



Invisible Children

The National context

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BELIEVE IN CHILDREN

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Overview

- Why children and families coping with custody is important
 - Making progress
 - New challenges and opportunities
-

■ Where we want to get to  Barnardo's



Barnardo's Philosophy and Purpose

- The lives of all children and young people should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination
- To help the most vulnerable children and young people transform their lives and fulfil their potential





What we do

1. Direct work to support individual children and families or parents in prison
2. Working with children and families through Visitor Centres, in Visits Hall and Family Days
3. Development of Community based Support teams
4. Campaigning to raise the profile of these children
5. ~~Creating the i-HOP knowledge hub~~





Why are we interested in prisons?

- We believe in the rights of children to enjoy positive outcomes as they grow up and supporting family life
- We recognise that parents in prison who maintain strong links with their families are less likely to re-offend
- We think that working in partnership with prison and probation staff will help to achieve an integrated approach to supporting families and achieving prison service objectives
- We actively work with community based Children's Services to increase their understanding of the needs of these families
- We know that when statutory and voluntary agencies work together families benefit





Why is this important?

- Children of prisoners at risk of poorer outcomes across every indicator
- Failed to be recognised as high risk and vulnerable group
- An invisible group with no shared, robust information on:
 - Who they are
 - Where they are
 - Who is looking after them
 - Little awareness of their needs
 - No systematic support



The invisible 200,000

- More children are affected by parental imprisonment than are in care
- Whether a prisoner has children is not routinely monitored
- Children with a parent in prison are not systematically recorded
- Not recognised by Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Children slip through the net if they're not considered 'children in need'





This group is surprisingly large . . . and growing

- 200,000 children with a parent in prison a year.
- 2.5 times the number of children in care.
- 6 times the number of children with a child protection plan
- 7% of children will see a parent imprisoned during their school years
- A prisoner spends 2 days a year with partner and child



A compelling case from all angles

- **Economic**
- **Social**
- **Multi-agency**
- **Children now**
- **Children in the future**



Progress



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- Minimum visits standards in prisons
- Provision of Visitor Centres across the estate
- Family support services within and outside
- Family Engagement framework contract – PACT, POPS, NEPACS, Jigsaw
- Development of community children and family support
- Community Support for Offenders' Families teams
- Children Centres and Schools developments
- i-HOP services
- Further engagement with Prisons, Schools and LSCBs



Prisons

- 121 prisons in England
- 95.5% have visitor centres
- Aprox 50% are run internally
- 24% have family-focused interventions in addition to a VC
- 35% run family days
- 63% work with Story Book Dads
- 95% operate Email a prisoner scheme



Community Support for Offenders' Families

- Three test sites in South East Wales, Bristol and the Isle of Wight
- Mandated to work in three ways:
 1. local identification of children and families to provide support, guidance and sign-posting
 2. training to front line workers across agencies
 3. strategic working at senior management level to develop a shared strategy



CSOF outcomes

- Training across Children's Centres, teachers, school nurses, police, probation etc
- Charter for agencies to indicate their commitment and engagement
- Children's Centre Champions for children of prisoners
- Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment charter of rights adopted by Bristol City Council



- Engagement of children and inclusion of parents affected on strategy groups
- Secondment of Probation staff to teams
- Training to schools staff on Barnardo's schools handbook
- Engagement of Troubled Families teams
- Early engagement of magistrates
- Full evaluation in June – willing to share learning



Engagement of schools in Wiltshire

- Schools champion scheme with HMP Erlestoke
- Understanding the prison visits experience from a child's vantage
- Explaining how the prison processes work
- Developing a partnership approach
- Enabling the prison to be more outward focussing
- Launching a new pilot Family Interventions Unit within the prison in the summer



i-HOP provides...

- A **web-based**, easily accessible knowledge hub, with all information in one place.
- Growing directory of up-to-date **resources to support professionals**
- Contact details of **local support services**
- **Resources** for children, and for professionals to use with children
- Examples of **existing practice** and **case studies**

The screenshot shows the i-HOP website. At the top left is the 'Believe in children Barnardo's' logo. At the top right is a 'Log In | Sign up to become a member of i-HOP' link. The main heading is 'i-HOP' with the subtitle 'Information Hub on Offenders' families with children for Professionals'. A navigation menu on the left includes: Home, i-HOP Directory, About Us, Membership Benefits, Consortia Directory, What is a Consortium?, Submit Information to i-HOP, Your Account, and Contact Us. A large image shows a young girl in a dark hoodie looking down. Below the image, the text describes i-HOP as a national one-stop information and advice service for professionals working with children and families of offenders. It mentions that i-HOP is a constantly growing directory of information including resources, research, policy, support service details, practice examples, training programmes, funding opportunities, and events. A search box is visible at the bottom with the text 'Advanced Search' and a 'Search' button. Below the search box, it says 'Search for information about children of offenders'.



Get Involved!

- Visit www.i-hop.org.uk or call **0808 802 2013**
- Become a member of i-HOP
- Upload information about your service or a case study of your good practice
- Find out about services for offenders' children across England, resources to support your practice, training opportunities and more
- Promote i-HOP through your own work – tell your colleagues about the service and display an i-HOP poster



NOMS commissioning intentions 2014

- Reform of the justice system
- Reduce reoffending
- Greater value for money in delivery of probation services
- Making custodial system more effective/ cost efficient
- Transforming youth custody
- Improving the way courts work
- Reducing the cost of legal aid



Transforming Rehabilitation

- Opening up of the market to a diverse range of new rehabilitation providers, incentivised through payment by results to reduce reoffending
- A new public sector National Probation Service
- Extension of supervision after release to nearly all offenders leaving custody
- A new 'through the gate' resettlement service across England and Wales



Key words

- Competition
- Diversification of providers
- Developing effective practice
- Short sentenced offenders with high offending rates
- Payment by results incentives
- Continuous support to offenders from custody to community



Where we want to get to

- Effective identification, assessment and interventions which recognise children of prisoners as children in need
- The voice of children and families to be heard
- Children Centres and Schools to take a lead in identifying and supporting children and families
- Prisons and new probation arrangements to continue the process of 'thinking family'
- All strategic plans across social care, health and criminal justice to feature the needs of these children
- The prison population decreases and children's outcomes are improved



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