



Supporting Prisoners' Families

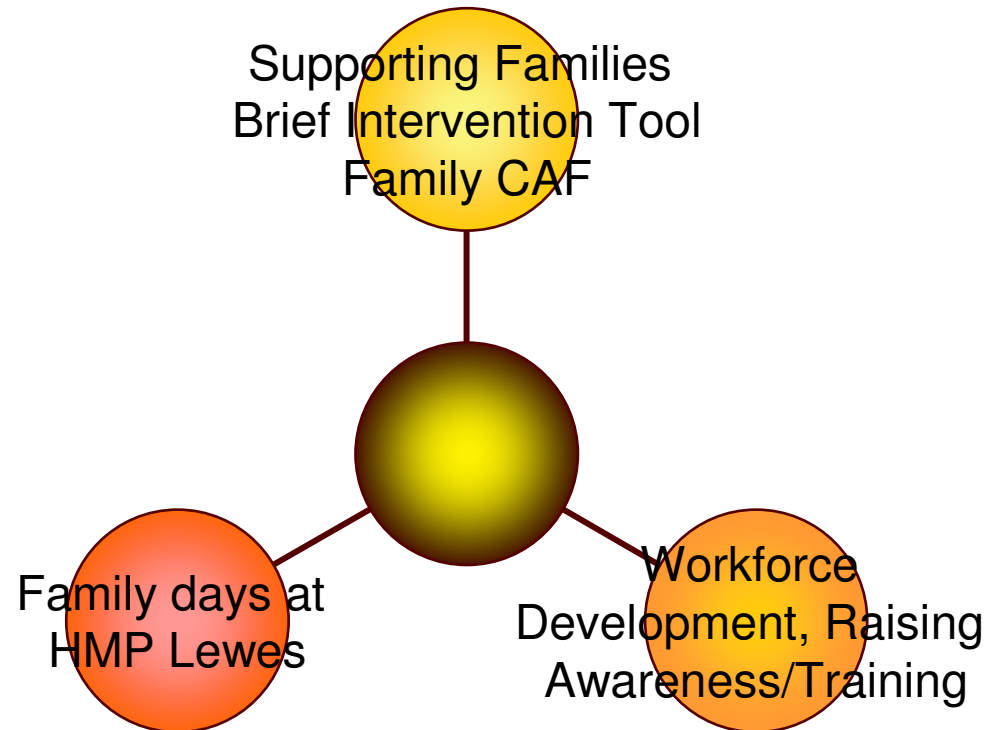
A Multi-Agency Approach



Introductions

- Tracey Holder – Senior Parenting Practitioner
- Chris Kavanagh – Parental Involvement Worker

Good practice in Brighton & Hove

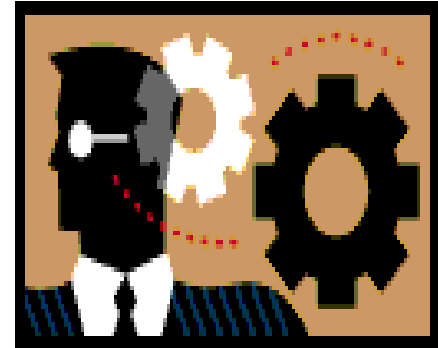


B & H have developed a Multi-agency Steering Group that meets every 6 weeks to discuss progress

Family Days at Lewes Prison

What we did first?

- Shadowed workers
- Discussed with prison
- Organised a multi-agency team





The Family days

- 2 – 5 hours long (in school holidays)
- Play activities and toys were taken in by workers
- Workers were from different agencies across Brighton & Hove
- We worked very closely with Lewes prison staff
- The days were evaluated after every session

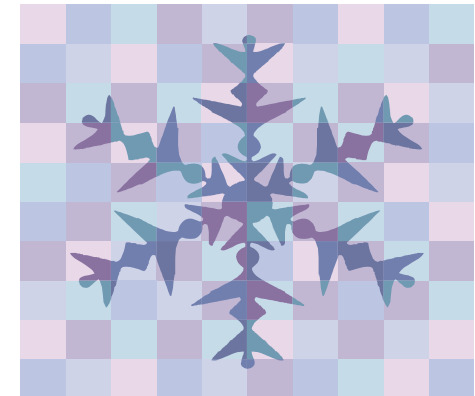
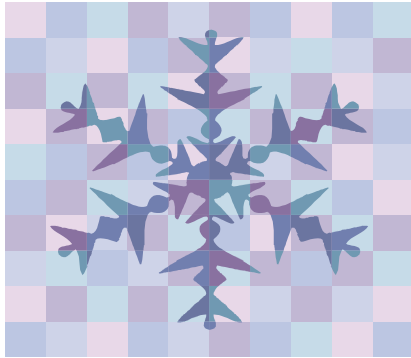
What do we do on the day?

Provide specific play activities

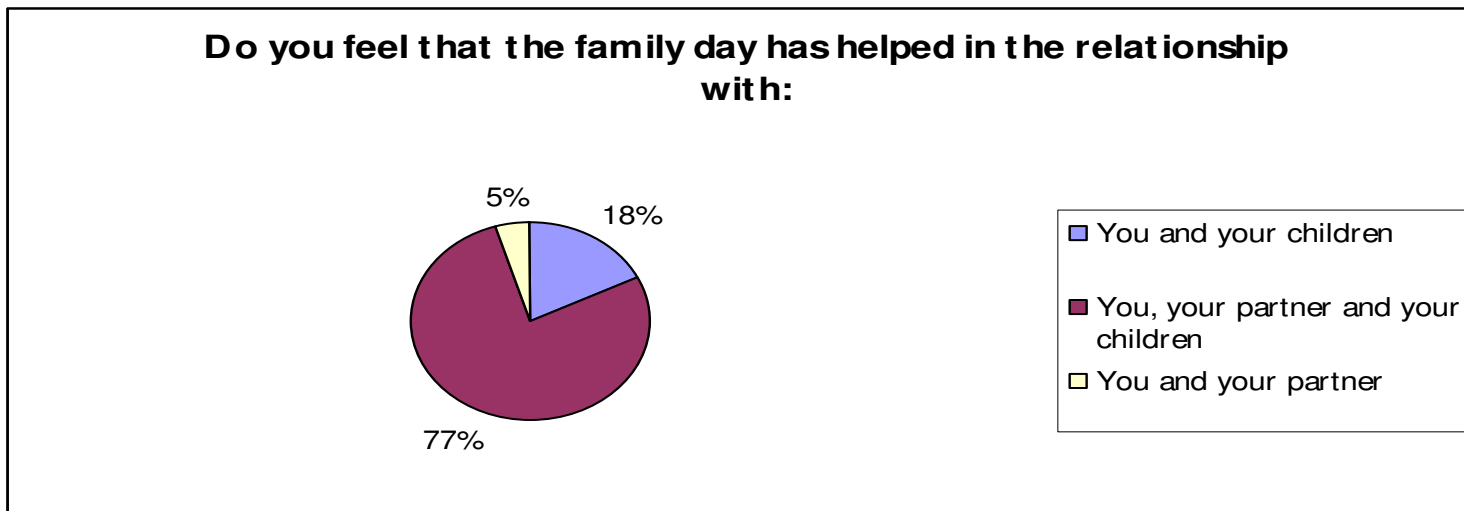
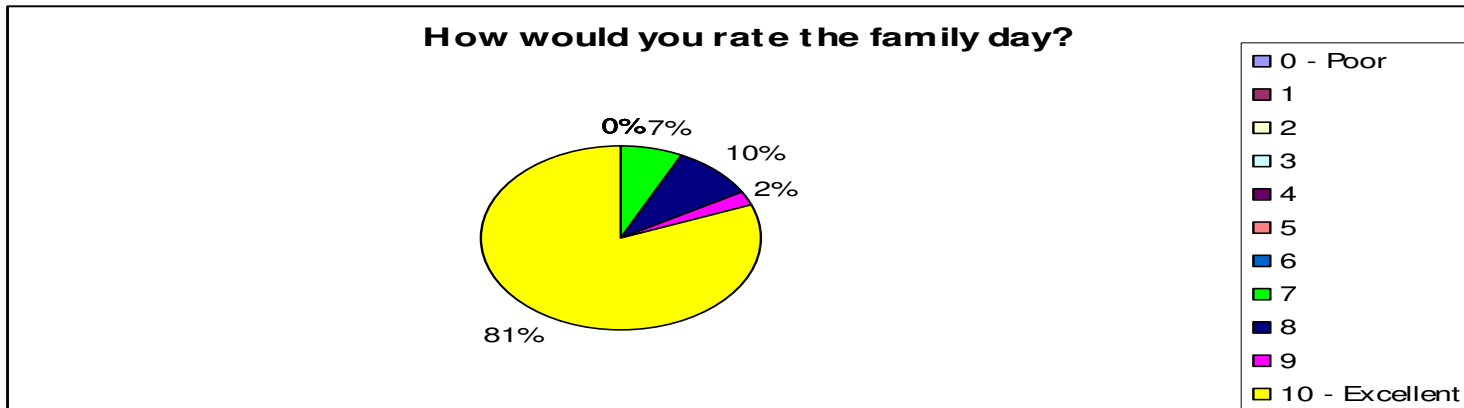
Available to support families:

- Encourage interactions and help build confidence
- Support families with difficulties
- Link into services available outside the prison

Part of the work is to ensure families know that services in their local communities are available and will support them to access any help they need. This is a joined up approach to meeting the overall needs of the families.



Family days at Lewes Prison evaluation (over 4 Family Days)





What has worked well?

- Commitment to multi-agency working
- Instrumental in changing views and practice at the prison i.e. around the value of the Family Days
- Prison officers now out of uniform on Family Days and take an active role in the day (involved in play activities)
- Strengthening partnership working with the prison when putting the days on



Challenges

- Lack of time
- Establishing effective communication within the prison
- Staying focussed and clear of our aims
- Increasing the frequency of the Family Days
- Linking the work we do in with the development of running parenting groups in the prison



The way forward

- **Story books – 6 week course put on by the prison librarian, to include a session on play (from B&H workers)**
 - **Further development of the Family Days:
More family specific activities (based on FAST/Family SEAL)
Parent - child one to one time (FAST)**
- More robust evaluation linked to outcomes**
- **Development of parenting course**



Voice of the prisoner

“Myself, Caroline and the twins would like to thank you and all of the helpers on the family visit. It was a really good time and allowed me to have some quality time with those closest to me. Prison is not meant to be a good and enjoyable place. It isn’t for me. But having the family visits has made me realise what life is all about and I want my kids to be loved. You gave me the opportunity to understand that I am better than what I have been. Once again, thanks to all those involved in making this happen”.



Other work taking place in Brighton and Hove

- Training and raising awareness across all agencies
- Project team trained and set up to deliver training and information talks to teams
- Project team also can respond to request to support families and provide them with information



Workforce development

- Staff trained By Sam Hart (Hidden Sentence – APF)
- Training day put on in Lewes Prison
- Incorporated into the Core Training Programme
- Taken workshops into schools
- Team talks

Next Steps:

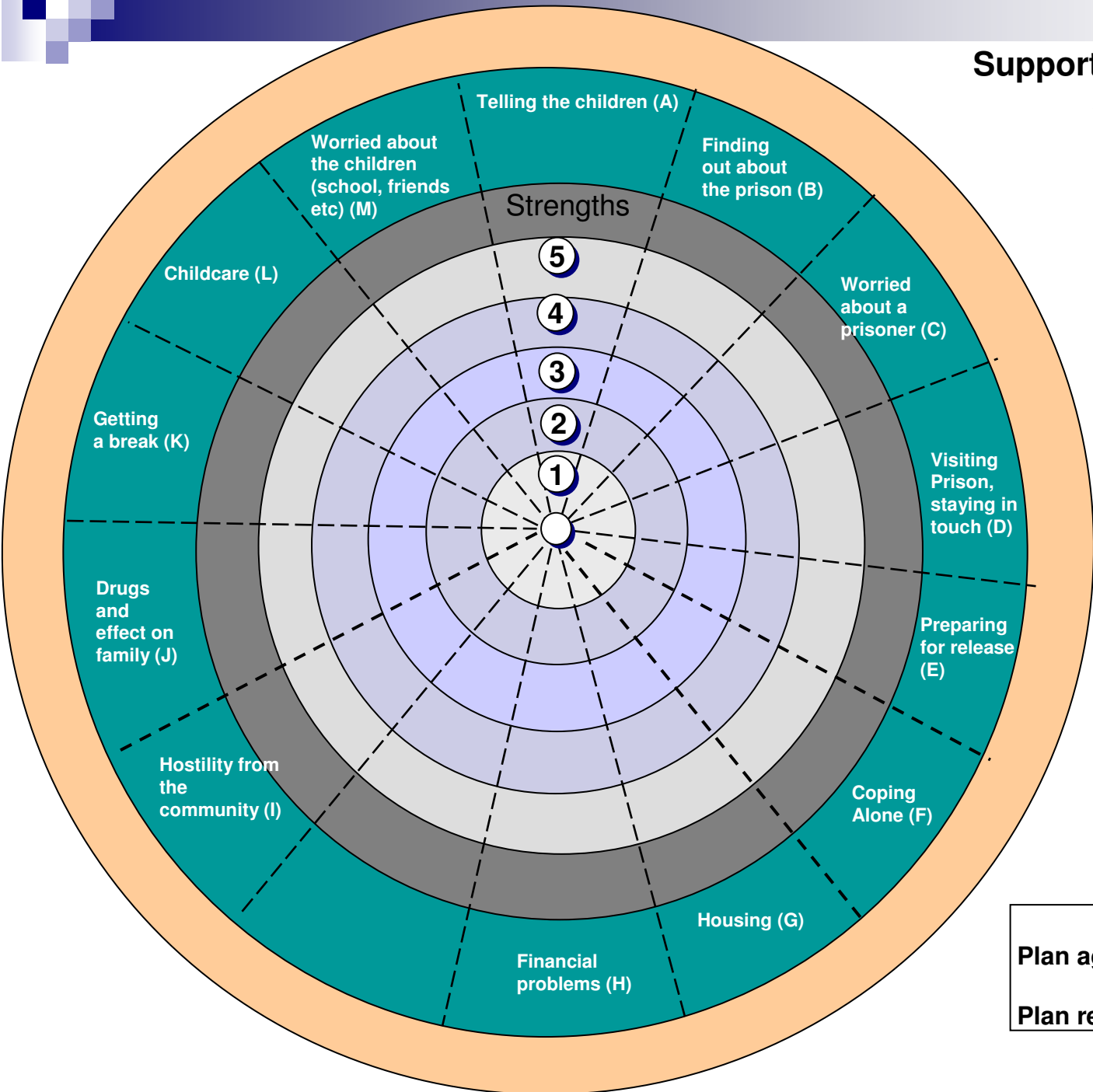
- Training Health Visitors/Early Years Workers
- Talking to SENCO's
- Team talks with Social Care

How are we supporting families?

- Developed a Brief Intervention to
- Link into the Family CAF
- Linking in with other appropriate assessments



Supporting Prisoner Families, Support Wheel



Name:

Name of support worker:

- ⑤ Things I feel good about
- ④ Nothing that needs to be sorted out
- ③ General things I am not happy about
- ② Problems that I need to sort out
- ① Crises I need help with

Plan agreed

Plan reviewed

Supporting Families of Prisoners

Brief Intervention Checklist

(A) Telling the Children

Should you tell the children?
How much should you tell them?

How should you tell them?

Telling the children about a relative in prison can be difficult. These organisations and leaflets can help you think about how to talk to your children about imprisonment.

Offenders' Families Helpline. Free and confidential helpline and website
0808 808 2003

www.prisonersfamilieshelpline.org.uk

Tommy's Dad (Children's book APF)

Danny's Mum (Children's book APF)

Finding Dad (Children's Book APF)

It's a Tough Time for Everyone (APF magazine for older children) 0208 8123600

Telling the children APF Booklet

What Shall I Tell the Children? Ormiston Trust www.ormiston.org.uk

Local Children's Centre (see below)

(B) Finding out about the prison

These organisations can help you find out which prison your relative/ friend is in and what type of prison it is.

Prison Service Website

www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Prisoner Location Service

PO Box 2152

Birmingham

B15 1SD

Fax: 0121 626 3474

prisoner.location.service@noms.gsi.gov.uk

<http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/adviceandsupport/keepingintouch/locationservice/>



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graph TD; A[Family request support] --> B[Centre/school/service team provide intervention by home visit, telephone or meeting in community setting. If required, contact the FOP team for support]; B --> C[Family engaged and discuss key issues using 'support wheel']; C --> D[Brief Intervention Action Plan agreed and provided]; D --> E[Signposted to additional support service. No further intervention needed.]; D --> F[Additional support required - initiate CAF.];
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Family request support

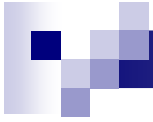
Centre/school/service team provide intervention by home visit, telephone or meeting in community setting. If required, contact the FOP team for support

Family engaged and discuss key issues using 'support wheel'

Brief Intervention Action Plan agreed and provided

Signposted to additional support service. No further intervention needed.

Additional support required - initiate CAF.



Brief Intervention Tool and Case Study

Copies available