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| **HMYOI Cookham Wood** **Family and Significant Others Strategy****Youth Custody Service HMPPS** |
| **Date of Issue: August 2018**  |



**Statement of Purpose**

Assisting a Young Person to build and maintain relationships with their family and other significant people in their lives is a must for those working with Young People, and for those who strive to support these Young People in resettling back into the community, where they can continue to develop and desist from further offending.

We use the term Significant Others alongside family to ensure that all important social ties, especially for those who may not have family connections, are included, as these people have helped to support them throughout their lives and, we hope, will continue to do so.

In September 2016 the Lord Farmer report was commissioned to investigate how connecting those in custody with their families can improve their wellbeing, assist in keeping the public safe and reduce reoffending. The report was published in August 2017 and gave a number of recommendations that put family and significant others at the heart of prison reform.

The purpose of our Family and Significant Others Strategy is to enable us to create a working group that will work towards addressing Lord Farmers recommendations and that will help to establish and enhance the family and significant others services provided for the Young People in our care

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| Objective | Short-Term Plan - 2018/2019 | Long-Term Plan - 2019/2020 |
| To establish a family strategy group which is represented by all functions and associated partners.  | * Develop this family strategy to incorporate the Lord Farmer recommendations and HMIP recommendations.
* Appoint a family lead.
* Assign the family strategy as an item agenda at the Reducing Reoffending meeting.
* Appoint care leaver personal advisor.
* Review the SLA for staffing the external visitors centre and engage MOJ procurement in delivering a competition for the service with ongoing SLA.
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| Develop engagement to better understand the needs of the family and significant others.  | * Conduct a visitor’s survey to allow us to assess the needs and the current level of service provided to families.
* Introduce drop in sessions with the Operational manager on a bi-monthly basis.
* Introduce an assessment of communication between families and the young people in our care to identify those who are not maintaining contact and formalise what steps we will take to support those young people.
 | * Develop family support groups.
* Develop induction family visits.
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| Review the current visitor experience.  | * Review the outside visits centre alongside the visits centre provider to ensure it is a welcoming, supportive and informative environment.
* Review all messaging within the centre to ensure it is family friendly and up to date.
* Review refreshment service.
 | * Develop the visitors centre further with a potential children’s corner.
* Introduce an electronic notice board for welcome message and notices.
* Consider visits schedule and how visitors book into the centre.
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| Development of our people.  | * Review current staff profile assigned to visits.
* Request expressions of interest in relation to working with families/significant others.
* Provide training for the care leaver personal advisor.
* Invest in training for family liaison.
* Develop a dedicated multi-disciplinary family visits team for family visit days.
 | * Invest in staff training for family engagement.
* Develop a dedicated multi-disciplinary family visits team for family visit days.
* Consider resource for families’ link worker.
* Expanding the personal officer/CUSP role to include family engagement.
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| Expand and improve partnership working within the family strategy.  | * Invite current partners to attend the Reducing Reoffending meeting.
* Establish performance data and develop action plans to address any shortfalls.
* Assess how we engage current working partners within the family strategy.
 | * Further develop links with external partner agencies that can further enhance the relationship with families and significant others.
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| Engaging families when safeguarding the young people in our care.  | * Review the current induction paperwork to ensure that significant other is recorded alongside the next of kin.
* Casework function to ensure data integrity around next of kin.
* Looked after children are managed in line with statutory requirements.
* Review the process for families who want to report concerns.
* Ensure adherence to the information sharing policy.
* Enhance family involvement in significant meetings/reviews including; ACCT, GOoD, Sentence Planning, celebration events, interventions, ROTL etc.
 | * Involve the care leaver personal advisor in planning meetings including the Young Person.
* Promote relationships between families and health providers.
* Analyse and develop what support is offered to those YP’s who can’t name anyone he will want to contact on the first night.
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| Recognising that all families are different and this will be reflected in the services that we provide.  | * Demographics data to be gathered from the Resettlement needs analysis.
* Data from the needs analysis to be shared with DEAT for action.
* Review whether all information notices in family areas are diverse in nature.
 | * Resources to be considered following the results of the needs analysis.
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| Using technology to promote family contact.  | * Review current practices for contact with family.
 | * Consider SKYPE and video link opportunities for those struggling to access visits.
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