

What is an ACCT?

- ACCT stands for Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork. It is a process that we put into place when a member of staff identifies that an individual is at risk of self-harm or suicide.
- Its primary purpose is to keep your loved one safe. People from across the prison who frequently engage with them will be involved in creating a plan which helps to achieve this.
- Your involvement can help support the individual as you may be in a better position to note when their behaviour is worsening or improving. You may also have insight into what has helped in the past.
- Your loved one has agreed to your involvement. Both of you can decide to withdraw this consent at any time.

What will happen now?

- Staff from across the prison will develop a Care Plan. This looks at what can be done to lower the risk of self-harm and how to manage difficult situations.

- Your involvement in this can help us understand what can trigger periods of distress, and therefore, what we can do to reduce these. Similarly, it can help us get a sense of what particular activities they enjoy doing that we can offer to keep them occupied e.g. exercise, reading etc.
- We also hold regular case reviews. This is where members of staff from across the prison meet and discuss the actions on the Care Plan with the person at risk and whether more needs to be done.
- Where possible, we aim to involve as many people from across the prison as possible in this process. This means that members of healthcare, education, chaplains etc. may also be in attendance at these meetings.

How can you help?

- You can be involved in any of the stages either in person or via phone or email if you want to be.
- If you have any information that you think will help the prison to support your loved one more effectively get in touch at any time.
- The case manager will keep you updated throughout the process.

Where can I go for support?

For some people, visiting a prison can, at first, seem nerve-racking. Similarly, this process and knowing that your relative is at risk can be upsetting or stressful. You can speak to any member of the case review team if you are concerned or want more information. They can put you in contact with local agencies who offer support. You can also contact the Samaritans on 116 123.

The following national agencies are also available:

- **Action for Prisoners and Offenders' Families** – Promote effective working between prisons and families: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/about/our-services/action-for-prisoners-and-offenders-families/>
- **Prisoners Advice and Care Trust (PACT)** - Provides practical and emotional support to everyone affected by imprisonment: <http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>
- **Offenders Families' Helpline** – Provides support about visiting family in custody. <http://www.offendersfamilieshelpline.org/>
- **Barnardos** –Provides support to children of prisoners: <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/>

This prison is currently piloting a new version of the ACCT process. If you have any questions or comments regarding this please contact ACCTV6@hmps.gsi.gov.uk.



HM Prison &
Probation Service

**Assessment, Care in
Custody and Teamwork**

ACCT

Family Involvement

