



HM Prison &
Probation Service



HM PRISON
SERVICE

Public Sector Prisons

HMP/YOI Hull

Children & Families Strategy

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Signed:.....
T. Oliver
Governor

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1. Introduction

HMP Hull is committed to supporting and developing meaningful and constructive relationships with prisoner's families and/or significant other. Families and significant others play an influential role regards supporting and sustaining positive change underpins rehabilitation, prevents reoffending and reduces the likelihood of intergenerational crime.

HMP Hull recognises that maintaining and encouraging positive family relationships is an important protective factor when helping men in custody break the cycle of crime and desist from future offending. Prisoners who maintain family relationships and receive visits while in custody are 38% less likely to reoffend than those who do not receive visits¹. Positive family relationships also contribute towards a safer prison environment by reducing anxiety, stress, frustration, isolation and violence. Supporting a prisoner's relationship with their family can also reduce the risk of self-harm, suicide and death in custody.

It is widely reported that between 200,000 and 300,000 children see a parent go to prison each year in England and Wales. A staggering 65% of boys who experienced a father in prison when they were under 10 years old went on to offend themselves, which affirms that families and children are also being punished as well as the prisoner².

The Learning and Work Institute states in its report Family Learning in Prisons: A Resource for Prisons and Learning Providers that 54% of prisoners have children under 18 when they enter custody. In comparison, a needs analysis for HMP Hull highlighted that 56% of men (285 out of 500) reported having children. Around 40 men reported to have children aged between 1-4 years. A quarter of the men (73) reported to have children over the age of 21.

Our Shared Vision:

To make HMP Hull the safest closed prison in England and Wales, safer for our staff, safer for our prisoners, safer for our visitors and safer for our partnership agencies.

¹ Family Learning in Prisons: A Resource for Prisons and Learning Providers, Learning and Work Institute 2017, p4

² Family Learning in Prisons: A Resource for Prisons and Learning Providers, Learning and Work Institute 2017, p4

HMP Hull aims to:

- *Develop and maintain positive multi-agency partnerships.*
- *Work closely with families and significant others to maintain links, benefitting rehabilitation and lowering risk of re-offending.*
- *Offer unique opportunities for families and significant others such as Family Days, Family Activity mornings (to promote a family learning approach), Parenting courses, Family Book share and Soft Play mornings, ensuring contact is appropriate, positive and directed.*
- *Utilise multi-agency partnerships to signpost families to appropriate provision.*
- *Work with early help services to identify needs of families, children and young people, ensuring no child is left behind.*
- *Where appropriate, work with children and young people to overcome concerns and barriers to visiting a parent in prison.*
- *Develop positive working relationships with families who are considered 'hard to reach'.*
- *Offer truly holistic family support – a network between men and family through 1-1 casework, family work and group work.*
- *Respond to needs by changing, adapting and developing feedback from professionals, children and families.*
- *Give support to men and families in crisis.*
- *Offer in-house multi-agency working, sharing information appropriately to ensure needs of men and families are met in a timely manner.*
- *Work with Child Services to aid fathers with opportunities for contact with their children. They facilitate contact and supply pertinent information for Child Protection/Child in Need/Team around the Family meetings.*
- *Provide Safeguarding and child protection awareness training for prison staff and those working in visitor's centre.*
- *Offer all men the same Family and Significant other opportunities and support regardless of IEP level or disciplinary record.*

2. Lord Farmer Report

The Importance of Strengthening Prisoners' Family Ties to Prevent Re-offending and Reduce Intergenerational Crime.

In September 2016 Lord Farmer report, The Importance of Strengthening Prisoners Family Ties to Prevent Re-offending and Reduce Intergenerational Crime in partnership with the membership charity Clinks, was commissioned by the Government to investigate how connecting prisoners with their families can improve offender wellbeing, assist in keeping the public safe and reduce reoffending.

The Farmer report was published on 10 August and made 19 Recommendations that put family and significant others at the heart of prison reform. It supports efforts to improve the relationships between prisoners and their families or significant others and the services that are provided.

All the Farmer recommendations are in the process of being implemented and outcomes will be shared with Lord Farmer at least twice per annum.

Lord Farmer recommended the development of performance measures that will hold Governors to account for positive family work outcomes. These measures will be used to demonstrate how the prison and family services support the enhancement of relationships in preparation for prisoner's release and positive reintegration into society.

According to the Lord Farmer report, 'Family should be the 'golden thread' running through the processes of all prisons, as well as in the implementation of standards presented in the Prison Reform White Paper - Public protection, Safety and Order, Reform and Preparing for life after prison.

Lord Farmer's report referred to a 'local family offer' recommending that all establishments deliver and develop provision in the following areas and that these are reflected in their local strategies which should be a minimum offer:

- Visitor Centre/Visitor Reception Services
- Staffing structure to ensure family work represents as an operational priority
- Extended Visits – to enable supportive relationships to flourish
- Family Learning – to equip prisoners to maintain and improve relationships
- "Gateway" communications system – to demonstrate how the establishment have responsive communication systems in place for families³

³ Great Britain. HM Prison & Probation Service (2017) Delivering Effective Family Practice

3. Equality

HMP Hull is committed to, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equalities Act 2010;
- (b) Provide equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

4. HMPPS Equality Policy Statement

HMPPS is committed to fairness for all. We treat our staff properly and ensure equality of opportunity. We deliver our services fairly and respond to individual needs. We insist on respectful and decent behaviour from staff, offenders and others with whom we work. We recognise that discrimination, harassment and bullying can nevertheless occur and we take prompt and appropriate action whenever we discover them.

We are determined that we will:

- Develop and deliver services tailored to the diverse range of people in our care
- Foster a workforce which is reflective of our diverse society at all levels
- Create inclusive and flexible workplaces where everyone is treated fairly and with respect.

We are committed to responding to the recommendations made by the Lammy Review into the treatment of and outcomes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals, as well as improving outcomes for staff and service users with all protected characteristics including those who are LGBT+ and those with disabilities.

5. Partnership Working

There is no single statutory body or lead agency for developing provision for children who have experienced a family member in the criminal justice system. As a result, Barnardo's note, "*the support that is available is often disjointed...to provide a consistent and effective response to prisoner's children and families, multi-agency working is essential*"⁴.

In January 2019 the Strengthening Prisoner Family Ties Policy Framework was released. The policy supports the maintenance and development of prisoners' relationships with family, significant others and friends, by using a range of methods and interventions. Supporting prisoners' relationships outside of prison is considered to help prevent reoffending and reduce intergenerational crime.

Prisoners, their family and significant others, all internal and external staff and service providers are encouraged to work in partnership and share good practice, to enhance opportunities for prisoners to develop or enhance positive relationships. This service can include physical, digital and other forms of communications such as phone calls and letters.

⁴ Supporting Children and Families Affected by a Family Member's Offending, Barnardo's, 2017 p16

With this in mind HMP Hull are committed to delivering effective working practices to ensure multi-agency working is paramount in our support processes. Information sharing is key to delivering good practice and is a vital element in improving outcomes.

Working collaboratively with LAT (Lincolnshire Action Trust), NICCO (National Information Centre on Children of Offenders), OMU, Public Protection, Security, Safer Custody, DART, Healthcare, Novus and Hull City Council Library we are able to identify prisoners' needs and better support them and their families. This list is not exhaustive and continues to develop.

6. Safeguarding Children Policy

Governors of prisons have a duty to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

Prison staff and those working in visitor's centres receive training, briefing or guidance as appropriate in safeguarding and child protection. This training is proportionate to their likely level of contact with children, in order that they can take appropriate action if concerns are raised during a visit. The establishment will arrange specific safeguarding and child protection training - rather than safeguarding awareness training - for Family Engagement Officers, Visit support Officers and Visitor centre staff who supervise activities for children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 states:

Paragraph 28. The Prison Service...has a responsibility to identify prisoners who pose a risk of harm to children. Where an individual has been identified as presenting a risk of harm to children, the relevant prison establishment:

Should inform the local authority children's social care services of the offender's reception to prison and subsequent transfers and of the release address of the offender;

HM Prison and Probation Service has set out a range of measures to reduce the risks that certain prisoners, especially those convicted of, or charged with offences against children, may present to children whilst in prison. We will:

Notify the relevant probation service provider. The police will also be notified of the release address; and

May prevent or restrict a prisoner's contact with children. Decisions on the level of contact, if any, should be based on a multi-agency risk assessment. The assessment should draw on relevant risk information held by police, probation service provider and prison service. The relevant local authority children's social care should contribute to the multi-agency risk assessment by providing a report on the child's best interests. The best interests of the child will be paramount in the decision-making process.

Para 29. The Prison Service...will monitor an individual's communication (including letters and telephone calls and e-mails) to protect children where proportionate and necessary to the risk presented.

The Family Engagement team at HMP Hull operate a policy of confidentiality. This confidentiality may be broken at any time without the consent of an offender or family if a safeguarding disclosure is made or if a member of staff is concerned for the wellbeing or safety of a child or young person.

If a member of staff has concerns regarding Safeguarding/Child Protection disclosure, they will report this to all of the key people outlined below:

- ***The visits management team***
- ***The public protection Team***
- ***The duty governor***
- ***Children's social work services Early Help and Safeguarding Hub on 01482 448 879 Monday-Friday 9 till 5. For weekends, bank holidays and all other times call the Immediate Help Team on 01482 300 304, or the local early help and safeguarding hub for the area in which the child resides. If a child is in immediate danger please contact 999.***

HMP Hull have developed a Safeguarding Children's Policy working in conjunction with Hull Safeguarding Children's Board which outlines duties, roles and responsibilities within the custodial setting.

Areas which may constitute a safeguarding disclosure include, but are not limited to:

- ***Abuse***
- ***Neglect***
- ***Emotional Abuse***
- ***Physical Abuse***
- ***Sexual Abuse***
- ***Female Genital Mutilation***
- ***Extremism/Radicalisation***
- ***Child Sexual Exploitation***

7. Responsibilities

- **Head of Reducing Reoffending**

The Head of Reducing Reoffending is responsible for the 7 pathways, these include.

- Pathway 1 : Accommodation
- Pathway 2 : Education, Training and Employment
- Pathway 3 : Health
- Pathway 4 : Drugs and Alcohol
- Pathway 5 : Finance benefit and debt
- Pathway 6 : Children and Families
- Pathway 7 : Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour.

The children and families pathway is an essential element of the reducing reoffending strategy. The Head of Reducing Reoffending is an instrumental driver in ensuring we deliver the services on offer and help maximise the ability to work collaboratively with other agencies, whether these are internal or external.

They are also accountable for developing and maintaining quality assurance measures for all Interventions processes, supporting and maintaining awareness of any other interventions delivered by other departments.

- **Head of Operations**

The Head of Operations is responsible for the security and safety of prisoners, visitors and staff by providing a Safe, Decent and Secure environment.

They are accountable for the visits function by providing the opportunity for prisoner's children, family and friends to build and maintain constructive and positive relationships. Ensuring visits take place in a timely manner which affords families that vital chance to maintain their relationships and work towards an offence free future.

In addition to the visits function, they also have overall responsibility for the visitor's centre which provides a warm welcoming environment for families to wait whilst being processed prior to their visit taking place.

The Head of Operations is responsible for the continuation of our family provider, Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT) contract, ensuring delivery of the service provision is met.

- **Family Engagement Officer (FEO)**

The FEO is responsible for the coordination and planning of the family and significant other enrichment programme at HMP Hull which includes family days, activity mornings and soft play days. In addition the family engagement provision at HMP Hull and family orientated training requirements for staff will be overseen by the FEO.

The FEO works directly with and coordinates the support process for prisoners and their families and friends, seeking multi agency advice, support and guidance where appropriate.

The FEO has oversight of referrals within the prison and ensures referrals for family support are directed and processed in a timely manner.

Support meetings between child services and men are organised in-house, and advice is given where appropriate around prison policies and regimes.

The prisoner's families will be signposted effectively to local and national support services and positive links will be made between HMP Hull and these services.

The FEO will work in direct partnership with the family service provider, Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT).

- **Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT)**

Lincolnshire Action Trust supply HMP Hull with a Children and Families practitioner part time, as well as Visit Support Officers (VSOs) based in the visits hall and centre to enhance the delivery of the Children and Families offer. They also provide a Senior Children and Families Practitioner who works in direct partnership with the FEO, and is responsible for line managing the LAT staff based within HMP Hull.

LAT are responsible for maintaining the play area within the visits hall providing age-relevant toys, games and activities for 7 of the 10 visits sessions that are held every week at HMP Hull. The VSO's encourage children to engage in activities and make the most of their time with their parent or family member. To achieve this the VSO's will encourage children visiting to select toys and games from the play room and take these to play at their table with their family members. Further to this they will provide a 20 minute 'Breakaway' session, where children can go into the play room for a planned activity, giving adults the opportunity to speak.

Working alongside the family engagement function, the LAT visit support officers provide craft activities, games and age relevant toys for 6 family days throughout the year.

Our Children and Families practitioner offers a range of support to the all in custody, and their families. Prisoners can put in an application to speak to us or we can take referrals from officers. They can help with many different needs the men may have regarding children or families. This includes but is not limited to;

- Support for those who have had any social visits for a long time.
- Address concerns families may have if they are due to visit the prison.
- Organise family days for prisoners to have an extended visit with their families. During this time the prisoners are free to move around and play with the children. These are not limited to partners and own children, this can be anyone they consider family- nieces, nephews cousins etc.
- Liaise with social services regarding child contact arrangements or get updates, if their child is in foster care
- Write letters to families with important information about visiting the prison and any financial help they may be entitled to.
- Facilitate a 'Being Dad' parenting course.
- Be part of the ACCT plan, assist if there are factors impacting his mental health due to lack of social visits.

The Children and Families practitioner works closely alongside the FEO to ensure cases are allocated according to expertise in order to enhance the service the men and their families receive.

8. Key Worker Role

The aim of the Key worker is to promote rehabilitative and constructive staff - prisoner relationship, in order to foster positive prisoner behaviour through staff example (pro-social modelling), dynamic security, fairness, decency and guidance. Key workers will encourage prisoners to identify their strengths and needs which are linked to their offending behaviour or lifestyle and support prisoners in addressing these.

Another important role of the Key worker is to help raise the importance of maintaining family ties and the effects it may have on inter-generational offending. Having this embedded into the keyworker process will be crucial to the effectiveness of the key worker scheme. With this in mind it is the intention of HMP Hull to roll out a 'Think Family' training package developed through a ministerial initiative to all keyworkers, further emphasising the importance of positive family ties.

9. Visitors Centre

The Visitor's Centre is open from 08:00hrs. Visitors can book in for morning visits from 08:00hrs, afternoon visits from 12:00hrs and evening visits from 17.15hrs. We have recently introduced evening visits following feedback from the prisoners and their families. These evening visits allow families who work, or those who have children of school age, to visit more flexibly without impacting work or educational opportunities.

Moving away from a sterile, intimidating waiting area has been imperative in making the visits centre a warm and welcoming environment. Whilst certain information must be shared, such as anti-drugs and smuggling information, we have worked to ensure that this is visible on general walkways rather than in sitting areas.

A feeling of 'ownership' is encouraged as we feature a wall of children and family's feedback on our services, particularly on their experiences of the Family Day visits. This also raises awareness of the days to ensure that all families are aware of this service. The central waiting area also houses a lockable post box for Family Day applications, so that families have opportunity to fill in and submit the application forms themselves.

Information boards offer signposting information to national and local support services, as well as directories of information for local children's centres and activities which our families may find of interest.

We are also able to offer a visits support officer (VSO) employed by Lincolnshire Action Trust who is available for all daytime visits sessions. The VSO will offer support to all visitors as well as providing a guided walk through the visits process for those visiting the establishment for the first time.

10. Assisted Prison Visits Scheme

The prison takes part in the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme (APVS). APVS provides help with travel expenses to prisoner's close relatives, partners and in certain circumstances a friend.

Visitors who are interested in finding out more about the scheme should enquire in the visitors' centre who will be able to provide them with the APVS leaflet *Customer Service Guide*.

Further details may be obtained from the Assisted Prison Visits Unit, part of the National Offender Management Service. Contact details are:

Address. APVU, PO Box 2152, Birmingham. B15 1SD
Helpline. 0845 300 1423 between 1015-1145 and 1415-1545 (Mon-Fri)
Telephone. 0845 304 0800 (for people with hearing problems)
Fax. 0121 626 3474 (24 hours)
E-mail. Assisted.prison.visits@hmps.gsi.gov.uk
Websites. www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

11. Domestic Visits

LAT are responsible for maintaining the play area within the visits hall providing age-relevant toys, games and activities for 7 of the 10 visits sessions that are held every week at HMP Hull. The VSO's encourage children to engage in activities and make the most of their time with their parent or family member. To Achieve this the VSO's will encourage children visiting to select toys and games from the play room and take these to play at their table with their family members. Further to this they will provide a 20 minute 'Breakaway' session, where children can go into the play room for a planned activity, giving adults the opportunity to speak.

There is a wide range of food available for families inside Domestic visits, including healthy eating options, food suitable for all dietary requirements and cultural needs. The refreshment area is required to be open prior to the visits starting to enable visitors to buy refreshments without impacting on their time with the offender. The range of foods provided offer an opportunity for a café-style meal to be eaten so that the family has opportunity to eat together.

HMP Hull are a breastfeeding-friendly organisation. Prominent posters around the centre let women know that they are welcome to breastfeed within the playroom itself should they feel uncomfortable doing so in the main visits hall.

Hidden Sentence training, working in collaboration with Hull City Council, highlights the impact of a prison sentence on the family as a whole, and not just the prisoner. The training helps staff understand the struggles and the need for support which is often missed. This enables prison staff, internal services and external services working with the men to have a greater understanding of the complexities that can arise for prisoners and their families.

Visits Information

Social visits

Monday: 9.00am-11.00am & 2.00pm-4.00pm

Tuesday: 5.45pm-7.00pm

Wednesday: No visits

Thursday: 5.45pm-7.00pm

Friday: 9.00am-11.00am & 2.00pm-4.00pm

Booking information: Visits can be booked either by calling 01482 282016 or at <http://www.gov.uk/prison-visits>.

Visitors please note that from Friday 2 December the Visits Booking Office will close on Fridays at 15:30pm not 16:00pm.

To book visits 3 working days' notice must be given – 24-hour's notice is required to amend a visit that is already booked (before 9:00am for next day morning sessions, before 12:30pm for next day afternoon sessions). The booking staff are available Monday – Friday from 8:00am-12:30pm and 13:30pm – 16:00pm. This does not include Bank Holidays. Bookings cannot be taken over the weekend. Only email bookings that are made within business hours as given will be counted.

Additional information: Smoking is not permitted and the last admission is 30 minutes before the end of each session. There is a children's play area available every Tuesday, and there is good access for the disabled.

Official visits

Mon: 09:00am-11:00 & 14:00 - 16:00

Tue: 09:00am-11:00 & 14:00 - 16:00

Wed: 09:00am-11:00 & 14:00 - 16:00

Thu: 09:00am-11:00 & 14:00 - 16:00

Fri: 09:00am-11:00 & 14:00 - 16:00

Booking information: Legal Visits can be booked on 01482 282016. Bookings can be made Monday – Friday 8:00–12:30pm, 13:30pm–16:00pm. You can also email at LegalVisits.Hull@hmps.gsi.gov.uk. Legal Visitors can also have 1-hour sessions at the following times: 9:00am, 10:00am, 14:00pm or 15:00pm.

Parking *There is a free car park (No.4) for visitors to the prison on Southcoates Lane.*

12. Accumulated Visits

Everyone is eligible to apply for accumulated visits. This may be of particular interest to the following groups of prisoners:

- ***Those whose families are located some distance from the establishment***
- ***Those whose families are in other countries***
- ***Those whose families might be ineligible for financial assistance under the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme***

Accumulated visits can be applied for six months after transfer from the local prison to which he was sent on conviction, though earlier transfer may be possible in appropriate cases with the consent of The Governor. Prisoners may apply for further accumulated visits every six months, provided they have a minimum of six months to serve.

Accumulated visits can be applied for by submitting a general application to the Visits Manager explaining the details of why accumulated visits are being requested. All applications will be dealt with on merit, and if refused a reason provided in writing.

For further information on the visits process please refer to the Visits Strategy.

13. Family Days

HMP Hull offer 12 Family Days throughout the year, which provide a vital opportunity for our prisoners, their family and friends to come together to enjoy and share family time in an atmosphere which feels relaxed and more normalised than a standard domestic visit. Family Days aim to support the development of positive relationships and help strengthen family ties whilst providing the opportunity for families to participate in shared activities and play. Family Days can offer better quality contact between families, providing memorable and meaningful opportunities to develop the bonds that are critical in sustaining relationships.

The days also provide children the opportunity to experience their parent truly as a 'Dad', allowing the child to spend time on activities which they may sorely miss. These activities can also give fathers the opportunity to develop their own parenting skills in a relaxed environment. These engagement skills are essential to the development of a child and their bond with a parent.

In applying for a Family Day, each prisoner must demonstrate a desire and commitment to maintaining their family bond. In order to promote equalities, those who struggle with writing or completing any application can receive assistance via the PID worker on their wing, or from a member of the Family Engagement Team to ensure inclusion for every offender. Applications can also be submitted by family members via the outside Visits Centre.

Each Family Day runs to a similar schedule, offering a range of activities to meet the interests and age ranges of our families and to develop parenting skills in the men. The day starts in the multi-faith centre, affording the families a quiet area to meet, greet and spend quality time together. The prisoners are encouraged to make drinks for their families to sit and chat – this is particularly important as many families will have travelled a long distance to attend the day. The morning will be structured relevant to the age range of visitors but board games and other family based activities are encouraged. In addition, when children attend family days a visit to the gymnasium for free-play physical activities such as soft play, football, bowling and traditional large garden games will take place. The afternoon consists of a sit-down buffet lunch to share as a family, followed by crafting activities and an opportunity for each family to reserve time in a separate room to play together on a Nintendo Wii. At some point during the day a family photograph will be taken and copies offered to both the visiting family and prisoner as a memento of the day.

The timing of the Family Days in the yearly calendar allows the Family Engagement team to design a range of themed activities which are seasonally relevant.

Written evaluations are completed by visitors during each Family Day to aid us in improving the services offered.

14. Enrichment Activities

Family Activity Morning

Run in conjunction with Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT), Family Activity mornings are offered 6 times a year to families with children aged 4-16 years to provide the opportunity to engage in an age appropriate themed activity with their children. These sessions last 2 hours.

Applications for Family Activity mornings are held on the wings by PID workers, although families can also apply via the visits centre.

Family Activity mornings are held on a Saturday morning within our education department. The day starts with prisoners and their family eating breakfast together, enhancing family bonds by supporting feelings of normality. Once the families have eaten together, the fathers are then able to support and engage their child in an activity whilst the other parent is given individualised support from the Family Engagement team, be it signposting to other agencies, consultations, or just moral support and an opportunity to relax! The session is designed to increase the confidence of the fathers when engaging with their child in preparation for their release.

Soft Play Mornings

Soft Play mornings are designed for children under 5 years of age, and aim to support the early physical development of children. Soft play helps to develop physical activity and encourages children to enjoy fun and exciting play with their fathers. Research has shown that children who are regularly involved in active play develop well on many levels, including physical, emotional, mental and social. Soft play is for children to use their imagination and get involved in exploratory play. Soft play helps children learn new motor skills and aids development through physical activity. Soft play allows children to use their imagination and get involved in exploratory play. It also aims to support the relationship between father and child.

HMP Hull offer's prisoners the opportunity 4 times a year to apply for a Soft Play morning, using the application system on the wings supported by the PID workers. Families can also apply for the Soft Play mornings in the visits centre.

These mornings are held within our multi-faith centre and gives fathers the opportunity to bond, learn and use their imagination to contribute in their child's development. Working in conjunction with Hull City Council, the L.E.Os (Literacy Education Officers) team provide learning through stories, song, dance and rhyme during the morning in a creative, fun atmosphere.

The two hours that are allocated for the session will be split; the first hour will consist of families playing together, the following hour will be facilitated by the L.E.O.s, offering the aforementioned songs, dance and rhymes.

Family BookShare

Working with our library provider, every family who attends a Family Day with a child will have the opportunity to pick a book together and have the story read and recorded onto a disk by the prisoner at a later date. Once the story disk is ready it will be sent to the child for them to listen to and enjoy. This often provides comfort and reassurance to the child during a time when they may be missing their parent. It is widely recognised that reading to your child is one of the most important activities a parent can do to help with their child's emotional and social development.

In addition applications will be made available for all prisoners to record a story regardless of attending a family day subject to any security restrictions.

A Wing Recovery Parenting Skills Session

Parenting skills sessions are run on the Recovery unit once a month. These sessions are in groups of around 4-8 prisoners aimed at fathers and future fathers who are on the road to recovery from using drugs and alcohol. HMP Hull identifies that each prisoner within our care has a different need when it comes to recovery and these sessions can be individualised towards them.

Using visual stimuli we encourage the fathers to work together as a team to build a jigsaw of a child or young person. Based on the theory behind Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, we engage fathers in identifying the needs of a child, and discuss why each need is essential for development. Once they are able to identify these, we discuss how using drugs and alcohol affects their ability as a father to provide the facets of development. This can be a thought provoking exercise for fathers who have never associated their use of drugs and alcohol with their ability to parent. By using the young person's jigsaw for fathers with teenagers and older children they are often able to identify their own behaviours as a young person in their own child.

Sports days

Working alongside our colleagues in the Gym we are able to offer a unique chance once a year for families to be involved in a sports day. The sports day is held during the summer, with structured games and competitions to enable families to engage in activities together. This is also supportive for the fathers to feel engaged with their families, as they may miss similar events at school.

Family Engagement

HMP Hull identifies that maintaining family ties is imperative in the reduction of re-offending rates. With this in mind, we are able to identify need and work holistically with prisoners in an individualised programme of work, supporting through crises and need. We provide information, support and guidance to the families of prisoners from the point of initial custody through to release.

The Family Engagement team aims to improve the personal relationship and parenting skills of prisoners, giving them increased stability, communication and resilience and reducing negative relationships. Improving relationships in this way also effects positive change, gives hope, well-being, problem solving, trust, and motivation to change.

Whilst the impact of the influence family ties has on reducing reoffending cannot be ignored, it is also important to recognise and address the needs of the families in their own right. Family members may experience financial hardship, social isolation and poor self-esteem as a direct result of the imprisonment of a family member.

Children with a parent in prison can experience trauma, stigma and anxiety, as well as often being affected by personal and material loss. As experienced practitioners, Family Engagement Officers (FEOs) can work with children and young people to overcome concerns and barriers to visiting a parent in prison, ensuring that family ties are maintained. It is key that we build and develop close working relationships with our multi-agency partners, information share as appropriate, signpost families to appropriate provision and ensure that no child is left behind. The FEO can advocate for the best interests of a child and their family and help meet their individual needs, recognising that no two families are the same.

Many of the prisoners with whom we work with have lost contact with their families, either as a direct result of their offending behaviour, or in some cases as a precursor. Where appropriate, FEOs can help make initial contact with families as a stepping stone to positive change and recovery.

We work with Child Services and other organisations to aid fathers with opportunities for contact with their children. This may be to facilitate contact and to supply pertinent information in childcare order proceedings, Child Protection and Fostering services.

As well as working directly with multi-agency partners outside the prison such as Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs), schools, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and many others. The Family Engagement team also links with in-house services such as DART and the chaplaincy team to ensure that any concerns about the wellbeing of a prisoner are communicated so that relevant action and support can be put in place. This in turn will aid the emotional well-being of the family by putting their minds at ease.

We offer a comprehensive approach of family support through one to one casework, family work and group work. We respond to the ever-changing needs of the individuals and their families whilst adapting and developing new ways of working. Referrals can be made by anyone including the prisoner and families themselves.

15. Safer Custody

Lord Farmer notes that the involvement of family and significant others beginning at the earliest point possible from a prisoner coming into custody can help with the individual's coping mechanisms, adjusting and settling into their sentence. Offering opportunity for families to engage in the prisoner's life improves the safety and helps to prevent self-harm and suicide by reducing vulnerability. Many families felt that they could provide insight into a prisoner's mental health, and that this was essential in their care.

It is recognised that support from family and friends is a protective factor in engaging a prisoner through the ACCT process. At HMP Hull we are able to offer support throughout the ACCT process and where appropriate and through consultation offer the support and input from families. This can be done by either verbal communication through a Family Engagement Officer or by a family member attending the ACCT review and being part of the supportive process. Both the prisoner and family member can be supported by the Family Engagement team as part of this process. Where a family member is unable to attend and with the authority of the prisoner, we are able to share information from the ACCT review with a nominated family member if appropriate.

16. Concerned Caller telephone line

Telephone Number - 01482 282273

The concerned caller telephone line is a dedicated number for anyone who is concerned about a prisoner within HMP Hull and is available throughout the 24hr period.

During Monday to Friday office hours the answer machine will be checked daily by a member of the safer custody team.

Outside of these hours and during the weekend your call will be answered by the control room and the information provided will be logged and passed to the relevant area of the prison to be actioned.

Once checks are complete and if required you will receive a call informing you of the action taken.

17. Keeping in Touch

It is estimated that on average 45% of prisoners lose contact with their family whilst in prison⁵. A current needs analysis for HMP Hull highlighted 29% have no contact with their children compared to 23% who did. This however does not cover the percentage of those specifically having family contact.

HMP Hull offer a number of ways to enable prisoners to keep in contact with their families whilst in custody. The use of these services is encouraged and promoted throughout the establishment to facilitate contact between men and their families. These services include:

- ***Telephone calls via the PINs System (In cell telephone system now in operation)***
- ***Prison Voicemail***
- ***Visits***
- ***Letters***
- ***E-mailprisoner.com***

⁵ Family Learning in Prisons: A Resource for Prisons and Learning Providers, Learning and Work Institute p4

Prisoners who maintain family relationships and receive visits whilst in custody are 38% less likely to reoffend than those who do not receive visits⁶.

In Cell telephone System - Here at HMP Hull, we have recently introduced In Cell phones, prisoners are able to use these between the hours of 07:00 – 08:00, 12:30 -13:30 and 17:00 – 23:00, totalling 8 hours per day.

In-cell phones have helped prisoners maintain contact with family and friends at a more convenient time for both parties. They have taken away the stress of having to queue up at the communal telephones, potentially missing out on vital domestic and association times with their peers. The phones have helped create a more private and quieter setting for family communication to take place.

Prisoner can top up their phone credit as normal, calls are now priced at 50% less, than they were previously. This gives each prisoner extra time in contact with their families and friends, without effecting them financially.

18. Family Forums

Family forums are held in the visitors centre on a monthly basis and give visiting friends and family the opportunity to discuss generic concerns or issues with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The forums have proved very popular as visitors have openly stated that they feel they have a voice that can be heard. Following each forum the topics discussed and the actions taken will be published and displayed in the visitors centre for all to see.

A poster promoting each family forum will be displayed in the visitors centre, but places do not need to be booked as it is the intention to keep these as informal and as relaxed as possible. This will hopefully encourage attendance and may reach out to an audience that may be more sceptical to attend in a formal setting.

⁶ Family Learning in Prisons: A Resource for Prisons and Learning Providers, Learning and Work Institute p4

19. Links with the Local Community

It is important to ensure that children and families have access to information, support and guidance as soon as possible. This will enable them to ask questions and alleviate anxiety and upset. By sharing information between agencies this can happen more effectively. Barnardo's guide Supporting Children and Families Affected by a Family Member's Offending reminds professionals that *"If agencies like schools are aware they may be more alert to any changes in a child's behaviour and ensure that they are provided with the support that they need as early as possible"*.

Forging links with our external partners are a key element in supporting prisoners and their families. By working alongside agencies such as:

- **Local Safeguarding Children's Board**
- **Social Services**
- **Child Services**
- **Leaving Care Keyworkers**
- **Hull City Council**
- **Child Dynamix**
- **Health Visitors**
- **Schools**
- **Housing Agencies**
- **Food Banks**

We are able to provide a more inclusive support package. Having a joined up approach affords families the ability to have a say in how they are supported.

Working with the Safeguarding Childrens Board we are able to ensure we are using the right processes to safeguard children of prisoners and work in conjunction with the safeguarding policies. Family Engagement Officers are experienced in attending and submitting information to Child In Need, Child Protection and Team around the Family meetings.

Childrens Services enables fathers to have an active say in the decisions that are being made about their children whilst in care. We are able to work alongside child services to support pre-birth assessment, support supervised child contact if appropriate, and facilitate adoption visits.

20. Care Leavers

A care leaver is someone who has spent time in the care of the local authority. For the majority of children, this will have been in foster care, however for one in nine children this will have been in a Secure Unit, Children's Home, hostel or other residential setting.

When compared to the general population, care leavers are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment or training), more likely to be living – or attempting to live – independently, low educational attainment, low self-esteem and more likely to have a criminal conviction.

In 2016, Lord Laming's review 'In Care, Out of Trouble', stated that, although only 1% of the population have been in the care system, around 50% of the young people in prison had been in care at some point. Of these young people in the care system, just 2% are in care for their own behaviours, whilst 60% are looked after following abuse or neglect. For these young people, the key facets of rehabilitation already discussed – family support and education, will be missing upon their release. Combined with their complex childhood experiences, this raises the risk of reoffending. 27% of the adult prison population has been in care⁷.

All prisoners arriving at HMP Hull that have been in care regardless of age are identified and supported where necessary using the 4 main principles: Identify, Record, Assess, and Action.

In HMP Hull, 56 (5.3% of total prison population) prisoners have experienced being within the care system at some point in their lives. Out of this 56, 40 have been in direct local authority care (i.e. children's homes, secure units of local authority foster care), 5 have been a 'relevant child' under the age of 21 and 11 have been a Looked after Child. 5 out of the 56 qualify for advice, guidance and assistance using the Practice Guidance Working with Care Leavers (18-25), in custody and the community, to reduce reoffending and promote effective transition to adulthood.

Working with our colleagues in the Offender Management Unit we are able to identify, offer support and work alongside local authority leaving care keyworkers to help reduce reoffending and promote the development of life skills.

For further information please refer to the Offender Management Policy.

21. Evaluation

Children and Families is an evolving service, which undergoes constant feedback and evaluation from our prisoners and families. When we receive feedback and evaluation, we collate this centrally and forward it for discussion at the monthly Reducing Reoffending meeting. As practitioners we seek ongoing evaluation with prisoners, families and other professionals to ensure everyone's voice is heard. From these evaluations, plans for future development and continual professional development can be established.

We evaluate our processes a number of ways. These include evaluation forms from Family Days, Family Activity mornings, and Soft Play mornings, as well as ad-hoc visits surveys and letters from families and professionals. Previous successful forms of evaluation have included a 'You Asked, We Did' feature, which will be reinstated in the Visits Centre.

In addition and following the Governments publication of the review by Lord Farmer on 10 August 2017 a Performance Measurement tool has been introduced for 2019/2020 which will enable an evidence platform for family work within prison.

⁷ HMIP 2011

22. Planning and Development

This strategy will, moving forward, reflect the ever-changing and developing children and families service. The needs of our prisoners and their families are complex and can be, at times, challenging. Being able to work adaptively will allow us to grow and change with their needs to ensure an integrated approach is adopted. The future planning and development of the family strategy at HMP Hull will inform our 2020 action plan in line with the newly introduced Family and Significant other Measurement tool.

Family Days

Projections for the future: in order to enhance accessibility and inclusion for the rising number of children with additional needs attending Family Days, we have undertaken a consultation with a staff member who has extensive experience working within an SEN team in a local school. Recommendations included providing toys such as sensory play equipment and a sensory tent, to aid children with heightened anxiety around unfamiliar stimuli by making their environment more familiar. Due to the high volume of applications we receive for family days an increase in the availability of spaces, number of family days offered each year will be explored.

Re-Launch of a Homework Club

Projections for the future: to develop strong links with schools as partner agencies to achieve best outcomes for the children and young people with whom we work, and to ensure fathers are kept 'in the loop' with the education of their child, such as receiving reports and telephone consultations with teachers in lieu of attending parents' evenings.

Enrichment Activities

Projections for the future: HMP Hull are committed to ensuring that the services we offer to support prisoners and their families are appropriate, up to date and reflect what is available within the community. These services will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure we are meeting the needs of those we support. With the introduction of future parenting courses these interventions will help prisoners and their families work together to build positive relationships, increasing dad's knowledge base and confidence levels, when released from custody.

Families Affected by Substance Misuse

Projections for the future: HMP Hull aims to offer the Moving Parents and Children Together Programme (M-PACT) to families who are affected by addiction. The programme is delivered under licence by facilitators who have been specifically trained by Action on Addiction experts.

M-PACT is a whole family, structured brief intervention which aims to improve the well-being of children and families affected by substance misuse.

The programme brings together a small number of families who work together over 10 sessions with a joint aim of building resilience and strengthen protective factors within their family unit.

Virtual Visits

Projections for the future: HMP Hull are one of the first UK prisons due to pilot virtual visits, utilising state of the art technology. This will further promote inclusion of prisoner's families who can't visit due to extenuating circumstances including distance, transport, childcare issues and disability.