



Working with Prisoner & Offender Families in the Thames Valley - from bottom up and top down

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Purpose of the day

- Domestics
- Share our journey to date
- Hear about examples of good practice
- Disseminate findings from the evaluation
- Work together to establish a way forward in the Thames Valley

NOMS Commissioned research – 2010

Quote from Roger Turner, York Consulting

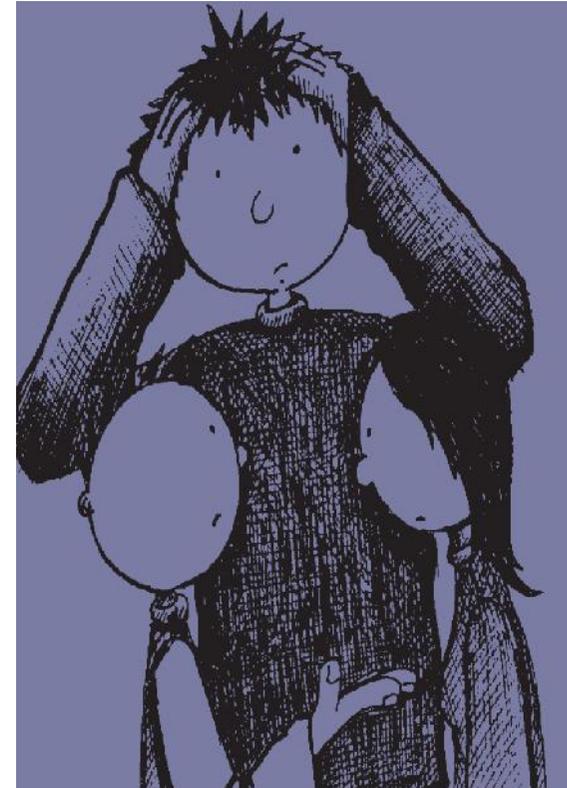
“The ability to progress further is heavily reliant on the willingness and ongoing commitment of key individuals across the key agencies to engage in joint working to support the children and families of prisoners More consistent promotion and awareness raising of the issues facing prisoners’ families and a reflection of the significance of the issue in strategic and business plans would help to strengthen the case for involvement of all relevant organisations in these activities.”

- **Key ingredients**

- Strategic support and buy-in
- Local champions and commitment on the ground
- Good training and resources

- **Barriers to success**

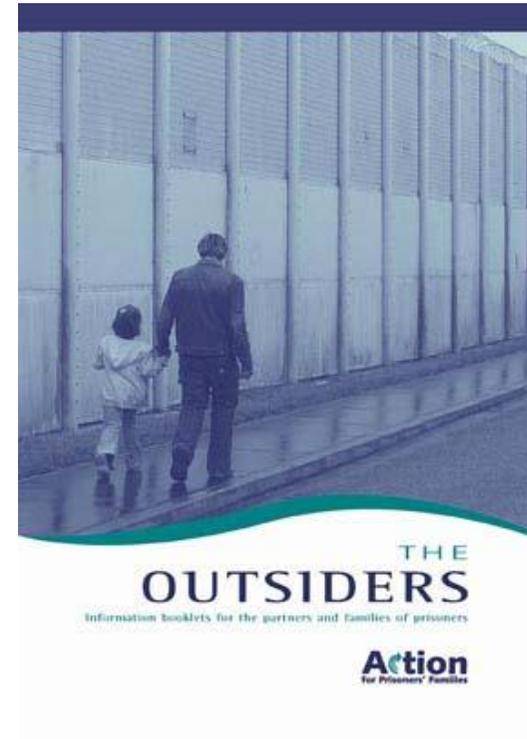
- No systematic data collection/identification of families
- Lack of consistent promotion and awareness-raising of the issues facing prisoners’ families
- Invisible children/families ‘in need’– just below safeguarding thresholds
- Lack of strategic support/buy-in



Our Journey so far - Milestones

Delivering through mainstream services

- **2006** – The resource pack and awareness-raising training (prisons and community, single and multi-agency)
- **2007 – 2014** Network development ‘through-the-gate’ – family support and CJ services linked and integrated
- Policy work – ongoing locally and nationally
- **June 2010** – Research with the Revolving Doors Agency, Saj Khan and Sam Wright ‘Support Needs of Offenders and their Families’
- **2010** - Bid to Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – growing our ambition
- **2011- 2014** Court Desks established



Headline achievements

- **1341 colleagues participated in our workshops** - in prisons, in communities and in education and criminal justice settings
- **Over 1397 resource/information packs** distributed across the country
- **Networks** established in most of Thames Valley
- **Court desks** established in 3 Thames Valley Crown Courts – Oxford, Reading and Aylesbury/Amersham
- **New resources** developed e.g. court leaflet, resources for schools, Guidelines for Schools, Useful Contacts doc, local signposting leaflet in Bucks, Slough and Reading

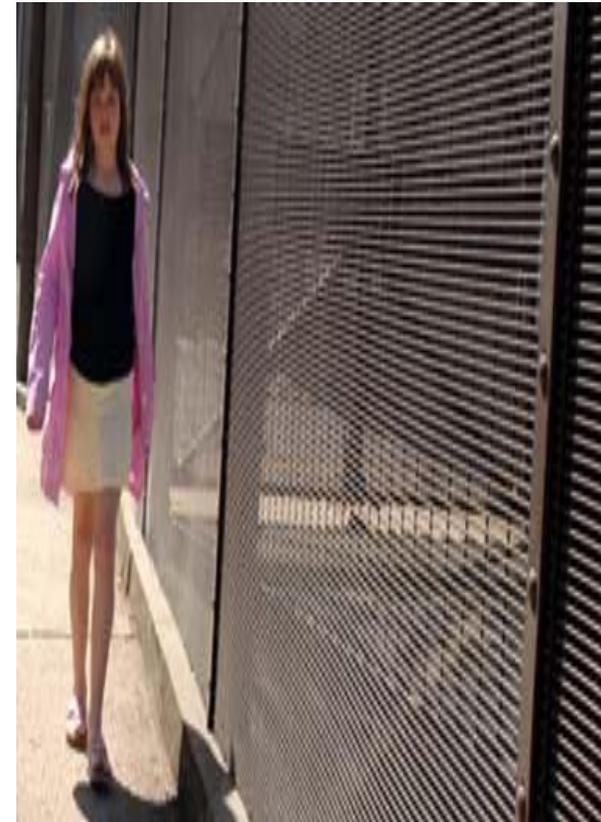


Mainstreaming and Sustainability

- Small budget!
- Small team!
- Good reach
 - Volunteers – Court Desks
 - Harnessing our mainstream colleagues across agencies

Examples

- Milton Keynes/HMP Woodhill Initiative
- Reading
- North Oxford Network



Bottom-Up Top-Down

- **Practitioners**
 - Champions
 - Working relationships
 - Appropriate sequencing of support
- **Middle managers**
 - Crucial link e.g. CC managers, SPOs
- **Strategic leads**
 - Essential e.g. no1 governors, Parenting Commissioners, ACCs, Chief Execs
- **Policy Convergence**
 - IOM/Reducing reoffending pathways
 - FIP/Troubled Families
 - Transforming Rehabilitation
- **Strategy**
 - Reading LCSB Offender Families Strategy
- **Process - underpinning**
 - Maternity pathway RBC
 - Key question asked!



Looking Forward – Our Vision

- More mainstreaming!
- More strategic/policy work based on established good practice
- Influence the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda in Thames Valley
- More potential
 - Troubled Families
 - Schools
 - IOM including the police
 - Geographic gaps

