

Promoting good practice in working with children of prisoners

Sara Lewis and Salina Bates
Social Care Institute for Excellence

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Introduction

- About SCIE
- Our work on children of prisoners:
 - What we did
 - How we did it
 - What we found

SCIE

- Better knowledge for better practice
- England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Evidence-based practice
- FREE resources
- www.scie.org.uk

What we did

- Funding
- Literature review
- Questionnaires to Local Safeguarding Children's Boards
- Practice survey/focus groups
- Prison visits

Advisory group

- Action for Prisoners Families
- Youth Justice Board
- Thames Valley Partnership
- Ormiston Children and Families Trust
- Family Welfare Association
- Department for Schools, Children and Families
- Kids VIP
- Revolving Doors Agency
- Story Book Dads
- Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge
- Prisoners families and friends
- West Midlands Family pathways project

How we did it

- Evidence from the literature review
- Responses from questionnaires
- Focus groups:
 - Northern Ireland
 - Scotland
 - Norwich
 - Halton Borough
 - Banbury
 - Telford
 - Devon and Cornwall
 - Partners of Prisoners (POPS)

The practice survey

- Strategy
- Funding
- Policies and procedures
- Partnerships
- Training
- Practice
- Links with prisons
- Outcomes
- Challenges and obstacles
- Lessons for practice

What we found - Literature review

- Evidence not conclusive but definite correlations
- Considerable gaps in provision
- Poor info sharing
- Not all children of prisoners are children in need.
- We don't know exact numbers
- There is good practice
- Lack of awareness among social care and education professionals
- Interface issues

What we found - questionnaire

- Most did not identify they had a role
- None knew about numbers locally
- Need for training and awareness raising
- Mixed support for foster carers
- Confusion as to responsibility
- Gaps in provision
- Would welcome products/guidance
- All want to receive copy of report

What we found – practice survey

- Relies on voluntary orgs
- Funding short-term and inconsistent
- Lack of communication and information sharing
- Training and awareness raising is crucial
- Local multi-agency work essential
- Different models of practice are available – continuum of emerging to established
- Little in the way of strategy
- Need for national guidance
- Lots of obstacles and gaps

Conclusion

- Not all doom and gloom
- Models of good practice are out there
- People are willing to share
- Free resource guide to bring it all together
- E-learning

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