**Feedback from delivering effective family practice for families and significant others conference**

**Held at Newbold Revel on 28 Feb 2018.**

The feedback analysis is based on surveys completed on the day. We will be trying to improve the response rate and a link to the online survey has been emailed around.

There were a total of 126 attendees. This can be broken down by 28 partners, 89 prison and 9 from MOJ/HQ etc. A total of 39 surveys were returned giving a response rate of 31%. In part, this was on account of adverse weather conditions with many having to leave before the end of the day.

The overall feedback of the event was incredibly positive with no negative responses received:

**Aspects felt of most value to attendee**

The service user perspective was very well received and some attendees have asked if we could provide an audio or perhaps arrange for it to be filmed. Some establishments have said they would look to book hidden sentence training when they return to the establishment as a result of this session. Based on the positive responses received, It may be worth exploring if there is scope to look to maybe include this as part of POELTs training if not already – or commission the video of Debbie and include the Ormiston Families video (Visit from a child’s perspective)

Lord Farmer’s speech also received positive comments where attendees reported that it was inspiring. It is anticipated that a transcript of Lord Farmer’s speech will be published along with Phil Copple’s speech.

The presentation from Corin Morgan-Armstrong at HMP Parc inspired many and led to some attendees saying that it has sparked some new innovative ideas to take back to their prisons. This is an excellent example of sharing best practice across the prison establishments.

**Engagement**

Some reported that there appeared to be a lack of engagement at a senior level, commenting that it would have been good to see more governors attend, and that those governors that were there are already on board with this agenda. Some had suggested that there ought to be a performance measure for this area to retain the momentum and ensure accountability.

The item from Teresa Clarke on Care Leavers was very well received with it being reported as a new area for some and sparked a real interest.

**Suggestions to help deliver this agenda**

One reported that “very useful and informative day. Would suggest this event is held regularly - twice yearly with opportunity for breakaway groups/ world café style work stations to allow more intimate discussion re best practice and incentives elsewhere.”

Providing a workshop style event would add to the value of the conference, allowing more time for the engagement with speakers and sharing good practice.

Discussion with DDC and governors to deliver information received

**Good Practice**

HMP YOI Stoke Heath have a bus to bed document looking to do something similar from visits centre to visits hall and getting an independent official prison visitor to take the journey and comment.

**Challenges faced**

Many of the local challenges reported centred around a lack of resource and available staff to deliver the change needed. In addition to this, some attendees reported that there was often a negative view of family work amongst some staff and that a culture change was needed. It was suggested that there was an apparent lack of understanding amongst some that strong family contact helps reduce re-offending.

**Pledges**

Part of the feedback asked for attendees to make a pledge on what their local family ‘minimum offer would be and some of them are listed below:

HQ Chaplaincy adviser will be looking to make the connection between the chaplaincy assurance and compliance process and this area of business.

Initiate and Implement good practices, enabling family involvement – HMP Huntercombe

Involve families in the development of our strategy – HMP Whatton A whole prison approach to developing a families and significant others strategy, so that it is a key element within strategy/policies for all key elements in the prison.

To firmly place family as part of the strategic agenda and link to all departments

Upgrade the visitors centre HMP YOI Stoke Heath

Start a homework club – HMP Brixton

Ensure that local strategy is a live, dynamic and inclusive document; regular Head of Function (monthly) surgeries in the visit centre. HMP Coldingly

Consult more with 'whole functions'

Make more visible presence in the visitors centre and visits also during dads days and family days

**Help/Support/Information requested**

Attendees were asked if they wanted more information or support.

Many would like to see an example of a good strategy. Some asked if there was a template that they could use to help formulate their own strategy.

Good practice - especially where perceived small things have had a large impact. Challenges around innovation being stifled by national constraints with contract & commercial this prevents full autonomy at a local level.

Funding streams what is available and how do they access this to invest in this strategy

Digital prisons – Skype plus maintaining family ties for foreign nationals

More conferences like today please

Further information on PoPs training on hidden sentences NB other organisations such as NEPACS also offer this training.

Help in identifying local charities and community support groups available in local area.

Maintaining family ties with foreign national prisoners