

'KEEPING CHILDREN CONNECTED' 2018

PROGRESS AND PARENTAL IMPRISONMENT: A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

WELCOME TO MANCHESTER



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Diane Curry OBE

Conference Host
CEO, POPS



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Lucy Gampell OBE

Chairperson

President, COPE

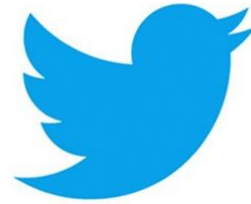


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SOCIAL MEDIA

#keepingchildrenconnected

#childrenofprisoners



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Lord Michael Farmer



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The Farmer Review: A Milestone?

Lord Farmer

Keynote address,
Keeping Children Connected
MMU, 8th June 2018

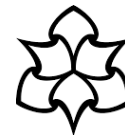


Ministry
of Justice

**The Importance of Strengthening
Prisoners' Family Ties to
Prevent Reoffending and Reduce
Intergenerational Crime**

by Lord Farmer

August 2017



The Importance of Strengthening Prisoners' Family Ties... **...to prevent reoffending**

- Costs £15bn or over 17bn euros per year
- 43% of men return to prison after release
- 60% of those serving sentences of less than a year
- **Men in prison who have visits from their family are 39% less likely to reoffend than those who don't**

The Importance of Strengthening Prisoners' Family Ties...

...to reduce intergenerational crime

- One landmark study found that almost two thirds of prisoners' sons went on to offend themselves.
- Parental imprisonment is an adverse childhood experience, so is parental separation.
- Enabling men in prison to be 'generative fathers' can mitigate the harm to their children of their incarceration.

Overview

- Why family connections and relationships are so essential
- Principles undergirding key recommendations from that Review
- How recommendations were received by the Ministry of Justice and media at report launch
- What the Government is doing to implement them

Prevalence of family breakdown

- In the UK just two thirds of children aged between 0 and 14 live with both parents.
- Over a quarter of children live with their mother and not their father.
- Behavioural problems, poor mental health, drug and alcohol problems, educational under-attainment, income poverty and criminal involvement.
- A quarter of prisoners were 'looked after children'.

Responses to family 'failure'

- An issue that's too close to home for many politicians, policy makers and opinion formers.
- 'Defamilialization' thesis – people shouldn't need to depend on their families to survive.
- Yet even in the most 'advanced' welfare states the fastest route into poverty is to become a single parent.
- No cross-departmental strategy to strengthen families and tackle the wider breakdown of family relationships.

Principle 1: Prisoners should not be let off the hook from their family responsibilities

These do not cease when men are brought into custody:

- *'Family work should always be seen and referred to as the third leg of the stool that brings stability & structure to prisoners' lives, particularly when they leave prison.'*
- Longer family visits should be disconnected from prisons' Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme
- Leadership and other training programmes should emphasise importance of supporting family ties

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Principle 1: Prisoners should not be let off the hook from their family responsibilities



Principle 2: Consistency of approach

- ▶ 2014 Joint Inspection Report called for a **national strategy** to help offenders maintain/repair family relationships and see these as central to rehabilitation
- ▶ Local family offer now part of each prison's strategy:
 - (a) Visitor base/centre and visiting services;
 - (b) Staffing to make family work an operational priority;
 - (c) Extended visits;
 - (d) Family learning; and
 - (e) 'Gateway' communication system.

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Principle 2: Consistency of approach



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Principle 3: Relationships the 'golden thread' running through prison processes



Principle 3: Relationships the 'golden thread' running through prison processes

Families can make a significant difference to prison safety:

- Governor surgeries to help bring family members onside.
- Families and significant others need a clearer and more effective role in the processes that keep prisoners safe.
- Dedicated phone line that is listened to and acted upon.
- Valuable information which could keep their family member and other prisoners safe should not be squandered.

It's not about being soft on crime...

If bringing men face-to-face with family responsibilities helps reduce reoffending this means:

- Fewer victims
- More children growing up *with* their fathers
- Fewer prisoners
- Lower costs
- More men taking advantage of educational and employment opportunities so they come out and work
- More tax revenue

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Government's implementation strategy

Officials from HMPPS involved in the Review process:

- Encouraged us to recommend that the Ministry of Justice develop an action plan out of the Farmer Review, and report progress to the Review twice a year
- All governors now have to produce a family and significant others strategy which incorporates the local family offer
- Relational emphasis of the Farmer Review should influence other areas of prisons policy

In conclusion

“In this era of ongoing constriction on public spending, family ties are themselves a resource that newly empowered governors can, and must, deploy in the interest not just of reducing reoffending rates, but also of creating a more settled regime.”

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Thank You!



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Anne Fox

CEO, Clinks



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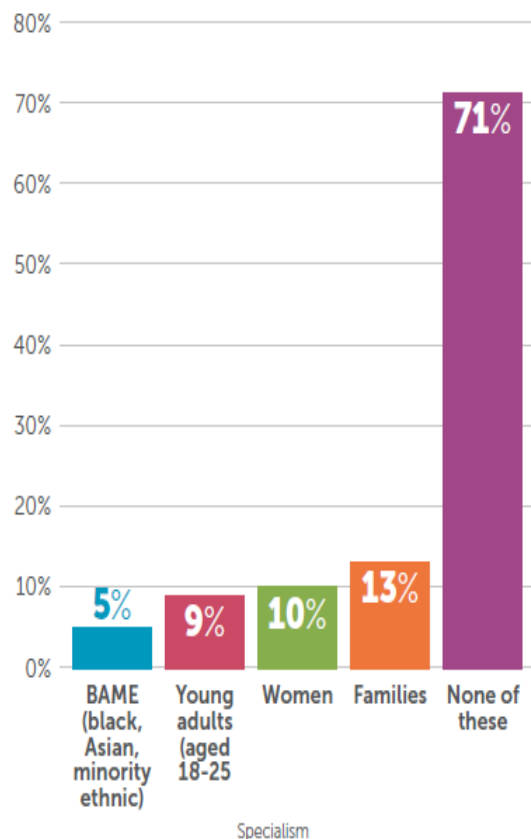
Putting family ties at the heart of prison reform – the role of voluntary organisations in the Farmer Review to date and its legacy

Anne Fox, Chief Executive Officer –Clinks,
Deputy Chair – Farmer Review

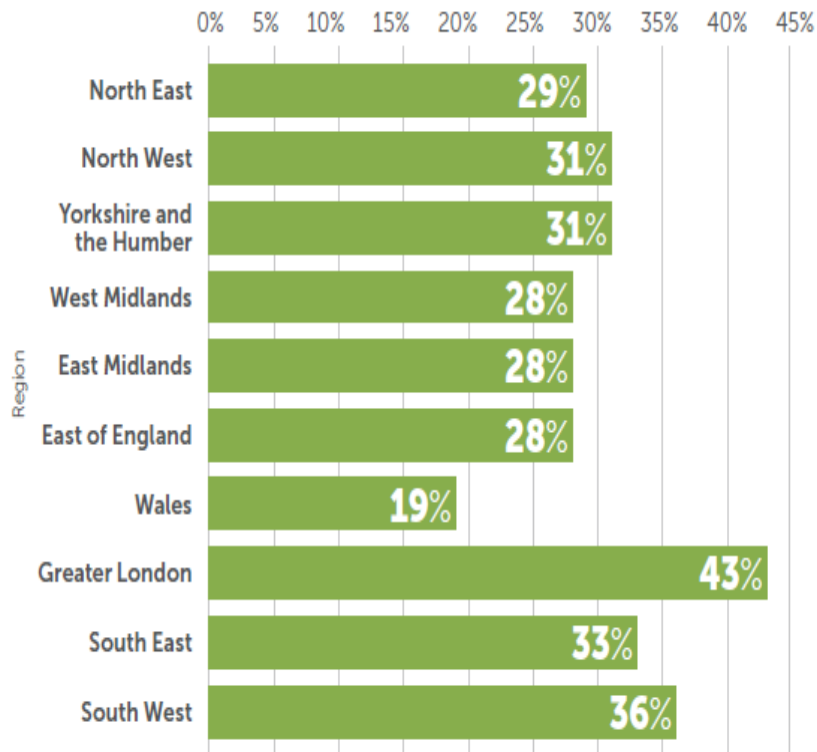
CLiNKS

- 300 year history of voluntary involvement
- 1,475 charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in England whose **main clients** are offenders, ex-offenders and their families
- 13,596 voluntary organisations work **in some way** with offenders as part of their wider remit
- Difficult to get exact numbers (Gojkovic et al., 2011)

FIGURE 1 / Percentage of organisations that described themselves as being a specialist organisation



- 80% of organisations support men
- 73% support women
- 67% support young adults (aged 18-25)
- 57% support people from black, Asian and
- **13% support families of people in the criminal justice system**



- 43% deliver their services locally
- 34% deliver their services regionally
- 36% deliver their services nationally
- **55% work both in the community and in prison**
- **13% only work in prison**

CLiNKs

Clinks, the voluntary sector and the Farmer Review

- Clinks provided the secretariat and deputy chair
- Voluntary organisations on advisory panel
- Supported the review of literature and call for evidence
- Voluntary organisations supported development of materials for men and families to feed into review
- National prison radio developed a campaign and provided a Freephone voicemail service for men to leave recorded contributions to the review
- Voluntary organisations disseminated and supported families with questionnaires

The logo for CLINKS, featuring the word in a bold, white, sans-serif font against a blue background.

Next steps

- Voluntary sector linked into implementation
- Wider lessons to be learned from this review
- Prison based change is only part of the solution
- No ownership politically of the problem as it affects children
- Voluntary organisations need to be able to innovate and develop what meets need

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Rebecca Cheung

#WearetheGoldenThread



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Baroness Beverley Hughes

*GM's Deputy Mayor for
Policing and Crime.*

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Questions & Answers



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Time for Tea

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Ben Raikes

University of Huddersfield



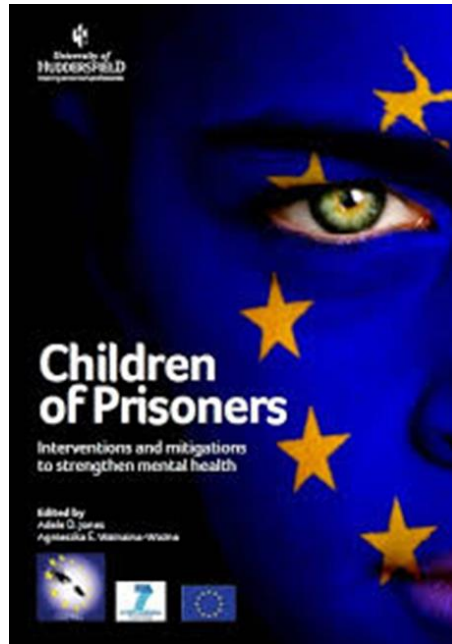
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THE COPING PROJECT AND ITS LEGACY



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COPING PROJECT

- One of the **largest** studies of children of prisoners (2010 – 2012)
- **Child Focused** - 4 Countries involved. NGO and University in each **UK, Sweden, Romania & Germany**
- **UK partnership** = Huddersfield University & Partners of Prisoners & Families Support Group (POPS)
- Other partners Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), EUROCHIPS (now COPE)



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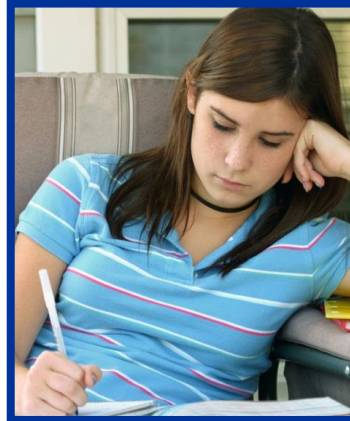
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COPING PROJECT

**Children aged 7- 17
with a parent in prison**

**Nearly 1,000 surveys
completed across all 4
countries**

**In-depth interviews
with 161 children, 123
non imprisoned
parents/carers and 65
imprisoned parents.**



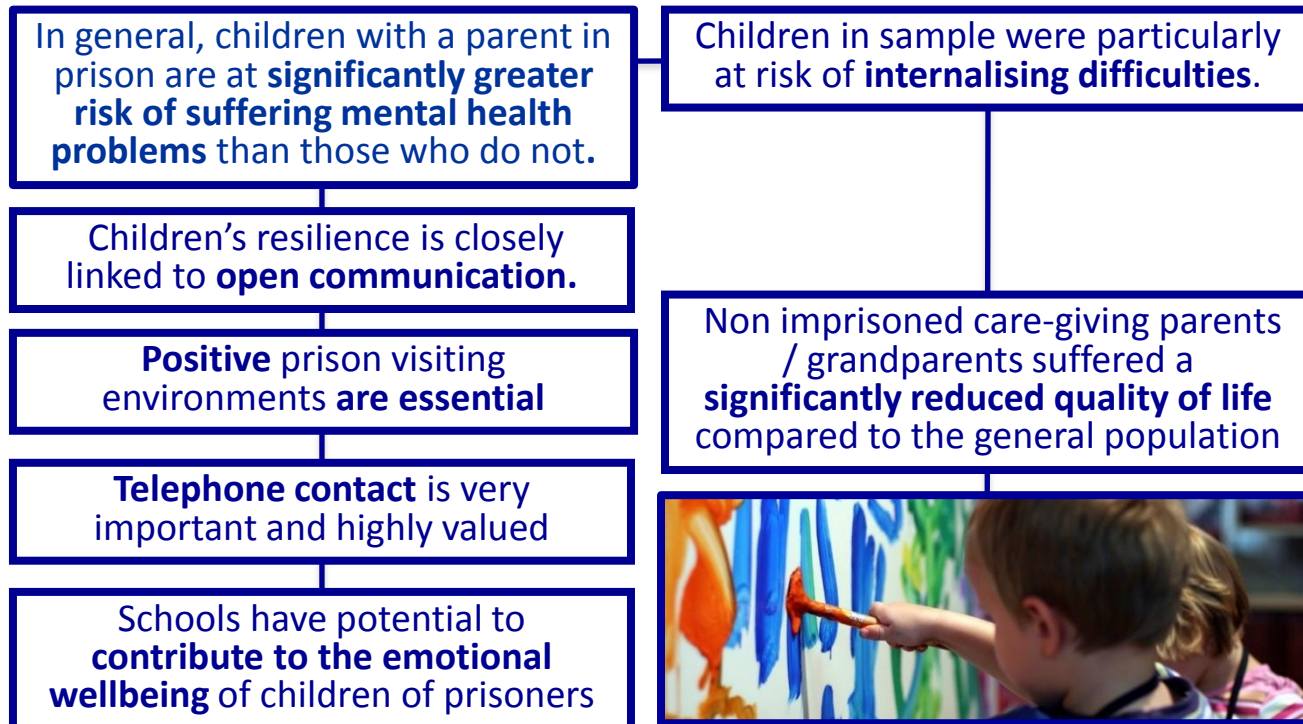
**Stakeholder consultations about needs
of children with parents in prison: with
children, NGO staff, prison staff,
prisoners, Social Workers and policy
makers**

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Summary of Key Findings from COPING Project

Jones et al., 2013



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Young People's Recommendations

Young people involved in COPING linked their recommendations to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – to consider how far “the best interests of children” is a consideration in relation to families affected by imprisonment. What follows are young people's priorities:

Arrest

**Support
Needs**

Visiting



**Information
sharing**

**Bullying and
Stigma**

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Hearing directly from children / young people

- **Shock of sentence:** *'my dad was at home and I went to school. I came home and my dad wasn't there'*
- **Internalising :** *'when I am at home I am sad, I am down most nights ... when he rings up or if I see him ... I pretend everything is ok because I am not one for making other people upset with my worries'*
- **Feeling alone:** *'He has been in prison quite a while now, you just have to deal with it'.*
- **Conceptualising time apart :** *'I have to have another 8 Christmases without her'*
- **Reality of stigma:** *'they weren't necessarily bad with me because I am younger but with my mum and that they were ignoring her and crossing the road, shouting abuse, spray painting stuff on the windows'.*

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When I answer the phone he says “Hi babe” [shouting] right in my ear and it hurts. But we can’t phone him, he has to phone us ... when I want to talk to him he doesn’t phone, and then when he does phone I don’t want to talk to him’.

8 year old Amy

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“They just say, Ha ha, your dad is prison, mine isn’t so yours is a stupid life.”

“Actually it’s his fault that he’s got himself in there. It’s actually his fault, it’s nobody else’s”.

7 year old “Jake”

Impact in Romania

2016 – COPING NGO partner in Romania, Alternative Sociale, won a prestigious award from the Romanian National Prison Administration for its work with prisoners' families:

"It is awarded to Alternative Sociale for its constant support offered to prisoners and their families. We consider you are a good practice model for the manner in which civil society can contribute to the social rehabilitation of prisoners and we express our appreciation for the support you have given to the prison system." (Marius Vulpe, General Director of the National Prison Administration)

Prior to start of COPING Alternative Social worked with vulnerable children but not specifically children with parents in prison.

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Child friendly visiting room, lasi prison



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Some impacts of the COPING Project

30th Sept 2011 – Geneva - United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion focused on Children with Incarcerated Parents – organised by Quaker United Nations Office.

Sweden, Germany, Romania, UK COPING NGOs :

- awareness raising with Police – calling cards to be given at point of arrest
- training for Police Community Support Officers on impact of imprisonment
- on-going dialogue with key criminal justice officials about improving systems for children – and awareness raising events held
- 2016 - COPING referenced in the Support for Children (Impact of Parental Imprisonment) (Scotland) Bill
- 2017 - Presenting COPING findings to Children's Commissioner for England and Wales
- engagement of schools with initiatives to break down stigma and normalise imprisonment as requested by young people
- presentation in Lithuania – Turkish student in audience inspired to conduct first study of issue in Turkey

INTERNATIONAL REACH OF COPING PROJECT

- **Colleague in Argentina** – COPING and DGD recommendations crucial to work of his NGO
- **Thailand Institute of Justice** - developing research on the issue in the region
- **Uganda - Penal Reform International**
- **Mexico** – organization responsible for training prosecutors referred to COPING as having '**great importance for our work**', for the '**ample information**' it offers on the subject, asking for book to be translated
- **Prison Fellowship in Cambodia** – sharing research instruments

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Uganda

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International Coalition for Children with Incarcerated Parents (INCCIP)

inccip.org



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INCCIP



- 2015 - Launched at Prisoner's Family conference, Dallas
- 2017 – Inaugural conference – Rotorua , New Zealand
- May 2018 - Board elected (thanks to Nancy's efforts!)
- Late Aug 2019 – 2nd Conference hosted at University of Huddersfield
- Aspiration to work with COPE and to join together organisations and individuals championing the rights of children with incarcerated parent beyond Europe. Plan to have regional representation eventually
- Recognising cultural variations – e.g. death penalty – China situation; India – importance of arranged marriages; Uganda – enforced stigma – risk of child sacrifice, need for mothers to remarry; significance of delays for trials – 10 years not unusual e.g. in Trinidad

Significance of **Death Penalty** – e.g many children in China 'orphaned' by prevalence of death penalty in **China**, **Uganda** many children assume parents executed when in fact Death Penalty suspended – in any Death Penalty country anguish of knowing your parent is on Death Row.

Uganda - stigma actively enforced – different treatment for cousins with parent in prison – all children with parent in prison left without parent potentially – prey to sexual abuse and witch doctors – mothers re-marrying – grandmothers stepping in

India – parent in prison no-one to arrange children's marriages

Other issues – decades long judicial delays, lack of access to legal representation, disease risk in prisons very high



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Corin Morgan-Armstrong

HMP Parc



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Sarah Beresford

Dr Shona Minson

University of Oxford



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Transforming Lives: Reducing women's imprisonment

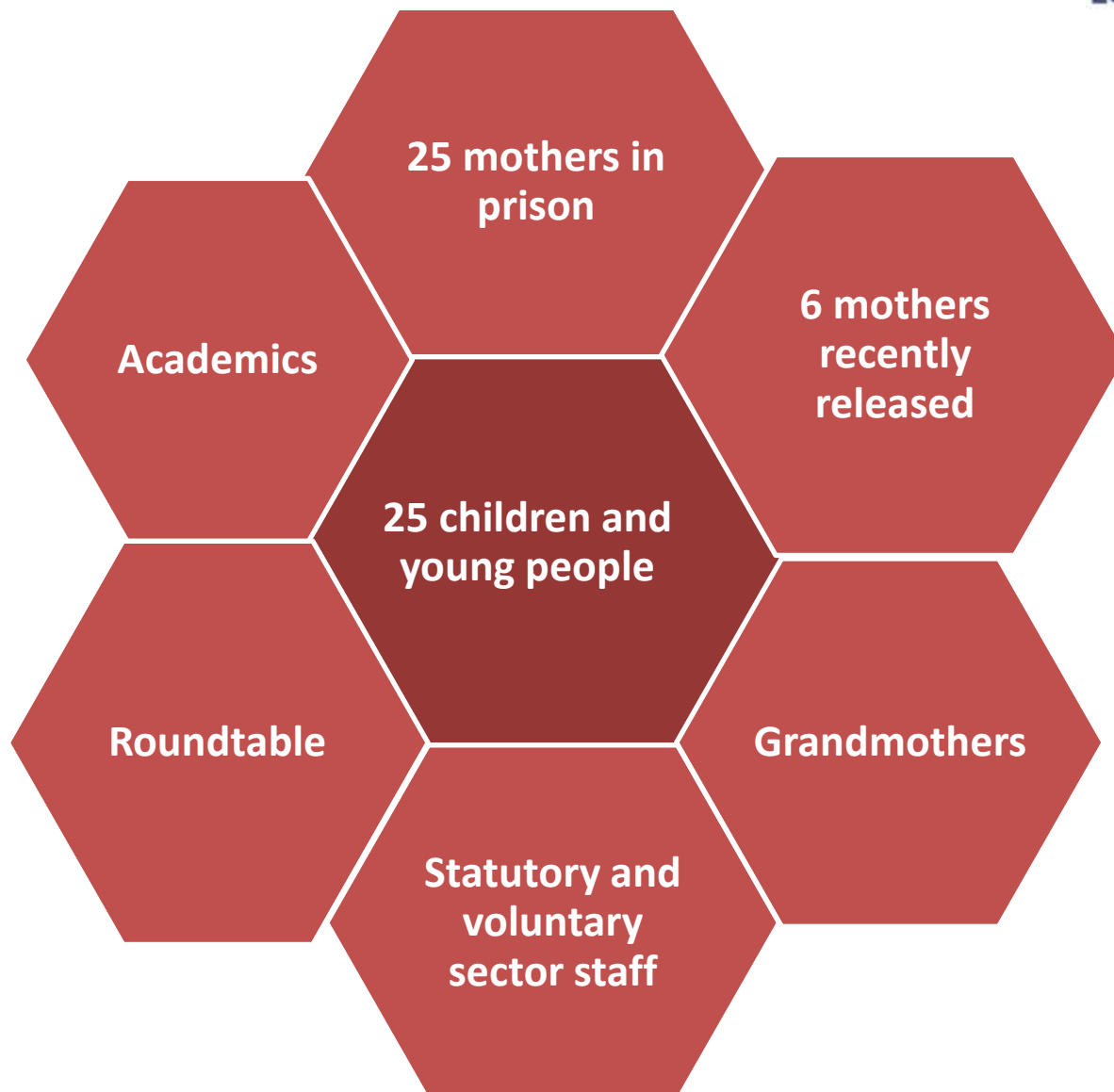


The impact on children when mothers are in the
criminal justice system

Sarah Beresford, Prison Reform Trust Associate



Consultation process



Children said...

"It's hard when it's your mum in prison... she's supposed to be the one looking after you."

Malik, 13

"Your mum makes you who you are." Tyler, 12

"I want to be allowed to be angry with my mum and miss her at the same time. If I say I don't want to see her, that doesn't mean forever – I need to be able to change my mind." Katelyn, 15

Maternal imprisonment is particularly hard

Feelings change over time and vary among siblings

Their views, concerns, and best interests are rarely considered

Emerging themes...

"It was hard, and I was sad. Dad said I had to keep it a secret." Sam, 9

Invisible

It made school a hundred times harder to focus on and didn't leave time for friends." Chrissy, 19

Disrupted

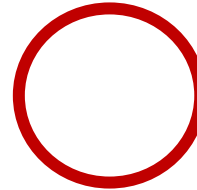
"I felt ashamed and didn't want to tell anyone." Declan, 13

Stigmatised

"I wish my mum had got support so she didn't get to this point." Megan, 11

Barriers

Resilience



***“Knowing I’m
not alone
makes a massive
difference.”***

Brooke, 10

***“Having special
visits with my
mum is great -
it’s like she’s just
my mum again.”***

Nick, 15

***“My teacher has
been amazing –
she listens to
me and helps
me.”***

Charlie, 14

Recommendations



- ✓ **Accurate data collection** – sensitive and appropriate;
- ✓ **Child Impact Assessments** – listening to children and considering their needs;
- ✓ **Training** – for everyone who engages with women and / or their children throughout the criminal justice process; and
- ✓ **Diversion from custody** – for women with dependent children.

The collaborative design of research based films for use by criminal justice professionals

Dr Shona Minson



Topic

The rights of children in adult sentencing proceedings



Findings

- ❑ Judicial understanding of the impact of maternal imprisonment on children is very limited
- ❑ Judicial awareness of the Sentencing Guidelines and case law they should consider is inconsistent
- ❑ Children suffer harm when their primary carer is imprisoned
- ❑ Adults who take on the care of these children also have their lives utterly disrupted, and may also suffer harm

How do I communicate this to the criminal justice profession?

Considerations

- Judges will have no more than 10 minutes to think about this
- This information needs to go as far 'upstream' as possible
- Everyone has access to the internet

Best method of communication

Films available online or on professional intranet



Who do I want to communicate with?

Think BIG !!!!!

- ☐ Barristers
- ☐ Solicitors
- ☐ Probation staff
- ☐ Magistrates
- ☐ Judges
- ☐ + women themselves facing sentencing in criminal courts



Collaborative Working



The Law Society



JUDICIAL
COLLEGE



HM Prison &
Probation Service

- ☐ Use networks : those built up during research/ professional experience allowed me to navigate the system
- ☐ Understand the partner's needs – what gap needs to be filled?
- ☐ One size does not fit all
- ☐ Allow partners to shape the outcomes
- ☐ Don't take 'NO' for an answer !

Making Films

- ❑ Find a great production company
www.Franksfilms.com



★ Film Advocates

Key Messages

- Your job is to ensure it has relevant information
- Use case law, guidelines, statute
- Well prepared piece incl. sentencing etc
- Always - say 'safeguarding issue'
- Impact on children - research evidence

Scripts Probation ★

Key Messages

- Courts must consider dependence
- Effects impacts on children
- Information court needs
- Safeguarding - self-harm

Women

Key Messages

- Your representative should tell it about your children + it has to listen
- Case law, statute, guidelines
- Flex is the info they need

Process

- Apply for ethical approval
- Find interviewees
- Preliminary meetings with interviewees
- Film interviews
- Transcribe interviews
- Write scripts
- Record pieces to camera and Voiceovers
- Edit edit edit edit edit
- Send to all participants for approval



Dissemination promises

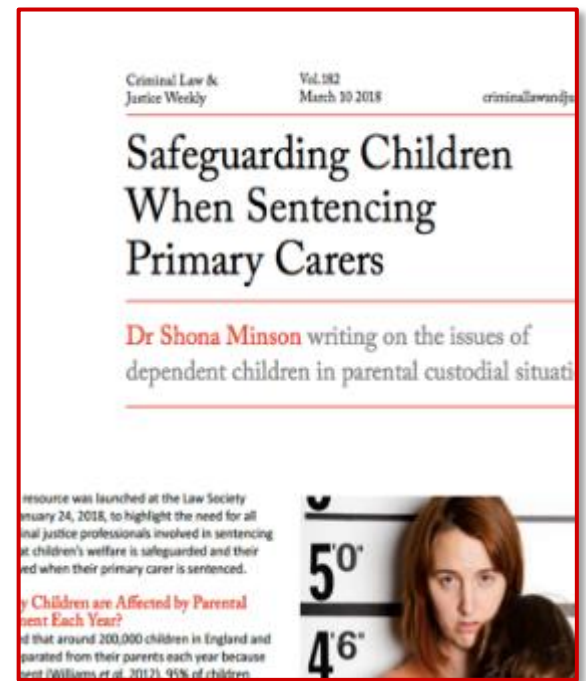
Aim

Launch knowing that someone somewhere will use it

❑ Pre-release work

- Meetings
- Lectures
- Engagement with networks
- Press strategy





Dissemination so far

Sentencers: Judges and Magistrates

Advocates: Barristers and Solicitors

Probation : NPS and CRCs

Women facing sentence

Women already sentenced (grounds of appeal)

Assisted by ...

- ❖ Writing
- ❖ Speaking
- ❖ Tweeting
- ❖ Radio Interviews
- ❖ Blogging
- ❖ Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L18nFBXzHII>

For more information:

shona.Minson@crim.Ox.Ac.Uk

twitter: @shonaminson

oxford law faculty you tube

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Questions & Answers



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Lunchtime

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Council of Europe
Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)5:
A Framework for the 2018 COPE
Campaign

Liz Ayre and Hannah Lynn
Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)



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Mark Hanson

Stuart Hall

HMP Lowdham Grange



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Dr Lorna Brookes

My Time



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**The self help
app**

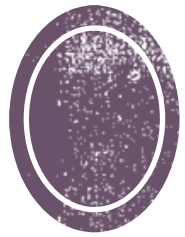
A small, dark purple circular icon with a thin white outline, located at the bottom right of the slide.



**A
child's
feeling
of
isolation.**







Phase 1: Design Phase



1. A **learn** space

2. A **private diary**
space

3. A **share** space



Make your avatar



Avatar Name



Finish

Learn

Top Tips



Professionals
in my life



Coping
Strategies



All about
Prisons



Other
support



Schools and
other kids



My Place

Safe



Memories



Diary



< How are you feeling? 🔍

Double tap to choose



Mixed





You're feeling mixed emotions

Write about it...

Text input area for writing about emotions.

Continue

Talk about it



Would you like to...

Save



Share

Delete



You've chosen to share

Hold to blow the bubble





Phase 2: User Testing



Children's feedback...

- The avatar and mini game is really important.
- The learn page is really valued.
- The app would encourage them to share their feelings.
- The emoji's are fun.
- Seeing other children's feelings is helpful to them.
- The app would be really useful to those who don't get any support, and sharing their own feelings would help them to help others.



'Some' User Requests....

- **More games**
- **More avatar features**
- **A virtual support group**
- **To be able to spin the lock on the safe**
- **Vlog options**
- **Change colour on the 'prison life' tab (too morbid)**
- **Real life activities**





Phase 3: Completing the prototype

LINCUS



Digital



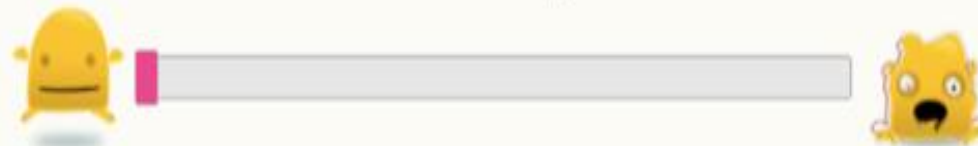
- Tool to monitor own health and well being.
- NHS DIGITAL – The national information and technology partner to the health and social care system using digital technology



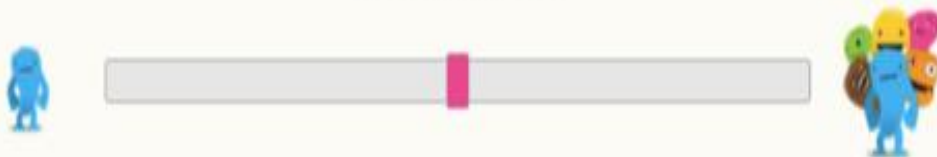
Energy/Alertness



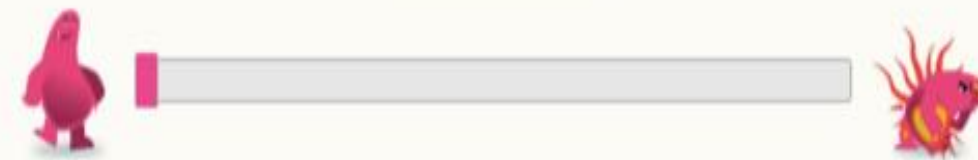
Anxiety



Social Life



Discomfort



Sleep Quality



Next steps...



RED NINJA



Evaluation collaboration

- UK wide evaluation of the prototype in partnership with The University of Huddersfield.

Possible prototype testers from...

1. England: CHAS
2. Scotland: Families Outside
3. Wales: Hmp PARC





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'KEEPING CHILDREN CONNECTED' 2018

PROGRESS AND PARENTAL IMPRISONMENT: A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

Ann Adalist-Estrin

Rutgers University, USA



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Time for Tea

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FORUM

Changing the atmosphere

Chaired by Dr Jim Dobson



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Lucy Gampell OBE

Chairperson

President, COPE



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