
- Individual face to face interviews took place with the 43 fathers.
- Individual telephone interviews took place with the mother/main carer of the child.
- A few had couple interviews.

Round Two Interviews:

These interviews with the fathers took place 4-12 weeks following release and where undertaken by phone with both the father and the mother/main carer of the child.

- Interviews with fathers: It was found helpful to undertake a family genogram to explore the extended family.
- Visiting: Fathers' experiences of visiting contact with the child where short.
- The views and plans for post release family life residence and employment
- Social-demographic profile.
- Individual face-to-face interviews: With the mother/main carer of target child exploring maternal report of area covered in father's interview.
- Problematic lives/difficult to interview.
- Ex-partners not told of whereabouts.
- Around half the fathers in the study received no visits from their children

Study is ongoing: Lynda shared some of the early findings coming from the study.

Early Findings:

- Maintaining relationships and parenting from prison was made more difficult because of the distance to prisons, dogs and guards, the lack of toys, not being able to move around or touch each other, and the children not being told the truth.
- The use of telephone contact with the children was inhibited by cost and availability.
- Parental status is rarely considered at sentencing and not routinely recorded by prisons.
- Pre prison relationship is the most important predictor of the maintenance of contact and post prison successful relationships.
- Tensions between men and women's views.
- Problems with prison visits (especially by mothers).
- Men's family history can be important, (family size, imprisonment, alcohol, drug abuse, and violence).

This research is on going both here in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

8. Preventing Strategy and New Methods of Targeting


Caroline Newbold, Preventive Manager, Oxfordshire Youth
Offending Team

<p style="text-align: center;">Social Exclusion Unit 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 50% have literacy and numeracy levels below those of an average 11 year old. • Almost 30% of children in prison were not in education before imprisonment. • Over 50% have been in Care or involved with Social Services. <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidence of mental health problems is very high among the child population in prison. • High incidence of drug/alcohol misuse prior to imprisonment. • 2:5 girls, 1:4 boys report physical violence at home. • 1:3 girls, 1:4 boys report sexual abuse. • Approx. 10% prison population are from minority ethnic communities. <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Young Peoples experience of Custody.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despair / misery. • Anger / sense of injustice. • Humiliated / Lonely / hopeless. • Frightened. • Dislocated. • Lost / hungry / cold / ill. • Bored / switched off. <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Messages from Young People TSA Focus group research 2000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many acknowledged choices re: offending. • Many felt seriously let down by adults who could / should have cared for them. • Many described home environments characterised by poverty, violence, substance misuse. <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route into crime felt "inevitable" • Once involved in a cycle of crime its hard to get out. • Family and peer relationships are very important <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What could have been done to help?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to improve adolescent / parent relationships. • Clean up / improve home environment. • Re-engage with education. • Continuity and stability of care. • Tackle drug and alcohol abuse. • Tackle racism. • Improve relations between young people and Police. <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Prevention Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of Youth Offending Service. • Preparation for Custody / release. • Community sentencing - I.S.S.P • Children's Fund 25% • P.A.Y.P. • Focus on young people in the Care system. • Parenting support. <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Aims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage inclusion. Specifically positive engagement in education. • Support parents without judging. • Positive opportunities. • Enhance self-esteem / confidence. • Encourage assertive decision-making. <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tentative conclusions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – school attendance / engagement. – self-esteem. --young people and parents – peer relationships. • Down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – poor behaviour. – conflict <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	

9. Putting Children First

Annetta Bennett, Kids VIP

 <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>“State Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except where competent authorities, subject to judicial review, determine in accordance with applicable law and procedure that separation is necessary for the best interests of the child.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Balance : Child Protection with need to see Dad</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>The impact of imprisonment on families can be severe, particularly for children.</p> <p>Children may suffer emotionally, socially, financially, educationally and in their health as a result of a parent receiving a custodial sentence.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EFFECT OF IMPRISONMENT ON CHILDREN !</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEAR • ANGER • LOSS • SHAME • LIES/CONFUSION • LOW SELF ESTEEM • RELIEF <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF IMPRISONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STIGMA • MATERIAL LOSS • ISOLATION • BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS • SCHOOL • HEALTH • TRAVELLING <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT DOES THE VISIT MEAN FOR THE CHILD?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOST SCHOOLING/OTHER ACTIVITIES • LONG JOURNEY • WAITING • INTIMIDATING ENVIRONMENT • START OF VISIT • PARENTS NEED TIME TO TALK ALONE • CHANGE IN PARENT RELATIONSHIP • PROVISION FOR CHILDREN • PARTING <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>

TRAINING – PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

- **TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG PRISON STAFF OF HOW IMPRISONMENT AFFECTS FAMILIES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN**
- **TO RECOGNISE AREAS OF CONCERN**
- **TO IMPROVE EXISTING CONDITIONS**
- **TO ENABLE STAFF TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING AND NEW INITIATIVES WITHIN THEIR ESTABLISHMENT**
- **TO PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE**

7

Children have a right to visit and maintain a quality relationship with their imprisoned relative.



8

10. Biographies

Sue Raikes, Thames Valley Partnership

Sue Raikes is Chief Executive of the Thames Valley Partnership, a charity which brings people and organisations together to work for safer communities. The Thames Valley Partnership works with statutory and voluntary organisations and the business sector across the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire – an area that includes 18 local authorities and 16 community safety strategic partnerships.

Sue has a background in social policy research and in the probation service. She joined the Thames Valley Partnership on secondment from Oxfordshire Probation Service in 1993 and two years later became its Chief Executive. Sue has contributed to the work of the Audit Commission, the Home Office, the LGA and the Youth Justice Board, bringing wide ranging experience of partnership work and of the interface between the criminal justice system, local government and the community and business sectors. Sue has particular expertise in domestic violence, early intervention and restorative justice and has published in the BJCI on community safety and community justice.

Mary Faux, HM Prison Service

Mary Faux qualified as a Probation Officer in 1987 having previously worked in education with children who displayed many of the classic symptoms of child sexual abuse. In 1989 she became a member of Oxfordshire Probation Service's working group on sex offenders, and was one of the first leaders of the Cherwell Group for sex offenders. In 1992 she went to work at HMP Bullingdon with the specific purpose of working with sex offenders in custody. In 1994 she was seconded to work at HMP Oxford when it re-opened as a Resettlement Centre as the Throughcare Manager.

In 1995 Mary became Project Manager of Thames Valley Project and developed its Programme for sex offenders in the community. In 1999 Thames Valley Project's Programme was selected for Pathfinder Status and development for accreditation. Fully accredited status for the Programme was achieved at first application in March 2001, including the Partners' Programme. Mary was one of the TV-SOGP Programme designers with Dr Dawn Fisher, Mrs Hilary Eldridge and Mrs Jenny Still.

Mary was appointed as Assistant Chief Probation Officer with NPS – Thames Valley in March 2002. She had lead senior manager responsibility for work with sex offenders and Risk management and MAPPA work. She is a member of the Steering Groups for the pilots of Stop it Now! UK and Circles of Support in the Thames Valley.

Mary has delivered TV-SOGP accredited training to support the national roll out of TV-SOGP. She has also lectured to DipSw students at the University of Oxford on sex offenders.

Currently Mary is the Area Resettlement Advisor for HM Prison Service in Thames Valley, Hampshire and Isle of Wight and working within the Social Inclusion Strategy Unit.

Pat Gifford, Gloucestershire Education Authority

Pat Gifford has worked in the Children and Young Peoples Service department of Gloucestershire LEA for 10 years. She has wide experience of working with vulnerable young people, their families and schools, and of multi-agency working. She has a particular interest in the management of emotional and behavioural difficulties. In her current post she is the Education Liaison Officer for Looked After Children and has recently taken on the role of named contact person in the LEA for advising on support for the children of prisoners, although she has been a member of the policy working party from the outset.

She is a past Chair of Governors of a secondary school, and is currently chair of a junior school. Prior to working for the LEA Pat worked for the Youth Service and for the Probation Service.

Lynda Clarke, University of London

Lynda Clarke is Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Population Studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She has undertaken research into family issues for some twenty years and specialises in family demography, health and family policy. Her interest started with children's experiences, progressed to women's issues and then in the mid-1990s she started collaborative work with the Family Policy Studies Centre on lone motherhood. This turned naturally to the consideration of fathers and she published the seminal *'Fathers and fatherhood in Britain'* in 1997, which included the first demographic analysis of fatherhood in Britain. Her recent research projects include 'Choosing Childlessness' for the Department of Health, 'Kin Beyond the Household' for the ESRC, 'The Changing Home: Outcomes for Children' for the ESRC Research Programme on Children 5-16, 'Fatherhood in the New Millennium' for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and 'Grandparenthood: its meaning and contribution to the quality of older people's lives for the ESRC Research Programme on Growing Older. She is also academic advisor to several Government publications 'Social Focus on Men' 2001 and 'The Health of Our Children'.

Caroline Newbold, Oxfordshire Youth Offending Team

Caroline Newbold is currently Prevention Manager with the Oxfordshire Youth Offending Service, developing a programme of early identification and intervention for young people identified as "at risk" of offending and their families.

She is a qualified Social Worker with a long history of work as a practitioner with young people and families and in the field of Children's mental health.

Annetta Bennett, Kids VIP

Kids VIP, a registered charity since 1993, works within the prison service to set up supported play areas in prisons throughout mainland Britain and so lessen the daunting effects for children visiting relatives in Prison. The organisation's focus is to improve the relationship between children and their relatives in prison.

Annetta has a sound background in Childcare and Education. An experienced tutor and lecturer in the private and voluntary sector specialising in child related issues ranging from safeguarding children to promoting equality of opportunity.

In 1999, Annetta was appointed as Kids VIP's Training and Support Officer. Her role involves training Prison Personnel on the Impact of Imprisonment and Improving Visits for children.

Additionally, for the past eleven years, Annetta has been the Play Area/Volunteer Co-ordinator of a supervised children's play area within one of the London Prisons. She provides customised training and ongoing support for play providers throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

11. What Would You Like to See Developed Within the Family Matters Project?

- Information sharing
- A support service for families/children of parents who are in prison
- Possible training for professionals who work with these families i.e. actual interventions
- Information packs for families/schools/professionals
- Specific assistance with developing service provision in visitor's centre
- To carry on with the good work!
- Hearing from families of prisoners (or ex-offenders)
- Continuing to broker meetings and address issues
- Support and resources for visitors centres
- Dedicated family liaison officers for visitor centres
- Better training/awareness for Prison Officers
- More communication between the organisations
- Further development of similar initiatives
- Continued involvement of issues relating to young people facing custody and family issues
- Representation of YOT on Steering Group is not already there
- More workshops especially with prisoners and their families
- An annual meeting with a review of progress by the organisations attending – from the issues raised and the report sent to attendees
- Greater prison service involvement, i.e. for Governors to come to such events and actually listen to what all the different agencies have to say

12. List of Attendees

Gabriel Amahwe, National Probation Service
Julie Austin, Slough Borough Council
Clive Banks, Behaviour Support Service
Jane Barwick, Aylesbury Vale PCT
Annetta Bennett, KIDS VIP
Gail Bradley, HM Prison Service
Viv Brown, HMP Grendon
Janet Byford, HMP Winchester
Nina Buckby, HMP Prison Service
Lynda Clarke, Centre for Population Studies
Yasmin Dean, Education Welfare Service
Cheron Dixon, Slough Borough Council
John Dring, KIDS VIP
Sara Doak, PACT Woodhill
Wendy Entwistle, HMP Winchester
Andy Evans, HMP Woodhill
Mary Faux, HM Prison Service
Pat Gifford, Gloucestershire Education Authority
Isabel Gowers, West Berkshire Education Authority
Mandy Hill, PACT Woodhill
Mandy Holliss, HMP Springhill
Ruth Huddle, Education Welfare Services
Cynthia Jones, Education Welfare Service
Val Kendall, CAF/CASS
Vicky Little, Education Welfare, Slough
Christine Macmillan, Aylesbury Vale PCT
Isobel Morrow, Independent Monitoring Board Reading YOI & Remand Centre
Annette Mountford, Family Links
Maxine Myatt, Thames Valley Probation Area
Caroline Newbold, Oxfordshire Youth Offending Team
Beverley O'Toole, Behaviour Support Service
Sharon Oliver, Slough Borough Council
Fedra Patsalou, Prisoners' Families & Friends Service
Mary Phillips, Thames Valley Partnership
Sue Pickford, Springhill Visitor Centre
Gill Pugh, Ormiston
Sue Raikes, Thames Valley Partnership
Kellie Reeve, Bullingdon Community Prison
Dani Rowland, Slough YOT
Sarah Salmon, Action for Prisoners' Families
Sally Sherwin, Huntercombe YOI
Roy Stevenson, HMP Springhill
Michael Toner, HMP Woodhill
Patsy Townsend, Thames Valley Partnership
Craig Treeby, The Royal British Legion
Veronica Turner, Behaviour Support Services
Gill Vine, BACO
Paula Wicks-Farr, Behaviour Support Service
Stacey Widdall, Partners of Prisoners & Families Support Group
Ann Williams, CAF/CASS
Alison Wren, HMP Parkhurst

Family Matters

Strengthening family ties to aid resettlement

Background Document

October 2004

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Martin Narey, Commissioner for Correctional Services, has recognised that: "A stable, supportive family throughout the sentence is a key factor in preventing re-offending on release...I firmly believe that we should do as much as possible to sustain family relationships at what for many will be an especially traumatic time in their lives." (Foreword to 'Partners in Prevention 2001, Involving Prisoners' Families in Tackling Drug Misuse, Conference Report, ADFAM National/HM Prison Service).

The Home Office has also acknowledged that: "*Research...indicates that good family ties can reduce a prisoner's risk of re-offending by six times.*"

The Reducing Re-offending National Action Plan (Home Office 2004) now places children and families of offenders as one of the key pathways to resettlement and points to the importance of information sharing, visiting arrangements and visitors centres and parenting classes as key elements of good practice.

Introduction

This background document is the result of work done by the Thames Valley Partnership in conjunction with representatives from prisons, visitor centres and voluntary organisations working with prisoners and their families. Family Matters builds on the work of the Thames Valley Partnership in recent years in promoting parenting initiatives in prisons and the publication of Invisible Children – a leaflet for schools.

In 2004 the Thames Valley Partnership launched Family Matters aimed at: -

- Strengthening ties between prisoners and their families to aid the resettlement of prisoners on their release
- Promoting positive relationships and supporting parenting skills and family learning
- Improving the services and support available for families visiting prisons and maintaining contact
- Improving the support services available to those families in the community

Strengthening family ties is recognised as one of the key pathways in the Home Office 'Reducing Re-offending Action Plan 2004' and in the Thames Valley Resettlement Strategy. This report is intended to bring attention to the issues and form the basis for future work.

The National Picture

- 43% of sentenced prisoners and 48% of remand prisoners say they have lost contact with families since entering prison
- 22% of married prisoners divorce or separate as a result of their imprisonment
- Almost one quarter of families face a five hour round trip to visit
- In 2001 prisoners were held on average 53 miles away from home
- One fifth of women offenders are known to be living alone with a dependent child prior going to prison
- Around two thirds of all women prisoners have children under 18
- We can approximate that the parents of at least 300,000 children enter custody or start a community sentence every year
- 7% of the school population in England and Wales (approximately 600,000) will experience the imprisonment of their parent during their time in school
- In each year, the living arrangements of around 11,000 children are disrupted by the imprisonment of a mother. One survey found that 11% of female prisoners had one or more child taken into care, fostered or adopted as a result of imprisonment
- 30% of children of prisoners suffer significant mental health problems compared with 10% of the general child population
- Among young offenders, 25% were fathers and 39% were mothers
- Where families break down completely, the average cost of intervention and care is estimated at around £25,000
- In the most extensive survey of families at risk, it was found that boys from the sample group, all other things being equal, were twice as likely to become convicted offenders if their father had a criminal conviction
- 150,000 children are affected by the imprisonment of a parent every year

Sources: Home Office, PACT and Action for Prisoners' Families

- The prison population now stands at record levels with over 75,000 in prison
- There are signs of a trend towards less visiting by families, probably due to the Prison service beds crisis, resulting in families having to travel long distances to visit but also possibly due to increased use of telephone and short stays
- Prison establishments have different policies about visiting. The availability and accessibility of visits is determined by local policy – and by the facilities. Some prisons have introduced pre-booking arrangements to cope with excess demand. Prisoners have a statutory entitlement to a certain number of visits but these will vary according to their status
- Nationally around 92 prison establishments (out of a total of 139) have some form of visitor centre often run by voluntary organisations – attracting grants of £1.5m
- Around 80 prisons have play provision within visit areas but whether or not they are open will depend on resources and local policy.

Problems and Challenges

- The children and families of offenders are rarely viewed as a group warranting specific attention from the range of policy and support that exists for children and families in general
- No information is collated on the number of people in prison who are parents or on where their children are living
- There are no robust means of establishing whether prisoners have children 'at risk'
- Prisoners are being held increasingly far away from their families. In addition, prisoners are being moved more frequently. This makes it more difficult to visit and presumably to maintain family bonds
- Prisons can be (and are widely perceived to be) intimidating places to visit
- Social workers are often not available to accompany looked-after children on visits
- A number of services that work with children, parents and families, such as teenage pregnancy co-ordinators, often stop that work during the custodial period
- Prisoners who come into prison with poor parenting skills may return to the community without having developed the skills required to parent their children effectively or reconnect with other relationships
- The Probation Service does not have any specific policy for supporting the family needs of those sentenced, or on community sentences, beyond the requirements of managing risks posed by dangerousness
- No work is undertaken with the families of imprisoned children, to improve the environment to which those children return
- Funding for families to travel is complex and means tested

Information from all the key agencies suggests that work is needed to improve services to children and families of offenders at every stage of the process.

In particular: -

- The need for information on helplines etc. easily available to all families at court.
- Support to the family at the point of sentence.
- The identification on reception of whether a prisoner has a family including whether or not they will be visiting.

Key Components for Good Practice

- Knowledge of an offender's family status, relationships and commitments should be used to inform allocation, sentence management and resettlement.
- Accessible and relevant information for all families at the point of sentence
- Good facilities for families and children to visit in every prison with play areas and supportive staff.
- Decent waiting areas.
- Good programmes for fathers in prison on parenting and family learning.
- Opportunities for communication between children and the prisoner eg StoryDads
- Existence of health support for visiting families.
- Access to specialist prisoners families support agencies and good information.
- Improved understanding by the statutory agencies – social services, health, education and housing, about the implications and effects of imprisonment on families and children

- Recognition of the wishes and needs of children of prisoners within all relevant strategies.
- Active involvement in families in preparation for release and resettlement.
- Pro-active use of home detention curfews and release on temporary licence (ROTL) to strengthen family ties to support resettlement – especially for those serving more than four years.

Family Learning and Parenting Activities in Prisons

The Government's new Reducing Re-offending National Action Plan sets out a more strategic approach to work with the children and families of offenders. Family learning, parenting activities and family literacy, language and numeracy, are seen as central to the Government's strategy on reducing offending and are identified by the Offenders Learning & Skills Unit (OLSU) as a key area for further work supporting the rehabilitation of offenders. OLSU stresses the need for a more co-ordinated approach to developing an effective pathway for children and families of offenders and is working with the DfES Directorate for Children, which includes Sure Start, Children's Fund, Local Network Fund and Connexions.

As a first stage towards a more strategic approach OLSU is conducting a national questionnaire on family learning and parenting activities in prisons. The results of this will provide a good baseline for development of good practice within the Thames Valley.

In the Thames Valley

Thames Valley Prisons

There are seven prisons in the Thames Valley: -

- HMP Bullingdon – local and training
- HMP and YOI Reading – young offenders and remand centre
- HMYOI Aylesbury
- HMYOI Huntercombe
- HMP Springhill – open/resettlement
- HMP Grendon – therapeutic prison
- HMP Woodhill – high security prison

Families are critical to the successful rehabilitation of many prisoners. The breakdown of relationships often means the loss of accommodation in addition to the emotional stresses on return to the community. One of the challenges for resettlement and for maintaining family ties is the allocation system with the Prison Service. In Thames Valley in June 2003 there were 741 prisoners from the Thames Valley held locally (in Thames Valley prisons) and a further 1,098 held outside the Thames Valley (and all over the country).

Numbers in Thames Valley Prisons (Spring 2004)

	Thames Valley Prisoners	Capacity
Aylesbury	12	355
Bullingdon	491	963
Grendon	19	254
Huntercombe	38	360
Reading	86	287
Springhill	60	336
Woodhill	35	789
	741	3,344

Induction Review

All prison establishments within the Thames Valley have in place 'First Night' procedures that encourage family contact. For example at HMP and YOI Reading a telephone call is made to the prisoner's family to let them know where their family member is. At HMP Bullingdon all prisoners on their reception have the right to contact a person of their choice to inform them of their whereabouts.

Whilst induction is clearly important, reception may not always be the best place for information to be gathered – many prisoners need to detox or overcome the initial trauma of imprisonment. General induction needs to be an ongoing process.

To assist in maintaining family contact all prison establishments in Thames Valley have in place information leaflets about their own visiting arrangements. At HMP Bullingdon and HMP Grendon a package of information that is designated for the family's use is collated.

This information package contains a map to show location of the prison, visits information and information about the prison and services available. This package of information is posted by the prison to a person named by the prisoner.

At Reading a Family Support Service is available and this offers a range of services aimed at helping families/partners/friends to deal with the problems resulting from the difficult situation of having a family member in prison and offers support in preparation for successful resettlement.

Visiting Facilities

The facilities available in visitor centres vary considerably across the prison estate. Numbers passing through vary from fewer than 10,000 visitors a year to more than 200,000. A bid in the 2003 spending review to establish a well-resourced visitor centre for every prison failed. The Home Office Action Plan 2004 'Reducing Re-offending' (page 37) now includes a commitment to developing visitor centres but does not commit resources.

The number of prison visits has fallen by a third in the past five years, despite a more than 20% rise in the prison population. (Just Visiting? A Review of the Role of Prison Visitor centres, PRT and Action for Prisoners Families, 2002).

See Table 1 (page 48) for a summary of visiting facilities in the Thames Valley.

- Woodhill provides a very comprehensive visitor centre, which seems to be well linked into the prison and with local agencies.
- Bullingdon has a purpose built visitor centre staffed by paid staff and volunteers.
- Reading and Springhill have no designated centre.
- There is health visitor involvement in Reading and Woodhill.

There is currently little consistency in the way in which family visiting and visitor centres are managed within Thames Valley prisons. It is important that there should be clear managerial responsibility for policy and practice and we would recommend that this should be the responsibility of the resettlement manager in each of the institutions with oversight from the area resettlement advisor.

A family contribution to plans for the time to be spent in prison is encouraged at HMYOI Huntercombe and HMP Grendon. In autumn 2004 plans have been made to promote stronger family ties by inviting partners into the prison of men who are undertaking parenting education for special visits at Bullingdon. Reading has applied to pilot a new accredited programme 'Fathers Inside'.

Enhanced family visiting arrangements are available as part of the Incentive Privilege Scheme, facilities are provided that are more comfortable and 'family friendly'. At HMP Springhill family contact is encouraged through the use of 'town visits' for eligible prisoners. Provision is made at HMP Bullingdon for the recording of stories on tape by prisoners for their child/children.

A Vision for Good Practice in Visitor Centres

A sub-group of representatives with a particular experience in family visiting and visitor centres has identified the following key components for good practice in visitor centres. This should be read in conjunction with 'Recognising Quality – An evaluation tool for visitor centres' and the HMI Expectations Report.

In order to achieve good consistent practice that can be effective for prisons, prisoners and visitors, it is essential that there should be a clearly defined visits policy and instruction that, whilst being reflective of each of each individual prison requirements, also has nationally adhered to policy strands that can offer consistency. It is also felt that for any realistic sustaining of family relationships, prisoners must, whenever realistically possible, be placed in establishments where they can access the support services which they will need upon release. It is also important to note that we see stable family relationships as being one of the strongest support services available.

As a vision for the future every Thames Valley prison should have the following: -

- A prison visitor centre with the appropriate level of funding which provides for paid staff and relevant training packages. The visitor centre must be properly equipped and be compliant with all relevant health and safety policies. Family visiting and visitor centres should comply with policy and practice on equal opportunities, diversity and be responsive to visitors with disabilities.
- There should be a child friendly area at the minimum; with an expectation that the development of play facilities should be part of the prison business plan.
- Toilet facilities, including a baby changing area, should be provided.
- Refreshment facilities should be available.
- Easily accessible and user friendly visits booking procedure should be available if applicable.
- A pay phone should be provided.
- Information and support should be an integral part of the visitor centre policy.
- Opening times should be in line with the HMI Expectations to allow time and consideration for visitors' concerns and needs.
- Each visiting session should provide a supervised play session, adhering to the good policy guidelines.
- There should be the opportunity for extended family visits, including, if appropriate, prisoner/child visits.

Visiting Facilities in the Thames Valley

Establishment	Visitor centre	Play facilities	How is it staffed?	Family friendly or similar initiatives	Relationship/family/parenting courses	Who runs them?	Directory
Aylesbury							
Bullingdon	Yes	In the visitors hall	Paid volunteers	Family enhanced visit started recently	Parenting and relationships	Education	Yes
Grendon	Portacabin	Playroom and outside play garden with toys	Paid staff	Children days, lifer days and twice yearly residential unit family days	Parenting and social lifestyle courses	Education department	Booklet available to all at the centre. Each prisoner is given information by the co-ordinator as part of their induction.
Huntercombe	Yes	Yes	Volunteers	Each unit has family friendly day for detainees. Trainees who are parents have family days, health staff and welfare staff support these days	No	N/A	Not known
Reading	No designated centre	No	By staff and volunteer canteen staff	Special days arranged on adhoc basis for prisoners who have children, eg Easter, Christmas	Parenting courses currently suspended. It is hoped to get them accredited.	Family Liaison Officer	Directory available for new staff only

Visiting Facilities in the Thames Valley (Cont/d)

Establishment	Visitor centre	Play facilities	How is it staffed?	Family friendly or similar initiatives	Relationship/family/parenting courses	Who runs them?	Directory
Springhill	No. Only use of cramped hut with toilets. Staffed by OSGs	Play and craft area Saturdays and Sundays 1.00-3.45 pm	Minimum of two staff. One trained in child protection	No. Family days planned in future if uniform staff available. Hot meals available for prisoners and visitors	Parenting classes	Education	Welcome pack in progress. Each prisoner is given information by the co-ordinator as part of their induction.
Woodhill							

Advice for Families

Prison Service headquarters is issuing a template for each prison covering visiting arrangements and information for prisoners. All prisons will therefore be developing booklets for prisoners and their families in the next few months.

'The Outsiders' and 'Nobody Asked Me' are leaflets produced by APF. It is not clear how far these are available and distributed in the Thames Valley. The Thames Valley Partnership leaflet 'Invisible Children' is out of date.

APF have produced a pack for teachers but it is not circulated consistently within the Thames Valley. (See Appendix 4: Resources and Contact Points).

Kids VIP are currently developing a good practice guide for visiting which will be available later in 2004. Action for Prisoners' Families is currently working on 'Danny's Mum' – a book for 3-5 year olds.

Networks, Partnerships and the Voluntary Sector

Clinks has been working to develop liaison or focus groups for voluntary organisations working with prisons. To date there are nine liaison groups and six focus groups set up in the Thames Valley.

- There are examples of good links with health in Reading and Woodhill.
- There is a link with Citizens Advice Bureau in Woodhill and Springhill.

Mainstreaming

- a. The key is for the Prison Service and Probation Service and the new National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to take seriously the need to encourage and strengthen family ties and to see this as part of a sentence management and the resettlement strategy. In Woodhill and Springhill the visitor centre co-ordinator is linked into the resettlement strategy.
- b. Gloucestershire Local Education Authority takes prisoner's issues seriously and has a strategy. Slough LEA have included the needs of children of prisoners in their behaviour support plan.
- c. Links should be made with the current 10 Area Child Protection Committees (ACPCs) and with the new Safeguarding Children Committee introduced following the recommendations of 'Every Child Matters'. Links also need to be established with the local Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements. Springhill is hosting training in child protection for prison staff in the autumn.
- d. Voluntary sector liaison forums are co-ordinated by Clinks and bring voluntary and community groups together with a designated voluntary sector co-ordinator in each prison. These groups need to be established in all the prisons and linked into Resettlement Strategies.

The Prison Service published its induction pack for voluntary and community-based organisations in March 2004. This provides a template for all prisons to develop clear guidance for voluntary organisations working within prisons.

Next Steps

The Thames Valley is now in a good position to develop and mainstream good practice on the issues identified in this paper. Family Matters is supported by a very strong network of structures and voluntary agencies. The Thames Valley Resettlement Sub-group of the Thames Valley Criminal Justice Board has adopted the work of Family Matters as one of its key pathways. Thames Valley Partnership has submitted a proposal to the DfES (October 2004) for funding to support work with the children of offenders both in prison and in the community. The Priority Offenders Scheme provides an opportunity to pilot new approaches with a selected group who will be held in Thames Valley prisons and will be a priority for intervention in support of resettlement.

A conference in November 2004 will bring together specialists in this field with statutory agencies, and discussion groups will help to identify areas for future work.

Membership of Family Matters Network

Annetta Bennett, Training & Support Officer, KIDS VIP
Viv Brown, HMP Grendon/Springhill
Liz Chadwick
Sue Darby, Regional Project Manager, Clinks
Sarah Doak, Prison Advice and Care Trust, HMP Woodhill
John Dring
Mary Faux, HM Prison Service
Myra Fulford, Director, Prison Advice and Care Trust
Yvette Gayford, Chief Executive, PACT
Carmel George, Government Office for the South East
Pat Jameson, Senior Probation Officer, HMP Bullingdon
Bob Kennedy, Resettlement & Persistent Offender Manager, HM Prison Service
Janice Martin, Midwife, Reading YOI & Remand Centre
Mary Phillips
Sue Pickford
Lynne Pugh, Visitor Centre, HMP Bullingdon
Sue Raikes, Chief Executive, Thames Valley Partnership
Lyn Richards, Ley Prison Programme, HMP Bullingdon
Sarah Salmon, Assistant Director (Policy), Action for Prisoners' Families
Sarah Sheffield, Ley Prison Programme, HMP Bullingdon
Patsy Townsend, Director of Youth Programmes, Thames Valley Partnership

Visitor Centre Survey Results

Members of the Family Matters Working Party with particular responsibilities in visitor centres undertook to collect information about those visiting prisons in the period March/April 2004.

HMP Bullingdon

Bullingdon Prison Visitor Centre conducted a survey of the use of the centre during a two-month period during March and April 2004.

The Visitor Centre can accommodate 57 standard visits every day. In March this totalled 1,767 visits. In April this would have enabled 1,653 visits (there were no visits on Good Friday). In March the total number of visits was 1,396 involving 2,344 adults and 556 children. In April there were 1,334 actual visits involving 2,195 adults and 613 children. (A child for this purpose is under 18 years old).

The play scheme was available on 55% of days.

These figures show a significant use of the Visitor Centre by both adults and children. In this period a total of 1,169 children were affected directly by the quality and standard of the services offered at the centre. The centre also gave the opportunity to reach out to a total of 4,539 adults for information and advice.

Visitors during this period were also asked to complete a questionnaire covering: -

- a. Their views about staffing in the centre
- b. Booking visits
- c. Getting access to the Visitors Centre on the day
- d. Understanding of security issues
- e. Attitude of staff at the gate and in the visits hall
- f. Any improvements
- g. Length of visits
- h. Facilities in the visits hall
- i. Trust and accessibility of prison staff
- j. Awareness of the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme

HMP Grendon

The visits centre is open three days per week. In March and April 2004, 108 children and 644 visitors attended the prison. The playroom is open every visit where there are children visiting. They are all staffed.

HMP Woodhill

Visitor centre statistics 2003-04

Average number of adults using the centre per month	2,171
Total adults x 12 months	26,052
Average number of children using the centre per month	603
Total children x 12 months	7,236
Total combined numbers	33,288

HMP Springhill

Survey – January-April 2004

Springhill is an open/resettlement prison and at present does not hold any sex offenders. Internal visits take place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1.00-3.45 pm, with the facility to leave any time after 2.00 pm.

On a Saturday a bus service brings visitors in half an hour before start of visits and leaves at 3.20 pm so public transport users have to leave at 3.00 pm.

There is no public transport on Sundays.

Supervised play and craft is available for each session.

Hot food is provided at weekends where families can eat together, with the food being cooked by fellow prisoners supervised by catering staff.

The total figures during this period were as follows: -

- Visits held – 1,546
- Adult visitors – 2,958
- Child visitors – 920

Therefore the averages are as follows: -

- 45 visits per session
- 87 adult visitors per session
- 27 child visitors per session

Monthly breakdown of visits: -

January – 9 visiting sessions

- 386 visits (average 43 per session)
- 763 adult visitors (average 85 per session)
- 232 child visitors (average 26 per session)

February – 9 visiting sessions

- 404 visits (average 45 per session)
- 779 adult visitors (average 87 per session)
- 209 child visitors (average 23 per session)

March – 8 visiting sessions

- 376 visits (average 47 per session)
- 708 adult visitors (average 88 per session)
- 244 child visitors (average 35 pr session)

April – 8 visiting sessions

- 380 visits (average 47 per session)
- 708 adult visitors (average 88 per session)
- 235 child visitors (average 29 per session)

An Example of Good Practice: Prison Advice and Care Trust – Current Work with HMP Woodhill

- 1. Managing the Visitor centre at HMP Woodhill (open 7 days a week) to meet the needs of adults and children visiting relatives or friends in custody by: -**
 - a. Providing a welcoming environment where visitors can wait before their visit and prior to travelling home and allows effective delivery of our other support services.
 - b. Informing and educating about prison procedures and the penal system: explaining terminology and regulations, 'de-mystifying the prison system and processes'.
 - c. Emotional support for family members – staff are available to listen and advise in confidence, without judgement.
 - d. Liaison and negotiation with prison staff: representing visitors' needs, views and concerns. A positive visiting experience is vital to the relationship between families and the prisoner.
 - e. Information and/or referral to relevant specialist support and advice groups and organisations.
 - f. Referral to PACT family support workers for long-term support.
 - g. Contributing to the Harm Reduction and Anti-bullying within the prison.
 - h. Support and guidance for families visiting prisoners with drug or alcohol problems themselves or supporting a prisoner – working with ADFAM National Project.
 - i. Information and guidance on financial assistance with travel and low cost overnight accommodation – working with Assisted Prison Visits and offering hostel accommodation in central London (managed by PACT). Information about other prisons – for transfers.

- 2. Supporting children and parents**
 - a. Managing a staffed play area in the prison visiting hall and a child friendly environment within the centre to best support children who visit.
 - b. Offer information and guidance for parents and carers supporting children of prisoners.
 - c. Ensure child protection policy and procedures in place – follow up work with relevant agencies when required.
 - d. Supporting the development of 'Family Visits' on a weekly basis.

- 3. PACT visitor centre – project manager sits on the prison resettlement policy group**
 - a. Working to ensure the focus on 'family life' is represented within policy and delivery.
 - b. To share knowledge of other best practice and experience in the field.

4. Working with Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust

- a. Negotiated a qualified community health visitor to work in the centre half a day a week. Educating and supporting role – support visitors with children who may not be using health services already.

5. Working with Milton Keynes Citizens Advice Bureau

- a. 10th February launched the first information kiosk in a visitor centre – official visit by HRH Princess Anne: PACT negotiated the installation of an interactive information kiosk in the visitor centre having seen one in action in Milton Keynes CAB. CAB accessed the funds for the kiosk and PACT negotiated installation of broadband and line rental from the prison. Accessed by visitors the kiosk links to a wide range of relevant web sites for information and application forms.

6. Developing the centre as a 'bridge' between the prison and family members

- a. Currently adapting one administrative office space in the centre into a comfortable meeting room for family members and staff who are normally prison based to meet. The resettlement team has welcomed the use of the centre as a positive way forward to inform and integrate family members in the prisoner's resettlement process.

Good Practice for Children and Play Provision

- 1. Children's Visits.** HMP Wormwood Scrubs. Sunita Patel (October 2003)
- 2. Recognising Quality** – An Evaluation Tool for Visitor centres. PACT, HM Prison Service, APF. To be published later in 2004.
- 3. HMYOI Huntercombe – Good Practice Example**

Children's Visits

These are visits which take place on a monthly basis for trainees in Huntercombe who are fathers themselves. These visits run from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm in our drama studio rather than the visits hall. The room is laid out with toys, changing facilities, comfortable chairs, newspapers, television and video for older visiting children, and is generally a relaxed environment, suitable for families. We have officers on duty, volunteers and other trainees who help with serving refreshments and washing up. Other trainees bake cakes for these visits too.

Lunch is served at around mid-day.

During this visit the trainee's teachers, caseworkers, Personal Officers and healthcare will often pop in to see them with their children.

These visits are designed specifically to give the trainee quality time with their children. We also give the trainee and their family a photograph taken at the visit.

Trainees and visitors alike are also asked to fill out comments sheets at the end of each visit and these help us to improve future visits. The comments written on these forms are very positive – everyone enjoys the day.

Pregnant Partners

Any trainee in Huntercombe whose partner is likely to give birth whilst he is here will be able to meet their new baby in Huntercombe as soon as mother and baby are fit enough to do so. We organise a special first visit – they are then eligible not only for their weekend visits but also for the monthly children's visits.

Extra Visits

Social visits take place at Huntercombe at weekends. The Family Liaison Team is able to make visits possible for any trainee who cannot receive weekend visits. If a trainee's family cannot get to Huntercombe because they work at weekends, have financial difficulties, have difficulty travelling at weekends, have disabled parents, or for any other reason – we again will organise visits to take place at some other convenient time. There

shouldn't be any trainees in Huntercombe not receiving visits, and not being able to keep in contact with their family.

Parenting

We are in the process of formulating a parenting course suitable for the trainees at Huntercombe. Any trainee may take part, not just fathers or fathers to be.

We have run a course with the New Bridge and are in the process of running a pilot course with Learning to Live Ltd.

14. Children and Families of Offenders

(From Reducing Re-offending: National Action Plan)

Maintaining family relationships can help to prevent ex-prisoners re-offending and assist them to resettle successfully into the community. However, 43 per cent of sentenced prisoners say that they have lost contact with their family as a result of going into prison. Approximately 150,000 children are affected by the imprisonment of a parent each year. Many of these have significant relationships with their parent, who may sometimes be the primary carer. Separation in these circumstances can be extremely traumatic for the child, leading to problems with mental health, school performance and at worst, delinquency and inter-generational offending. Around 55 per cent of women in prison have children under the age of 16 and one third have a child under five. About 70 per cent of the children had been living with their mother before her imprisonment. Moreover, women are likely to serve custodial sentences further away from their home area than men.

Progress

Working closely with key partners, particularly in the voluntary sector, some progress has been made. A number of family services have been established such as the Prisoners' Families Helpline run by Action for Prisoners' Families, and the Eastern Area Families Project, a partnership between the Prison Service, the Ormiston Trust and Lankelly Foundation, providing a broad based service to prisoners and their families.

Visitors' centres have an important role to play in helping to keep families together and enabling them to contribute to the rehabilitation process in a meaningful way. As well as practical help, many visitors' centres offer help or act as a gateway towards a diverse range of specialist support services, for example, for those who face dependency or relationship issues. All newly built and contracted-out establishments are required to have a visitors' centre under the terms of their contract. At most open and resettlement prisons, prisoners have the opportunity to take their visits in the community, but it is accepted, in principle, that all closed prisons should have a visitors' centre. The potential of visitors' centres in assisting to deliver the strategic aims of reducing re-offending is apparent and work is underway to explore and address provision for families who attend the few closed prisons without such centres.

In addition, many prisoners and their families now have the opportunity to have extended visits where they are able to spend a day together, making use of the prison's recreational facilities. Others hold special children's days that focus on the needs of children, where they may remain with the imprisoned parent, without the presence of the other parent/carer.

However, a more co-ordinated and strategic approach needs to be taken to develop an effective pathway for children and families. Last summer, a new Directorate for children and families was established in the Department for Education and Skills, under a Minister for Children, bringing together in one place most of the policy and delivery interests for children, young people and families. This incorporates the Sure Start Unit, which has national oversight of Sure Start Partnerships. These are locally managed projects aimed

at reducing the social exclusion of young children up to five years old in deprived areas. Many of the factors that the Partnerships address are problems and risks associated with the children and families of offenders. In developing this pathway in the regions, it will be important that appropriate links are made with Sure Start Partnerships. Other key elements include the Children's Fund which helps young people aged 5-13 years who show signs of difficult behaviour and are at risk of social exclusion or poor outcomes, and the Local Network Fund which gives small community groups direct access to Government money to help all children and young people. For those who are older, Connexions offers access to advice, guidance, support and personal development to young people aged 13-19 across England based on individual need. In the autumn, the Government published the *Every Child Matters* Green Paper, proposing changes in policy and legislation in England to maximise opportunities and minimise risks for all children and young people, focusing services more effectively around the needs of children, young people and families. The Green Paper included a focus on the children and families of prisoners, drawing attention to the financial, emotional and health problems children can suffer as a result of having a parent in prison. It also: -

- noted the lack of co-ordinated support for children and families of prisoners and invited views on what more could be done to improve services for this group; and
- asked whether information on parents (including imprisonment) should be shared between professionals as part of the drive to improve early identification of children at risk, and provision of appropriate services for them.

The consultation on the Green Paper showed broad support for the proposals, in particular the intention to concentrate on outcomes that children and young people themselves have said are important, rather than prescribing organisational change. In the light of the consultation, the Children Bill has been published, and is now before Parliament intended to create clear accountability for children's services, to enable better joint working and to secure a better focus on safeguarding children. To support professionals in working together and sharing information to identify and meet children's needs quickly and in the most appropriate way, the Bill provides for the creation of databases holding information on all children. The databases will not hold case information: there will be basic identifying information; contact details of practitioners providing specialised services and if there is a concern about a child (though not the nature of the concern). Following passage of the legislation, the DfES are intending to provide guidance for practitioners on effective information sharing on and off databases. Alongside the Bill, the Government published *Every Child Matters: Next Steps*. This provides details of the consultation response and the wider, non-legislative elements of change that are being taken forward to promote well-being of all children.

15. Key Action Area: Children and Families of Offenders (From Pathway 6 – Children and Families of Offenders)

Implementation of the Green Paper will be the main vehicle for ensuring that the needs of children and families of offenders are met

NATIONAL ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	LOCAL ACTION
<p>The interests of children and families will be considered within the emerging strategy for supporting families.</p> <p>Target date: 2004/05</p>		
Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners
DfES, HO		

Examine barriers to information sharing between different parts of the criminal justice system

NATIONAL ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	LOCAL ACTION
<p>The outcome of this work will inform the work following the Green Paper on removing barriers to better information sharing</p> <p>Target date: 2004/05</p>	<p>Agree regional protocols for information sharing, transmission and storage with partner and stakeholders within any agreed national guidance</p>	<p>Local implementation of regional protocols</p>
Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners
DfES, HO	Regional Offender Managers, key stakeholders	Prison Service Governors, Chief Officers of Probation, Sure Start Partnerships, Local Authorities

Determine how to ensure that information about a prisoner's family circumstances is captured systematically at all points from arrest to imprisonment to release

NATIONAL ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	LOCAL ACTION
<p>Target date: 2004/05</p>	<p>Respond to national strategy and guidance</p>	<p>Implement any required action</p>
Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners
HO	Regional Offender Manager, Prison Service Area Managers, NPS Regional Managers, key stakeholders	Prison Service Governors, Chief Officers for Probation

Develop material for children's visits to prison, including information for children

NATIONAL ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	LOCAL ACTION
Target date: 2004/05	Develop strategic response to families information needs	Develop family friendly visitors' centres
Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners
Prison Service	Regional Offender Manager, Prison Service Area Manager, NPS Regional Manager, key stakeholders	Prison Service Governors, voluntary organisations and other key stakeholders

Improve the quality and quantity of education on parent craft, family relationships, healthy living, life skills and sex education

NATIONAL ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	LOCAL ACTION
DfES (Families Division and OLSU) to work with NOMS and LSC to encourage the inclusion of life skills (including parenting and relationship skills) within the mainstream package of support for offenders. Target date: over next 3 years		Implement Offender Behaviour programmes to improve quality and experience of offenders families and their children
Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners
DfES		Prison Service Governors, Sure Start Partnerships and other voluntary organisations

Establish best practice in work with children and families of prisoners

NATIONAL ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	LOCAL ACTION
(i) Work will examine the possibility of working with a particular region to establish best practice (ii) NPS to develop approach to identify best practice in relation to the children and families of offenders with the aim of identifying a national framework Target date: 2004/05		
Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners	Lead Agency/Partners
DfES, HO, National Probation Service, NOMS		

16. Policy for the Education of Children with a Parent or Close Relative in Prison

Gloucestershire County Council Education Department

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Foreword

For some time now the Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups and the Save the Children Fund have voiced their concern about children who have a parent or close relative in prison. Children of prisoners are often invisible within the school population. Evidence suggests that they are vulnerable to underachievement and social exclusion.

Introduction

The aims of this policy are:

1. To raise awareness of the needs of children and young people with a parent, partner or close relative in prison;
2. To secure their educational achievement and attendance;
3. To promote social inclusion.

The Policy

Statement of intent

1. Gloucestershire LEA will support children and young people with parents, partners or close relatives in prison, whether they reside in the county on a permanent or temporary basis, so that they can reach their full educational potential.
2. Gloucestershire LEA will provide schools with appropriate information and guidance so that schools are aware of their responsibility towards this group of children and young people and are able to provide support as necessary.
3. Gloucestershire LEA is committed to challenging prejudice, discrimination and racism. Our goal is for children from all cultures and backgrounds to be equally valued and respected.
4. Gloucestershire LEA will involve parents, carers and other agencies as appropriate to support the education of this group of children, keeping strictly within the confidentiality protocols which will be outlined within the guidance.

Strategies

1. The LEA will establish a named person in each school who will be the person responsible for this group of children and will implement procedures set out in the guidance document. It is recommended that the person is a member of the school's senior management team.
2. The LEA will provide schools with the name(s) of a person(s) within the LEA who can be a source of support.
3. The LEA will provide schools with information and guidance so that schools will have a better understanding of the problem to be able to raise awareness of the issue amongst their staff and establish clear internal policies.
4. The LEA will provide appropriate training to named teachers in schools in order to help them carry out their school role effectively.
5. Schools will provide the LEA with basic information regarding this group of children, without breaking the confidentiality protocol, so that the LEA can gain more knowledge about the size and nature of the problem and respond appropriately.

Monitoring

The LEA will monitor the implementation of the guidance through the named LEA person and the work of the Education Welfare Service and the Looked After Children Education Service.

Commitment for the future

The Education Welfare Service and the Looked After Children Education Service will play important roles in the implementation of this policy and the LEA asks all schools to have regard to the principles set out in this policy. However, the success of the policy depends on a range of partners, not least the following:

Gloucester Prison is asked to provide a named contact for liaison with the Local Education Authority on these issues. The contact will be able to offer general advice about national and local prison service procedures, including those relating to visits and communication. Where a child undergoes a particular crisis as a result of the parent's imprisonment, joint work between LEA and the prison contact will explore ways of supporting the individual child.

ConneXions is asked to recognise young people who are the children, siblings or partners of prisoners as especially vulnerable and include them where appropriate in its priority group.

The Youth Offending Team is asked to recognise young people who are the children, siblings or partners of prisoners as especially vulnerable and to consider what support might be most appropriate in individual circumstances.

The Gloucestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and Adult Continuing Education and Training (ACET) are asked to include consideration of this group in all policies and developments which target vulnerable children and families and to support parenting initiatives within Gloucester prison.

Children with a Parent or Close Relative in Prison

An Information and Guidance Document for Schools

The current situation

Recent research by a number of agencies, particularly Save the Children, has highlighted problems facing children whose parent or close relatives are in prison.

Evidence suggests that these young people are seriously disadvantaged. They are likely to have problems at home and in school that mean that they fail to achieve their full educational potential.

The problem is even more difficult because the school may not even be aware of children within the school who are in this situation.

The information and advice given in this document (which uses as its base the Save the Children "Working with Children of Prisoners" resource book) are aimed at helping schools cope with a potentially difficult situation for the benefit of school and child.

Confidentiality

Guidelines on the sharing of confidential information should be laid out in existing school policies. Only those who need to know should be told and all information received and passed on should be treated as confidential. This is essential in order to avoid gossip and rumour spreading around the school, as well as to ensure that the child and family are not exposed in the wider community.

There are particular issues surrounding confidentiality for a prisoner's child that need to be taken into account by the school:

- Prisoners' children and their carers consistently stress that confidentiality is the key issue for them to avoid stigma and discrimination.
- Within the criminal justice system, some people's names and addresses are saleable commodities and prisoners' families are vulnerable to intimidation, threats and pressures from inside as well as outside prison.
- Some prisoners' children will be the subject of child protection measures made by a court, which stipulate that the child should not be named.

However, confidentiality in school can never be absolute but on a 'need to know' basis. The systems and policies that your school has in place for dealing with child protection issues can be usefully drawn on with the children of prisoners.

One approach is to inform all staff or relevant staff that a child may be experiencing difficulties at school owing to changed family circumstances. It may be helpful to state that the parent is no longer at home. However, staff do not necessarily need to know that the parent is in prison. This is a question of professional judgement according to the individual needs of the child, carer, teachers and school.

In some situations, only key staff who are actually able to help improve the situation - such as the pastoral head or head of year - need to know the specific circumstances of the child.

However, informing some or all permanent staff, but excluding supply teachers and support staff may deprive some members of the school of useful information. This may lead to resentment if they find out through other means. Again, this is a matter for professional judgement.

School records

- Be careful about what is committed to writing and in what context.
- Be non-judgemental. Record only facts that all potential readers need to know.
- Some current concerns may be better conveyed orally than recorded which may risk labelling the child.
- Computerised records are open access except in cases such as the 'at risk' register where access is restricted.

The Role of the Headteacher

The headteacher needs to be aware of the county's policy document and the associated guidance.

The headteacher will need to revise existing policies so that these children are covered by the Pupils at Risk Policy.

The headteacher will need to identify a designated teacher to look after the interests of these children. It is likely to be the same teacher who is the named teacher for looked after children or child protection.

The headteacher will need to liaise with the designated teacher at regular intervals (at least half-termly).

Role of the Designated Teacher

It may be helpful for the designated teacher to be the same person who is the named teacher for Children in Public Care (Looked After Children) or Child Protection. In the case of residential schools, this may be the Head or Deputy Head of Care. There may be issues that overlap. The designated teacher should have received training in dealing with sensitive issues and in liaising with other agencies.

The level of input and support given to a child may be determined by whether or not the family chooses to tell the school that someone is in prison.

The designated teacher should:

- Liaise with other relevant staff on a 'need to know' basis.
- Liaise with the family and/or other agencies as appropriate to establish the needs of the child.
- Keep the headteacher fully informed.
- Monitor the academic progress of the child and arrange additional support if needed.
- Act as an advocate for the child.
- Ensure that children new to the school have a smooth and welcoming induction.
- Ensure that the child has a member of staff they can talk to.
- Attend any relevant training.
- Act as an adviser for other staff and governors on issues relevant to the education of the children of prisoners.
- Keep appropriate up to date records (see confidentiality section).

Guidance for Teachers

The classroom teacher has a vital role to play in ensuring that a child affected by imprisonment is supported within the school. However, it is vitally important that classroom teachers/ tutors adhere to the guidelines on confidentiality included in this guidance.

For a teacher, 'knowing' that a child is affected by imprisonment may be a question of educated guesswork or second-hand information from other staff, pupils or parents.

In some situations, everyone in a class or a school staff room knows that a child's parent is in prison through gossip or because the trial has received media coverage. In other cases, a pupil may volunteer information directly or disclose it indirectly through school work or passing comments. In many cases, a classroom teacher may not know that he or she is working with the child of a prisoner at the time.

'Knowing' does not necessarily mean that the teacher needs to let the child know that he or she knows. A pupil may be unwilling to discuss the issue with an authority figure or, in the face of those told not to tell anyone, feel unable to talk.

"In both cases where I knew children in my class had a parent in prison, neither child knew I knew and I never disclosed my knowledge to them. But having that information was vital to me because it

did affect to a certain extent how I approached them and their respective behaviour problems".
Teacher, Primary School

Being aware of the situation

Teachers report that they came to know a child's parent was in prison through one or several of the following ways:

- Sudden absence of parent;
- Remarks by child and other parents;
- Information from support staff such as cleaners and lunchtime supervisors;
- Deterioration of behaviour;
- Unexplained absences;
- Information from the carer;
- Information from the child.

Confiding

For a younger child, the teacher is often the most important person in their life outside home, and children will often confide sensitive personal details about their family life to the class teacher.

Older pupils have a very different relationship with school and the many staff who teach them. They are less likely to confide in a teacher spontaneously. If they wish to raise sensitive issues with a member of staff, they are more likely to know and choose who they want to talk to. This person may not be their class teacher.

Alternatively, a class teacher can spend time and effort referring a student to another staff member or an available service such as counselling, only for the student to fail to attend and return to talk to them.

If a pupil raises issues concerning the imprisonment of a parent during educational activities, the following responses are helpful:

- Allow the pupil to express him or herself;
- Listen carefully;
- Acknowledge what is said;
- Provide reassurance;
- Agree an action with the child.

Deciding whether to encourage the child to talk further in the presence of other pupils in the classroom, or whether to offer support in a different context, is a matter of individual judgement. Judgements will vary according primarily to the needs of the child; the response of other pupils; and the school environment. The teacher's own experience and preferences should also be taken into consideration.

As with carers, it is important for teachers to make themselves available and give children opportunities to talk alone with them or out of hearing of other pupils and staff.

Who to inform - Need to know

If a child does confide in a teacher, it is important to acknowledge their situation and be clear with them about who needs to be told in order to support them. The teacher should try to negotiate and agree with the child what steps need to be taken.

The following factors will affect any decision about whether and how to approach the child and who else needs to be informed:

- School policy;
- The child's individual needs;
- The existing relationship between teacher and child;
- The carer's wishes (where appropriate).

Guidelines on who to inform should be laid out in existing school policies. Only those who need to know should be told and all information received and passed on about the child should be treated as confidential. This is essential in order to avoid gossip and rumour spreading around the school as well as to ensure that the child and family are not exposed in the wider community.

Recognising the signs - changes in behaviour and performance

Children of prisoners may exhibit changes in behaviour and performance in the classroom similar to children experiencing divorce or bereavement.

These changes may begin or become more apparent in relation to any one of a number of stages relating to imprisonment such as:

- The arrest of a parent, carer or sibling;
- Finding out about the imprisonment of a parent;
- A visit to a parent in prison;
- A home visit by a parent from prison;
- The release of a parent from prison.

In particular, teachers report that changes in behaviour and performance become more acute around the time of a prison visit.

Teachers report observing the following changes in pupils with a parent in prison: Moodiness;

Aggressiveness;

Chattering;

Bullying;

Difficulty with peers;

Appearing upset;

Appearing withdrawn;

Showing a lack of concentration;

Showing a lack of interest in work;

Antagonism towards authority figures.

However, for some children, the removal of a parent to prison may be beneficial and both behaviour and performance in the classroom may improve.

Unexplained absences

When a pupil who has previously shown no or few attendance problems suddenly begins to miss school, or when absences show a regular pattern, it is possible that one of the following situations applies:

- The child is at court or visiting the prisoner;
- The child is supporting the remaining parent/ siblings;
- The child is having difficulty coping with school or is being teased or bullied about having a parent in prison.

In some cases, particularly with younger children, strange explanations for a parent's sudden disappearance from the child's life may alert teachers to a prisoner's family.

Basic principles

It is clear from the views and experiences of the teachers that there is no one right response or approach to a child affected by imprisonment.

However, many put forward the following as useful guiding principles:

- See the child as an individual with individual needs;
- Be non-judgmental - the child has not committed a crime;
- Avoid treating the child as a victim or being over-protective;
- Acknowledge the child's own preferences;
- Don't ask about the crime.

Classroom management

For any child experiencing difficulty in his or her home life, a teacher in the classroom can offer a stable, secure and consistent environment.

A classroom that operates positive behavioural expectations within a framework of clearly defined rules, consequences and rewards will enable all pupils to feel valued.

Maintaining the usual classroom routines is helpful, although the teacher should also be sensitive to events likely to have a significant effect on the pupil's ability to cope. It is important, not only for the child concerned but for other pupils, that the teacher is seen to be fair.

Teachers will need to make individual assessments as to whether educational tasks and classroom organisation should be adapted to cater for the specific needs of such a pupil.

Disruptive pupils

In the case of a disruptive pupil, imposing discipline without offering some kind of support may simply result in a further deterioration in behaviour. This does not mean making too many allowances, but trying to discover the root causes, being sensitive to the situation and seeking practical solutions.

Many teachers report that it is helpful to enlist the skills and experience of other staff to support the child. This has the advantage of sharing the problem with other appropriate staff within the bounds of confidentiality so that the teacher can also gain support and is not isolated.

A child who has seen a parent arrested by the police or sent to prison may have difficulty with authority figures. She/he may associate school and teachers with the 'establishment' that has deprived them of a parent. In situations where a student is acting out against teachers as authority figures, it can be useful to draw on external resources such as youth workers, mentors and self-help groups.

Teasing and bullying

Many children of prisoners report being teased or bullied at school. Abuse can range from name-calling and jokes to physical violence. This needs to be dealt with in accordance with the school's anti-bullying policy. Overhearing teasing or observing bullying can provide an opportunity for the teacher to approach and offer support to the pupil concerned and to address the issue with the child who is bullying.

Attendance issues

Missing school often leads to other problems such as poor performance and isolation from peers. It is important to help ensure that prisoners' children do not lose out twice - once at home through the loss of a parent and again at school through the loss of education. Authorised absences should only be granted when essential and 'extra' work can be provided on those occasions. Where possible, offer and encourage emotional support, including thorough discussion with the carer.

Prison visits should be recorded as authorised absence.

"One student suddenly stopped doing homework and started missing school - getting told off about it wasn't going to do much because her mother had just gone to prison and she was saddled with baby-sitting the younger ones. I informed all her teachers that there was a serious difficulty at home and asked them to report to me whenever there was a problem. Then I asked the student who they would like to talk to about getting support for their school work and, because of the truancy problem, I informed the local education social worker who visited the home."

Pastoral Head, Secondary School

Children in the same family

All children - including those from the same family - have different needs. There may be a number of children from a family affected by imprisonment who attend the same school. In the case of twins, or stepbrothers and sisters, they may even be in the same class. In such circumstances, it is important not to assume that the children's needs are the same; an individual approach needs to be taken for each child.

The presence of siblings may also mean that an older child has increased care responsibilities at home. This may affect punctuality, attendance and the ability to deliver homework on time.

"I remember my brother running up the steps shouting, 'Hey! Great! Magic! My dad's back. My dad's back!' I walked into the front room with all the other kids round him and he said 'Hi ya son.' I wasn't particularly pleased to see him. "

Child of released prisoner

Particular problems

Prison visits

Teachers report that performance and behaviour of children of prisoners frequently become more erratic at the time of a prison visit.

If schools know about such visits, it would obviously be sensible to tell those who need to know of possible problems.

If a teacher or teachers have good relationships with pupils who are happy to confide in them, there might be opportunities to allow pupils to take samples of school work in to show parents or relatives. Security is such that only drawings or written work are likely to be allowed into prison - models or collages will certainly not be allowed.

However, it is worth remembering that reports, examples of written work, drawings and paintings can be sent by post.

Often, parents are embarrassed to ask for time off for children to visit prison and it is important to handle absence of this kind sensitively. The relationship between school and home may become such that the parent will keep the school fully informed, but a careless or thoughtless reaction from a form teacher or tutor could cause a difficult and upsetting situation.

Release

Losing regular contact with a parent, partner or sibling when he or she goes to prison can be traumatic for a child or young person. However, the return of the imprisoned family member on release or temporary licence (a short home visit), or at the end of the sentence, can be equally difficult.

During their absence, families learn to cope and roles within the family are reordered to cope with the loss. The returning family member often strives to reassert themselves. This can involve new "rules" about children and sometimes harsh disciplinary penalties. There is often little preparation for the release or support for the family involved.

For some prisoners' families, the removal of the individual to prison is welcome. For them, release is likely to be a particularly difficult time.

All prisoners released from sentences of 12 months or more are placed under the supervision of a probation officer for at least a short time after release. Any major concerns about the readjustment process after release may be referred to the local probation office by the school.

However, if the school have any doubts about the safety of the child, the child protection procedure as set out by the Area Child Protection Committee should be implemented. If there are doubts, the LEA 'named person' should be a source of support.

Financial effects

A family may experience a significant loss in income with a family member in prison. Schools should have a policy for school trips and activities which covers such circumstances. Housing and childcare arrangements may also suffer. The education welfare officer can often help a family access grants and benefits.

Children of prisoners held overseas

This is a relatively rare occurrence, but can be all the more distressing with lack of access through visit, telephone or mail, and unanswered concerns about a prisoner's welfare. There may, however, be less of a stigma attached to such imprisonment and there may indeed be local support groups for some prisoners

held overseas. It may be possible, therefore, for pupils to be more open about their situation and for support to be discussed with them and tailored for their needs. Where this is not the case - with very young children, for example, or those traumatised by the family's experience - still greater caution and sensitivity will need to be exercised.

The Local Education Authority will provide information, advice and support to schools and families:

- For children of asylum-seekers and refugees in this situation via CIRCLE, its Ethnic Minorities Achievement Service;
- For children in public care or in private fostering arrangements via its Looked After Children Education Service;
- For all others via the school's assigned education welfare officer or Mainstream Services Assistant Education Officer;
- On policy and general issues via the Head of Mainstream Services.

Helpful organisations and individuals in this context include:

- Amnesty International
- Local Councillor and MP
- Prisoners Abroad

Prisoners Abroad employs caseworkers to provide practical support for British nationals in foreign prisons negotiating with authorities, finding lawyers, providing medicine, food, vitamins and clothing. It also sends magazines, books, birthday and Christmas cards; helps families with travel; and provides aftercare once the prisoner is released.

- Prisoners' Families and Friends Service

PFFS is a complementary service focusing on the prisoner's family and friends, providing emotional support for them. Although the main focus is on prisoners in this country, they will respond to requests for help from those with family or friends imprisoned overseas.

17. Young Parents From Custody to Community

Cherie Booth QC supports move to break cycle of crime
8th December 2004

Cherie Booth QC calls for young parents in prison to be allowed better contact with their families to prevent their children becoming the next generation of criminals in a report published today by the Prison Reform Trust.

In a foreword to the report Ms Booth says 'we need to make sure that today's sons and daughters of prisoners don't end up tomorrow's offenders'.

She adds that for those who have committed less serious crimes 'we should also examine closely whether there is a better alternative, for the individuals concerned and their families, to imprisonment, which too often worsens rather than tackles the problem'.

The report and resource pack is a substantive guide to policy and practice on meeting the needs of young parents who offend. It marks the culmination of a major three-year project supported by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. It also contains a DVD with two powerful documentaries, the first by Dawson films featuring young mothers experiencing loss and distress and the second by Relate featuring couples talking about how they are trying to keep in touch despite the young father's absence in custody.

The Government does not collect figures on the number of prisoners who are parents but each year over 17,700 children are separated from their mothers by imprisonment. Women in prison are nearly always the primary carer and are often single parents. It is also estimated that a quarter of young men in custody under the age of 21 are fathers, six times higher than the national average.

In total an estimated 150,000 children have a parent in prison and, according to Government figures, seven per cent of primary school children experience the imprisonment of their father. There is also evidence that children who have a father with a criminal record are more likely to become criminals themselves.

Many young parents in custody are held long distances from their home despite the fact that research shows that maintaining good family ties can reduce a prisoner's risk of re-offending. At the beginning of July a third of all prisoners were held more than 50 miles from their home town and 13 per cent were held more than 100 miles away. For women in custody the corresponding figures are higher with half more than 50 miles and a third more than 100 miles away from home.

Based on research in eight UK prisons the report profiles good practice and identifies opportunities for the Prison Service and voluntary organisations to work together to support young parents to take responsibility for their children on release.

Surveys of youth justice and probation services reveal that while there was an awareness of the importance of assisting parents of teenage offenders little, or no attention, had been paid to young offenders who were already parents themselves.

The report concludes that much more could be done by those working in the criminal justice system to support young parents who offend and for professionals in other public services to respond to the needs of prisoners' families.

The report calls on the Department for Education and Skills to take the lead on making integrated plans with the Home Office to:

- Improve support for young parents in prison and their children and partners outside.
- Ensure that once released from prison young parents and their families have better support with parenting and are given more opportunities to find employment and housing.
- Provide alternatives to prison which meet the needs of young parents and to promote these alternatives with the courts.

Joanne Sherlock, the Young Parents in Prison Project Manager at the Prison Reform Trust, said today: 'The Government is in danger of jeopardising the prospects of future generations and breaking up families through its failure to meet the needs of young parents in prison.'

Juliet Lyon, Director of the Prison Reform Trust, added: 'Crime doesn't have to run in the family. Prisoners' families, particularly their young dependent children, are overlooked as innocent victims of crime. Work to support vulnerable young parents who offend offers a unique opportunity, not only to help them get out of trouble, but also to become the good parents most want to be, and so avoid a depressing cycle of misery and crime.'

Further information:

Juliet Lyon 020 7251 5070
07762 093 105

Enver Solomon 020 7251 5070
07939 221 381

Notes to Editors:

1. Research for the report was carried out at Polmont and Cornton Vale prisons in Scotland, Hydebank Wood in Northern Ireland and Chelmsford, Huntercombe, Deerbolt, Holloway and Askham Grange prisons in England.

2. It is estimated that 150,000 children have a parent in prison. Seven per cent of children during their time at school experience the imprisonment of their father.

3. On 26th November 2004 the prison population of England and Wales stood at 75,164, an increase of just under 1,000 over the past year. The women's prison population stood at 4,371. There were 10,816 prisoners under the age of 21 in custody.

4. Home Office research has found that two-thirds of female prisoners are mothers, and each year it is estimated that more than 17,700 children are separated from their mother by imprisonment. This is based on the fact that nearly 13,000 women were sent to prison last year of whom nearly two-thirds are mothers who on average have two children.

5. It is estimated that 25 per cent of young offenders are fathers and 39 per cent of female young offenders are mothers. Figures on the parenting status of prisoners are not routinely collected by the Home Office.
6. There are currently 102 places in mother and baby units reserved for prisoners who have children under the age of 18 months.
7. HM Prisons Inspectorate has found that 25 per cent of women prisoners stated that their children's father or a spouse or partner was caring for their children; 25 per cent were cared for by their grandmothers; 29 per cent were cared for by other family members or friends and 12 per cent were in care, with foster parents or had been adopted.
8. Just 5 per cent of women prisoners' children remain in their own home once their mother has been sentenced.
9. Many prisoners are held a long way from their homes. At the beginning of July 2004, 24,581 prisoners were held over 50 miles from their home town and 9,591 were held over 100 miles away. In 2003 prisoners were held an average of 53 miles away from home.
10. At the beginning of July just under half of all women in prison were held more than 50 miles from their home town and nearly a quarter were held more than 100 miles away. With so many being held a long way from their homes visits from families are more difficult. One Home Office study found that only half the women who had lived with their children or been in contact prior to imprisonment had received a visit since going to prison.
11. Reconviction rates are particularly high for young people. In 1999, 71 per cent of young people released from prison were reconvicted within two years of leaving custody.
12. Many young adult prisoners have a background of social exclusion. Nearly three-quarters were excluded from school at some stage, nearly a third have spent time in care and nearly two thirds were unemployed at the time of their arrest.
13. Behavioural and mental health problems are particularly prevalent amongst young prisoners. Of prisoners aged 16-20, around 85 per cent show signs of a personality disorder and 10 per cent exhibit signs of psychotic illness, for example schizophrenia.
14. Drug and alcohol abuse are major problems. Of prisoners aged 16-20, over half reported dependence on a drug in the year prior to imprisonment. Over half the female and two-thirds of the male prisoners had a hazardous drinking habit prior to entering custody.

18. Resources and Organisations

Thames Valley Contacts

Visitor Centre Contact Details

Aylesbury		
Bullingdon	Lynne Pugh	01869 353437
Grendon	Viv Brown	01296 443064
Huntercombe	Terry Kenyon	01491 643100
Reading	Clive Barber	0118 908 5000
Springhill	Sue Pickford	01296 443257 (Wed/Thur)
Woodhill		

National Organisations

Action for Prisoners' Families

Riverbank House
1 Putney Bridge Approach
London SW6 3JD
Tel: 020 7384 1987
Web: www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk

ADFAM National

Waterbridge House
32/36 Loman Street
London SE1 OEE.
Helpline: 020 7928 8900
Office: 020 7928 8898
Fax: 020 7928 8923
Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Telephone helpline for the families and friends of drug users, as well as useful leaflets and booklets.

Amnesty International

99-119 Rosebery Avenue
London EC1R 4RE
Tel: 020 7814 6200
Fax: 020 7833 1510

Amnesty International works to free all prisoners of conscience, to ensure that all political prisoners have fair trials, to abolish torture and the death penalty, and to stop all enforced 'disappearances' and extrajudicial executions.

Anti-Bullying Campaign

185 Tower Bridge Road
London SE1 2UF
Tel: 020 7378 1446

Advice on how to deal with bullying.

Childline

Freepost 1111
London N1 0BR.
Helpline: 0800 1111
Website: www.childline.org.uk

Confidential telephone helpline for children and young people.

Clinks

Head Office
15 Priory Street
York YO1 6ET
Tel: 01904 673970

Sue Darby
Wales, South West and Thames Valley Project
Clinks
PO Box 5608
Bournemouth BH8 0ZX
Tel: 01202 527208
Email: sue.darby@clinks.org

Family Rights Group

The Print House
18 Ashwin Street
London E8 3DL.
Helpline: 0800 7311696
Office: 020 7923 2628
Email: office@frg.u-net.com

Advice and information for families with children in care or who are in contact with social services.

Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups (Action for Prisoners' Families)

Riverbank House
1 Putney Bridge Approach
London
SW6 3JD
Tel: 020 7384 1987
Fax: 020 7384 1855
Email: info@actionpf.org.uk
Website: www.fpfsg.org.uk

FPFSG speaks out for prisoners' families and those who help them across the UK, promotes the just treatment of prisoners' families by the prison system and society and encourages the development of a nationwide network of support services for these families.

Gingerbread

7 Sovereign Close
Sovereign Court
London EW1 3HW.
Helpline: 0800 018 4318
Office: 020 7488 9300
Email: office@gingerbread.org.uk
Website: www.gingerbread.org.uk

Advice on benefits and parenting issues for lone parents and children.

Howard League for Penal Reform

1 Ardleigh Road
London N14HS
Tel: 020 7249 7373
Fax: 020 7249 7788
Email: howard.league@ukonline.co.uk

Kids VIP

An organisation working with the Prison Service and other organisations to improve contact between children and families affected by imprisonment.

NACRO

169 Clapham Road
London SW9 0PU.
Tel: 020 7582 6500
Fax: 020 7735 3666
Website: www.nacro.org.uk

The leading crime reduction organisation in England and Wales. Has local branches.

The National Children's Bureau

8 Wakely Street
London EC1V 7QE
Tel: 020 7843 6000
Fax: 020 7278 9512
Email: booksales@ncb.org.uk
Website: www.ncb.org.uk

NCB produces a range of publications to support children and young people.

Ormiston Trust

333 Felixstowe Road
Ipswich
Suffolk IP3 9DU.
Tel: 01473 724 517

Fax: 01473 274 255
Email: ormistoncft@btinternet.com

Produces leaflets for children visiting parents in prison.

Prisoners Abroad

89-93 Fonthill Road
London N4 3JH.
Tel: 020 7561 6820
Email: info@prisonersabroad.org.uk
Website: www.prisonersabroad.org.uk

Practical support for British nationals held in foreign jails.

Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)

Family Support Service
254 Caledonian Road
London N1 0NG
Tel: 020 7278 3981
Email: familysupport@pact.uk.net

Providing confidential information, advice and support to prisoners' families. Phone lines open Monday to Friday 9.30am-5.00 pm.

This organisation is formed from the Bourne Trust and Prisoners' Wives and Families' Society.

Services include:

Visitors' Centres and Play Projects at Holloway, Pentonville, Wormwood Scrubs and Belmarsh. All day childrens visits in HMP Holloway. Information, advice and support for prisoners' families, Freephone 0800 085 3021. Bed and breakfast for family members visiting London prisons. Counselling for those on remand. A 'First Night in Custody in Holloway' project for the most distressed women prisoners entering custody for the first time. A full-time family worker for prisoners in the southwest. A Community Education Programme.

For further information:

Tel: 020 7582 1313
PACT (formerly The Bourne Trust)
Lincoln House
1-3 Brixton Road
London SW9 6DE.
Fax: 020 7735 6077
Email: info@pact.uk.net
Website: www.imprisonment.org.uk

or:

PACT (formerly PWFS)
254 Caledonian Road
London N1 ONG
Tel/Fax: 020 7278 3981
Email: familysupport@pact.uk.net

Prisoners' Families Helpline

Tel: 0808 808 2003
Website: www.prisonersfamilieshelpline.org.uk

A freephone service covering England and Wales providing the families and friends of prisoners with free and confidential information and support.

Prisoners' Families and Friends Service

Tel: 0808 808 3444
Emotional support for the family and friends of prisoners.

The Royal British Legion and SSAFA FH

County Field Office
3 St Andrew's Court
Wellington Street
Thame
Oxfordshire OX9 3WT
Tel: 01844 216361
Fax: 01844 261759
Email: ctreeby@britishlegion.org.uk

Welfare support to ex servicemen/women and their dependants; provision of Grants in Aid, Training and Resettlement Support and Employment Advice.
If you have any questions please call.

The Save the Children Fund

Mary Datchelor House
17 Grove Lane
London SE5 8RD.
Tel: 020 7703 5400
Fax: 020 7703 2278
Email: enquiries@scfuk.org.uk
Website: www.savethechildren.org.uk

SCF produces a range of publications, including 'Working with Prisoners' Children'.

Sentdown.co.uk

A new website for prisoners and their families. Launch February 2005.

Young Minds

102-108 Clerkenwell Road
London EC1M 5SA
Helpline: 0800 018 2138
Office: 020 7336 8445

Email: enquiries@youngminds.org.uk
Website: www.youngminds.org.uk

Advice and information for anyone who has concerns about the mental health of young people.

Publications

Summary of submission made to the Green Paper Consultation 'Every Child Matters'. (2003) Action for Prisoners' Families, 020 7384 1987

Recognising Quality. An evaluation tool for visitor centres. Available from PACT, HM Prison Service and Action for Prisoners' Families.

What Can I Do? A guide to opportunities to volunteer in the criminal justice system. Prison Advice and Care Trust, 020 7582 1313. Free + sae

Male Prisoners and Young Offenders. Prisoners' information handbook. Prison Reform Trust (2002) ISBN 0 946209 53 7

Telling the Children. A guide for the partners and families of prisoners. Action for Prisoners' Families. ISBN 0 952 1072 3 7. £1.00

Sent to Prison. A guide for the partners and families of prisoners. Action for Prisoners' Families. ISBN 0 952 1072 3 7. £1.00

Keeping in Touch. A guide for the partners and families of prisoners. Action for Prisoners' Families. ISBN 0 952 1072 4 6. £1.00

Living with Separation. A guide for the partners and families of prisoners. Action for Prisoners' Families. ISBN 0 952 1072 5 5. £1.00

Preparing for Release. A guide for the partners and families of prisoners. Action for Prisoners' Families. ISBN 0 952 1072 6 4. £1.00

Who's Guilty? Young people with a prisoner in the family. Action for Prisoners' Families (2002)

News. Newsletter addressing the needs of prisoners' families (three editions per year). Action for Prisoners' Families

No-one's Ever Asked Me. Young people with a prisoner in the family. Kelli Brown (2001) Young People's Project

Exploring the Needs of Young People with a Prisoner in the Family. Kelli Brown (2003) Young People's Project

Young People's Support Service. Supporting young people with a prisoner in the family. Kelli Brown (2003) Young People's Project

Starting Where They Are Project. Supporting young people with a prisoner in the family. Dr Diane DeBell (2003) Young People's Project

Resource Pack: Supporting Young People Affected by Imprisonment. (2002) Action for Prisoners' Families

I Didn't Think Anyone Could Understand Miss. Supporting prisoners' children in school. Liz Dibb (2001) Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups.

Guidance Notes. Supporting young people with a prisoner in the family. Action for Prisoners' Families and Connexions (2002)

My Dad's In Prison. Sandra Cain and Margaret Speed (1999)

Just Visiting. A review of the role of visitor centres. Dr Nancy Loucks (2002)

Just Visiting. Speeches and Q&A session at the launch of the report (2002)

Visitor Centres Good Practice Guidelines. HM Prison Service (1998)

Good Practice Guidelines for Support Groups (1993)

A Problem Shared. Starting your own support group. Action for Prisoners' Families (1993)

Fundraising Manual. Graham Collings (2001)

Living in the Shadows. Report of the 1998 APF conference

'Reducing Re-offending' National Action Plan (2004) Home Office

Every Child Matters (2003) DfES

Hidden Harm. A report by Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (2003)

Prisons, Drugs and You. (1998) A booklet for the families and friend of prisoners' A&C Adfam National

Dad's in Prison (1999). Story, with photos, of two brothers with a father in prison. ISBN 0 7136 5094 x. A & C Black (Publishers) Ltd

Where's Daddy? Separation and your child (1996) Section on prisoners' families. Bloomsbury Publishers

No-One's Ever Asked Me: Young People with a Prisoner in the Family, (2000). A summary and full report of this study are available, as well as a four page summary. Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups.

Living in the Shadows (1996) Report of the FPFSG Conference. Addresses the needs of prisoners' families in their communities, highlighting the problems they face. Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups.

A Problem Shared: Starting your own support group. Booklet with helpful suggestions on how to start a support group, aimed primarily at those who have a family member in prison, giving useful information on problems and concerns. Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups.

A National Directory for Prisoners' Families. Contains information on the range of groups and agencies which provide support for prisoners' families across the UK. Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups.

Citizenship and Crime Project. A project to give young people information about crime and its consequences. Howard League for Penal Reform.

Outside Help: practical information for the families and friends of people in prison (1999) Information and advice on a range of matters. NACRO

My Dad's in Prison and **My Mum's in Prison** - free leaflets to support children. Ormiston Children and Families Trust.

What about the children? Leaflet about support for children of prisoners in foreign goals. Prisoners Abroad

Working with Children of Prisoners (1998) Save the Children Fund. A resource pack for teachers working with children who have a family member in prison. It is designed to help teachers deal confidently and sensitively with this significant group, and with the emotional, psychological and practical effects that these children may experience. Available from SCF publications, Tel: 01752 202301. Price £7.50 + £1.20 p&p.

Danny's Mum. Action for Prisoners' Families. 0-952 1072-82. Price £3.00

Sentenced Families – signs of change for children with a parent in prison. Gill Pugh, Ormiston Children & Families Trust. 0-954 2553-2-1. Price £7.00

Thames Valley Partnership

Townhill Barn

Dorton Road

Chilton

Aylesbury

Buckinghamshire HP18 9NA

Tel: 01844 202001

Fax: 01844 202008

Email: admin@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk



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Registered Charity Number 1031545. Internet: www.thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk