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|  | **Needs assessment to understand the needs of imprisoned veterans and their families** |

**Who is funding the project?**

The Forces in Mind Trust using an endowment awarded by the Big Lottery.

**Who is delivering the project?**

Barnardo’s National Information Centre on Children of Offenders (NICCO) will be undertaking the project.

**How long will the project run for?**

The project will run from May 2018 – November 2019.

**What is the project aiming to achieve?**

To develop a better understanding of the needs of male veteran offenders (who are parents) and their families before, during and after imprisonment in order to improve their outcomes in relation to mental health and wellbeing and transitions into and out of custody.

**What will the project involve?**

The needs assessment will involve in-depth consultation with key stakeholders:

* Ex-military offenders in custody who have children under the age of 18 with whom they have permitted contact (across SW and West Midlands prison estate).
* Ex-military offenders who have been released from custody who have children under the age of 18 with whom they have permitted contact.
* The children and families of ex-military offenders serving custodial sentences.
* Professionals from criminal justice, veteran and family support agencies.

**The project will be informed and advised by:**

* A project steering group made up of leading academics, managers and practitioners working with veterans, offenders and their families.
* A peer-consultants group made up of veteran offenders in custody (currently members of an in-custody veteran peer support group).

**What will the project produce?**

* A published report on the needs of veteran offenders and their families, with clear recommendations to inform the delivery and development of support services.
* A national launch of the findings on completion of the report.

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