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| **HMP Stafford**  **Families and Significant Others Strategy 2022-2023**  ‘Strengthening Family Ties’ |

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**Helpline opening hours:   
Monday - Friday 9am - 8pm  
Saturday and Sunday 10am - 3pm**

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1. **Purpose**

Welcome to our Families and Significant Others Strategy. For the purpose of this guidance document, ***Family*** is defined as either a blood relative, legal or significant persons that a prisoner identifies as a next of kin. For ***Care-Leavers***, this may be someone that provides a statutory service, a friend or an associate. Many people in custody will have experienced a non-traditional upbringing, with a range of adults having cared for them and similarly, those in custody with children may have other arrangements outside of a traditional family arrangement. It is important to accommodate all family arrangements, where they provide a constructive and supportive relationship for the prisoner and their family.

In some cases, maintaining family ties may not be appropriate, possibly due to the risk that the person poses to their family. Safeguarding children and supporting victims should always be a priority in the work at HMP Stafford, supported by the National Probation Service, other statutory authorities deemed appropriate and all other partner organisations who work within the establishment.

In September 2016, Lord Farmer was commissioned by the government to investigate how connecting prisoners with their families could improve prisoner wellbeing, assist in keeping prisoners safe and reduce reoffending. His landmark review, ***‘The importance of strengthening prisoners family ties to prevent reoffending and reduce intergenerational crime’*** was published in August 2017 and made 19 recommendations, placing families and significant others at the heart of his report. According to the Farmer Review, families should be the ***‘golden thread’*** running through the process in all prisons.

***A picture containing circle

Description automatically generated“I do want to hammer home a very simple principle of reform that needs to be a golden thread running through the prison system and the agencies that surround it. That principle is that relationships are fundamentally important if people are to change”***

***Lord Farmer Review 2017***

All recommendations in the Farmer Review were accepted by the government and the program to implement them, has been running in the interim period. This strategy document has therefore been written, in the hope that it will provide an outward facing guide, to assist prisoners and their families and significant others to maintain contact, while developing and strengthening their family ties, throughout the period that the person remains in custody at HMP Stafford.

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1. **The History of HMP Stafford**

There has been a prison in Stafford since the end of the 12th century. HMP Stafford was constructed and opened in 1793, as the new Staffordshire Gaol and, although some of the original building remains, the present establishment is mainly Victorian, notably the Main Hall and Crescent Wings. It was substantially enlarged by a building development programme of works in the 19th century. The facility was closed in late 1916 and mothballed for two decades, re-opening on the commencement of World War two in 1939, as a male and female establishment. The female section of the prison closed within a few years of reopening and for many years afterwards, HM Prison Stafford held young offenders as well as adult residents.

Today, HMP Stafford is a closed Category C Training Prison and became a national facility, holding men convicted of sexual offences in 2014. Its accommodation consists of seven wings, mainly of double occupancy cells, excluding G Wing, which is of single occupancy. The prison capacity is currently 753 prisoners.

HMP Stafford offers a progressive regime, which consists of opportunities to attend Education, Gymnasium, Library, Chaplaincy, Kitchen and Vocational Training Courses, including rail engineering, plastering, painting and decorating, bricklaying, with national vocational qualifications, linked to most activities. A laminated copy of our latest curriculum is available within the Visits Centre

We produce many products within our eight workshops, for both private sector partner companies and Prison Service Industries. Qualifications are available in the Laundry and Tailoring Workshops and the Workshops employ 280 residents each day. Our Reclamation Department undertakes waste management and recycling operations for the establishment and the Gardens and Horticulture Department maintains the grounds.

We also offer three Accredited Offending Behaviour Programmes, specifically for men convicted of a sexual offence (Kaizen, Horizon & HSP). Our Programmes Team work closely with Psychology, Healthcare / Drug and Alcohol Services and the Offender Management Unit, to ensure a holistic approach is provided to support positive outcomes for the residents in our care.

A person in a green jacket

Description automatically generated **3. Our Commitment**

I write to give my personal support to this strategy. In recent years, the Government has recognised the importance of improving the support and services available to the children and families of offenders and the financial, emotional and physical effects having a parent in prison can have on children.

Maintaining family and significant other relationships can help to prevent former prisoners from reoffending and assist them to resettle into the community. Many offenders can lose contact with their family and significant others as a result of entering prison. Studies have shown, prisoners are less likely to reoffend if family/significant other relationships are maintained throughout their sentence. This is reinforced by a thematic findings paper by HMIP 2016 Life in Prison: Contact with Families and Friends, which concludes that good family contact has an important role to play, not only in supporting prisoners through their sentence, but in supporting their rehabilitation after release.

To address this fundamental need within our prisons, the Government is driving forward the Families and Significant Other agenda, as it recognises that supporting family and significant other relationships can improve prison safety and security, reduce reoffending, support desistance from future offending and the possible likelihood of intergenerational offending.

It is also recognised that not all family relationships are positive. Sometimes Family members may be the direct or indirect victims of the prisoners’ offence. These individuals have the right to protection from their perpetrator. Family or significant others may be enablers, contributing to their offending behaviour. Prisoners may be subject to harassment or restraining orders, so it is very important that we manage these relationships properly, to ensure that we prevent inappropriate contact, yet provide tailored support to meet the needs of our prisoners and their families and significant others.

HMP Stafford therefore has a moral and ethical responsibility, to assist any meaningful and constructive relationship in preparation for our prisoner’s release. We are committed to transforming our prison into a place of safety and reform, recognising the need to provide those in our custody with a stable environment, as well as opportunities to change their behaviour and turn away from a life of crime.

This strategy sets out a pathway to achieving the required outcomes of the Farmer Report and captures the necessary steps the establishment is taking and, in some cases, still needs to take in order to make the very best provision for all aspects of the visiting experience. This will be achieved by working in close partnership with Barnardo’s, consultation with residents, families and visitors and building on the knowledge and research around the needs of our population at HMP Stafford.

Tyrienna Greenslade

Governor

**4. How should a family member or significant other contact HMP Stafford in the case of a crisis or emergency?**

**Emergency Contact Number**

**If you have a concern that there is an imminent risk of danger to life of a resident at HMP Stafford and you wish to speak to a staff member to raise this concern, then you can call the switch-board.**

**01785-773000**

**Whilst the member of staff answering the call will not be able to discuss the resident with you, they will immediately pass your concern onto a senior member of staff for action. Please supply your name, relationship to the resident and a contact number, so we can feed-back to you.**

**Concern and Safety Line**

**If you are concerned about the safety or wellbeing of any resident at HMP Stafford, but there is no immediate threat or danger to life, you can call the following number.**

**01785-773127**

**During office hours (Monday-Friday), you can speak to a member of the Safer Custody Team. During weekends, nights and Bank Holidays, you can leave a message on the answer-phone. Messages are collected three times (daily) and your call will be returned. Please ensure that you speak clearly, giving your name and a contact telephone number, so we can call you back.**

1. **Staying in touch.**

There are a number of ways that families and our population, can keep in touch with each other (\*subject to child protection protocols, linked to individual conditions of sentence where children may be involved. Further details can be obtained via our Public Protection Unit - PPU).

**Secure Video Calling\***

Prisoners are currently entitled to 2 free video calls per month. These can be requested via the ‘Purple Visits’ App (which is free to download). Visitors have to download the App and follow the instructions, in order to register.

(Please note, a new secure social video calling software is to be installed in prisons during April 2022. The service called Prison Video, will replace Purple Visits across the public sector estate). The service provider ‘Phone-Hub’ also provides the Prison Voicemail service. Further details are available via <https://www.gov.uk> , Facebook Watch and <https://mobile.twitter.com> and prisonvideo.com

**PIN-Phone-calls\***

Prisoners can access our pin-phones during their association periods and can purchase phone credits to make telephone calls. There is an installation program of in-cell telephony across the public sector estate. Unfortunately, this service is not yet available at HMP Stafford, however we will publicise this development once we have further details around an installation date.

**Letters\***

Prisoners are entitled to a second-class letter per week at the establishment’s expense. Additional letters can be sent out at the prisoners own expense. Families can write to a prisoner at any time and should include the person’s name and prison number on the envelope. All post, apart from legal letters, will be opened and may be subject to further security checks.

**E-mail\***

Family and Significant Others can e-mail prisoners at the cost of a second-class stamp at [www.emailaprisoner.com](http://www.emailaprisoner.com) Once the e-mail is received, a member of staff will print it off and hand it to the recipient. You can also pay the cost for the prisoner to send a letter back via e-mail.

**Prison Visitors**

People in our care who do not have anyone who is able to visit can request to have a volunteer prison visitor who will visit and provide support. This service is offered via the Chaplaincy Department.

**Storybook Dads\***

Prisoners can create a recording of their voice for children and this will be made into a visual storybook DVD for children to keep and watch as a story.

**Converting Statutory Visiting Order’s (VO’s) to a letter**

Prisoners who do not use their visiting orders can choose to convert them to a prison letter to contact their loved ones. This applies to prisons on the Standard and enhanced regime. If a prisoner does not receive a visit during any calendar month, they can exchange their statutory visiting order for a prison letter paid for by the prison. This means anyone on the standard regime can exchange their 1 VO for 1 letter and enhanced prisoners can exchange their 2 VO’s for 2 letters.

**New Dads\***

Prisoners who receive a visit from their new-born child, will be offered the opportunity to have their picture taken with the child during the visit. This service will be provided by the establishment.

**Care Leavers**

Following the Children & Social Work Act 2017 (C&SWA 2017 – This only applies to local authorities in England), all young adults defined as Care Leavers can access a Personal Advisor up until the age of 25. Support can consist of the following benefits.

* Relationships & Keeping Safe
* Accommodation
* Leisure & Participation
* Money, Health and Wellbeing
* Education, Employment & Training

Posters have been distributed around the establishment to inform people about this and advise them to contact OMU, their Key-worker, POM or Care Leaver & Young People Lead for further information. Questionnaires are also given to people under the age of 25 years old, to help identify those who may not have declared that they are Care Leavers. Individuals who have already declared that they are Care Leavers will be offered support to maintain contact with their allocated Personal Advisor, from their local authority, for the duration of their time in custody.

**Prison Voicemail\***

Visitors can download an App on their phones that is linked to the prison telephone system, whereby they can record and leave messages that prisoners can pick up. They are also able to leave a message in return. prisonvoicemail.com

**Foreign National Phone Credit & Letters\***

Foreign National prisoners are entitled to convert their visiting orders to phone credits so they can make an international call or to an airmail letter (via the Business Hub).

**Sending Money and Gifts**

Prisoners can apply to the Governor for permission to receive a parcel of clothing when they first arrive at HMP Stafford. Otherwise, property is generally not permitted to be posted in or handed in. Clothes cannot be ordered direct from approved retailers to be sent into the prison unless they are socks or pants. The only other items that can be sent in via an approved retailer scheme is books, CD and audio cassette books, from the likes of Waterstones, WHSmith’s, Wordery and Foyles.

You can send prisoners money instead, which they can use to buy items through a catalogue system. **A laminated copy of our facilities list is available within the Visits Centre**, for families to look at. This list identifies the supply source, individual items and quantities that prisoners are allowed to hold in-possession, subject to their respective IEP (Incentives & Earned Privileges) band level.

Money can be sent via a free and fast on-line service, making a payment via Visa, MasterCard or Maestro debit card. Money can no longer be sent via bank transfer, cheque, postal order or via cash through the post, unless granted an exemption. Please refer to <https://gov.uk> for further details

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1. **Contact us**

**Address**

HMP Stafford,

54, Gaol Road

Stafford

ST16 3AW

**General phone number**

01785-773000

**Follow us on Twitter**

HMP Stafford @stafford hmp

(Please note that this account is not monitored 24/7)



The main waiting room within

our Visits Centre, modernised in 2019, following consultation with family members and residents, providing input into fixtures and fittings, colours, flooring and decorations

1. **Booking a visit at HMP Stafford**

The visits booking centre, based in Birmingham books visits for a large number of prison establishments within the West Midlands, including HMP Stafford. The booking centre opening times are:

**Monday to Friday 09:00hrs – 18:00hrs**

The visits booking line is **closed** during **weekends** and on all **public holidays**

**The contact telephone number is:**

**0300-060-6505**

**The contact e-mail address is:**

[**www.gov.uk/prison-visits**](http://www.gov.uk/prison-visits)

**HMP Stafford has visiting sessions for all wings on:**

**Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturday and Sunday (afternoons only, in all cases)**

Please do not alter e-mail bookings after you receive a confirmation. Please request alterations via the contact telephone number, listed above.

Please note that visits bookings cannot be made at the Visitors Centre by Barnardo’s staff members. You must use the telephone number or e-mail address above to perform this task.

**How many visits can a prisoner have?**

The number of visits a prisoner can have in a month is linked directly to their respective level within the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme;

* Enhanced – 2 x PVO’s a month & 1 x VO every 14 days
* Standard – 1 x PVO a month & 1 x VO every 14 days
* Basic – 1 x VO every 14 days

(PVO – Privilege Visiting Order, VO – Visiting Order)

1. **How do I get to HMP Stafford?**

**Bus:** There are no direct services to the prison, but buses stop at **Sainsbury’s** in **Chell Road**, only a short walk away. The bus station (**Queensway**) is also very close to the prison (see enclosed map overleaf).

**Train:** On leaving the station (Stafford connects to Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, London Euston on the West Coast main-line), either take a taxi, which maybe expensive, or walk. Use the pelican crossing, then turn left and follow the road around into **Victoria Road**, keeping to the **right-hand side** of the road. Cross at the mini-island and take the pedestrian walkway (straight on) past the **Crown Court**. Cross the road into **St. Mary’s Passage** and follow the path, keeping **St. Mary’s Church on your left**. On entering the town, turn left at **McDonald’s** and walk straight through the town centre until you come to **Queensway** (The Ring Road). You will see **Starbuck’s Café on your right.** Cross the first three lane road (Pelican crossing) and turn right, following the path to the second two lane road (Pelican crossing). On crossing the road, turn left, keeping the railings on your left. Walk straight up **Gaol Road**, with the prison wall on your right. You will see a zebra crossing, nearly opposite the main prison gate. Cross over the road and turn left into **County Road**. The Visits Centre entrance is immediately on your left, in the large three floor building.

**Car**: If you are using **satellite navigation**, the postcode to use is **ST16 3AW**. Leave the M6 motorway at **Junction 14** and take the **Eccleshall Road (2nd exit from the North and 3rd exit from the South)**. Follow the road for **@1 mile** and you will reach an **island, taking the third exit for Town Centre**. Take the **nearside lane** and **turn left at the traffic lights** into **Browning Street**. At the mini roundabout, take the **third exit onto Gaol Road**. Pass the **petrol station on your left** and the main prison gate will be on your left.

The Visits Centre is on your right and a small public (pay and display - £4.70 all day) car park is directly after the Visits Centre. There are additional car parks around the town centre, allowing payment per hour.

There are numerous **Hotels in Stafford**, which can be booked for reasonable rates, for example, <https://www.travelodge.co.uk> and <https://www.premierinn.com> all within easy reach of the establishment. **STAFFORD TOWN CENTRE U:\FAMILIES\11.04.22 Dave C.tif**

1. **Visits Centre Opening Times**

The Visits Centre is open on **Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 11:00hrs until 16:30hrs’**

**Booking in for visitors will commence at \*12:00hrs until 15:00hrs.** Admittance after this time, will be subject to a Managers authorisation, taking account of the circumstances e.g., public transport delays etc.

Visitors are requested not to arrive before this time\*, given that there is no shelter from inclement weather conditions, adjacent to the Visitors Centre. Visitors are respectfully requested to utilise the nearby town centre facilities, including numerous Café’s – Café Nero, Costa, Starbucks etc., if travelling via public transport, or remain in their vehicle, if driving.

The Visits Centre is located immediately opposite the main gate of the prison, in the large building (right hand side) on the corner of County Road. Our facilities include:

* A number of comfortable waiting areas
* Toilets and baby changing facilities
* Tea-bar
* Information and Support Service
* Children’s play facilities - Visitors Centre and Visits Hall
* Lockers (£1 coin required, which is refundable)



Pact aim to provide information, advice and support for the families and friends of prisoners at HMP Stafford. The Visits Centre will process your visiting order, answer any questions you may have and organise the flow of visitors across Gaol Road to the prison. Visits Centre email address is

[stafford@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:stafford@prisonadvice.org.uk)

1. **What happens when I arrive at the prison and what do I need to bring?**

We appreciate that visiting a prison for the first time can be very daunting and stressful, going into what can be perceived as an intimidating environment. For most visitors at HMP Stafford, they have had no previous contact with the criminal justice system, so we will try to assist you and make the process as smooth as possible, putting you at ease. If you have any questions, please ask the Visits Centre staff, they will be very pleased to assist you.

The Visits Centre staff will need certain information from you on arrival. They will check that you have a confirmed booking to visit, via the visits booking line. You will be asked to provide the correct identification, to verify who you are. Details of the acceptable documents you can use, can be found at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) under visiting HMP Stafford; **Read the list of acceptable forms of ID when visiting a prison**. This site provides more detailed information about many topics (booking, visits times, directions, facilities, dress code etc.) linked to visiting someone in prison, so we would recommend having a look, before visiting.

We operate a **biometrics system** to identify visitors. If it is your first visit, the Barnardo’s staff will explain the system, which requires you to place your index finger onto a reader, followed by standing still and having your image taken. It is very straightforward and is nothing to worry about. You will be allowed to utilise a locker, to keep any **unauthorised items** which are not allowed into the prison. This includes items such as excess money, mobile phones, medication, shopping etc. We would suggest that you try not to bring too many personal or valuable possessions with you when visiting, given that the lockers have limited space. You will be allowed to take your ID, locker key and money, up to the value of £20, to enable you to purchase refreshments, sweets etc. in the Visits Hall.

**Essential medication** can be taken into the prison. You must notify the Visits Centre staff that you need this. You will be required to pass the medication to the Senior Officer in the Visits Hall before you go to your allocated table. They will keep it safely for you, until you require it.

**Disabled Visitors** can utilise a toilet within the prison gate and adjacent to the Visits Hall. The car park adjacent to the Visits Centre has a number of designated disabled parking spaces. As the Visits Hall is on the first floor, disabled visitors may wish to utilise the lift. Please ask the staff while being processed within the search area. We have a number of tables which provide more space for **wheelchair users**. Please advise the booking clerk while booking your visits, either via the telephone or web-site, that you are a wheelchair user and will require additional space. If you have a **sight or hearing disability**, please indicate to the Visits Centre staff that you may need assistance. We will be very pleased to assist you in any way we can, to ensure that you can gain full and safe access into and out of the establishment.

There are **baby changing facilities** within the Visits Centre and Visits Hall. We can accommodate pushchairs, however we would request that you do not bring large prams, given the lack of access and space within certain areas of the prison. If you are bringing young children or babies, we will allow bottles and dummies to go into the prison. Please ensure that you have necessary food and/or refreshments for babies, before entering the prison.

Once you have left the Visits Centre, please cross Gaol Road (via the zebra crossing) to your right. The entrance into the prison for visitors is through the door to the left of the main vehicle gate. Once inside, you will be subject to a search by prison staff. They will explain the search procedures to you. It is similar to when you go to an airport, passing through a metal detection portal and a pat-down search. You may also be subject to a passive drug dog search, in relation to unauthorised items.

You will pass into the Visits Hall and be allocated a table, where your visits will take place. Visits staff will give a verbal indication to you @5 minutes before the visits session is due to finish. We try to optimise the amount of contact time you have with your loved one, given the time and effort is has taken for visitors to travel to HMP Stafford.

At the end of the visit, you will return to the Visits Centre, following the same route as when you entered. Please ensure that you collect all of your possessions before you travel home.

**Claim for help with prison visits**

If youvisit a family member, partner or someone who does not get other visitors, you may be able to get help paying for travel to the prison, overnight accommodation and meals. You can find additional information about this via [HelpwithPrisonVisits@justice.gov.uk](mailto:HelpwithPrisonVisits@justice.gov.uk) or via telephone: 0300 063 2100 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm or by writing to Help with Prison Visits, PO Box 17594, Birmingham B2 2QP.

**Dress Code**

All visitors to prisons must adhere to a strict dress code. HMP Stafford operates a family orientated visits policy. A large number of visitors are accompanied by children and we want to foster a decent, safe and relaxed family environment for all of our visitors. Our dress code reflects this aim so for example, see-through, revealing clothing cannot be worn, nor clothing that displays offensive, abusive or insulting words or gestures. Our staff will make decisions and judgements as to when clothing is inappropriate, taking account of decency and diversity. Further information about our dress code is available within the Visits Centre and via the Barnardo’s staff.

**Standards of behaviour**

Offensive, abusive, threatening words or behaviour towards staff within the Visits Centre &/or establishment will not be tolerated and may result in the visitor being asked to leave. Consideration will also be given regarding the suspension of future visits. Lewd or inappropriate behaviour within the Visits Hall, may also result in similar action.

**There is a leaflet available within the Visits Centre, offering further details and information, linked to visiting at HMP Stafford. Please ask the Barnardo’s staff for a printed copy.**

1. **What services do we provide for families?**

**Virtual Family Support Meeting Forums** – This is a virtual forum facilitated by the Family Engagement Worker and/or the Visits Centre Co-ordinator which allows families and significant others to receive peer support, from others in a similar position to themselves. It also gives family members the opportunity to raise issues that they have experienced whilst having a loved one in custody. The meetings have guidelines in line with confidentiality and data protection.

**Virtual Governor Family Forums** – This virtual forum via ZOOM, was introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide a conduit for the Governor and Functional Heads to remain in contact with family members and offer two-way communication and feedback. We discuss current issues i.e., COVID updates, relay information specifically about the different functions within the prison e.g., OMU, Programmes, Healthcare and Education.

We invite guest speakers from different functions, at the request of the families. Functional Heads and Managers answer specific questions that family members may have, providing clarity and guidance.

Family members provide feedback about their own experiences and assist the establishment in improving processes and future development plans. This forum will remain, until we can return to our previous face to face meetings, prior to visits sessions taking place. The FEW and Children and Family Lead facilitate this meeting.

The prison and FEW are developing a scheme whereby those residents who have children (and not subject to child protection protocols via PPU) can take part in **‘Story-Time’ and/or ‘Homework Club’** with their children. This will be introduced via Prison-Video. The Hub in the Visits Hall is currently under construction (April 2022) and following a profiling of staffing resources (August 2022), we will be able to facilitate calls during evening and weekend sessions, enhancing our family offer.

**Befriending Service** –Pact Volunteers and the Pact Befriending Service will shortly be re-starting this. Prior to COVID-19 (2019-20), we held this type of event in the Visits Hall, working in conjunction with the Chaplaincy and Prison Visitors, targeting those residents who had no outside contact, whether by visits, letters or phone-calls.

**Bespoke Children and Family Visits –** We provide a programme of six children and family centred visits sessions. This consists of a six hour (10.00-16.00hrs) contact time between prisoners, their families and children. Hot food provision is available via our Bistro and structured play sessions are provided throughout the day, including art and craft and games, encouraging children to play with their families and the Pact staff. We provide a photograph facility, to enable children to have a lasting memory of their day, which can be taken home after the visit. Children and Family visits are open to all prisoners and their families, subject to child protection protocols. Further details can be sought via CM George Vuckovic.

1. **Family Engagement Worker (FEW)**

**Supporting offenders and their families maintaining family links**

Our service can offer

* Support for offenders and their families whilst in custody
* Help and support with maintaining family links
* Family relationship help.
* Family days and enrichment activities
* Information and guidance regarding the criminal justice and prison systems
* Providing emotional and practical support and advice for offenders and their families
* Signposting and referring to other agencies

**If you would like to access this service, please contact:**

**Family Engagement Worker**

**HMP Stafford**

**Gaol Road**

[**stafford@prisonadvice.org.uk**](mailto:stafford@prisonadvice.org.uk) **or via telephone 01785-773131**

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1. **So where does this work fit into the wider picture at HMP Stafford?**

It is recognised that Family and Significant Other work is an operational priority and supported by the Governor. The importance of family is noted throughout the Inspectorate of Prisons Expectations, which encourages prisons to have greater focus on family and significant other relationships to prevent reoffending. Cross Functional Partnership working is under development at HMP Stafford, including Pact, Safer Custody, Healthcare, Substance Misuse, Learning and Skills, Key-workers, Offender Management in custody and community supervision, post release.

The list of partners is not exhaustive, as partnerships take time to become established and this will evolve over time, with input from additional influences. It is important that everyone has a voice in this process.

1. **Our vision for Families**

HMP Stafford recognises that healthy, strong and resilient families &/or external adult relationships are the fundamental building blocks for any community life, a key means by which we can prevent reoffending and reduce the likelihood of intergenerational crime. Additionally, the emotional, social and economic benefit of strong families &/or external adult relationships and responsible fathers cannot be underestimated. Our vision for family and significant other services is for earlier and consistent support and stronger family and significant other ties. We want to see our establishment focussed upon:

* Family Support / Significant other services are fully integrated and imbedded within the provision and culture of HMP Stafford.



* Family and significant other prisoner support needs are identified at the earliest opportunity and are prioritised alongside sentence plans, which follows them throughout their journey of rehabilitation
* All visitors, especially children and young people who visit HMP Stafford feel safe, supported and welcomed.
* Every mother, father, care experienced prisoner and those without supportive adult relationships receives the support they need to build, strengthen, maintain and develop their relationships

Public services, businesses and voluntary groups all work closely together, accepting that the whole family approach is our collective focus

1. **Why the requirement for a distinct strategy?**

HMP Stafford recognises the important contribution that families make in supporting prisoners to achieve effective rehabilitation and reduce re-offending. The strategy recognises the importance of families in the resettlement of our population back into their communities on release from custody.

It is important to note that HMP Stafford supports a population, consisting of medium to high-risk offenders, convicted of index offences of a sexual nature.

Of our 753 Operational capacity (12/4/22 unlock 742), 737 are convicted of index offences of a sexual nature and therefore on register, with a further 3 who are not required to register and 2 non sex offender i.e. Murder with sexual element. 630 are considered a risk to children, 199 are domestic violence perpetrators and 152 are noted under harassment, therefore any family intervention needs to be appropriate and agreed with Offender Supervisors and Offender Managers.

Another factor requiring consideration is the age of our population, with approximately half being over the age of 50, with teenage or adult families.

1. **Strategic Aims of our Family Strategy**

• To reduce re-offending

• To enhance desistence (The process of abstaining from crime by those with a previous pattern of offending)

• To maintain and surpass, the recommendations from the Lord Farmer report (August 2017)

• To fulfil statutory obligations to safeguard and to promote the welfare of children

• To reduce the incidence of inter-generational offending

• To contribute to Healthy Prisons test as defined by HMIP Expectations

1. **Benefits of the Strategy**
   * Better engagement of our population during their sentence, through a greater understanding from staff of the critical role played by families and significant others.
   * Better pre-release planning and support packages set up at the critical transition point of release back to the community, (particularly for our higher risk population).
   * More likely to secure stable housing, if relationships with the family have been maintained and the prisoner has a home to return to. (Most prisoners at HMP Stafford are released to Approved Premises, with “move on” plans to be agreed with Offender Manager)
   * Family ties, where appropriate are strengthened and critical relationships can be maintained which reduces family breakdown.
   * Potential for reduction in intergenerational offending
   * A more integrated approach to supporting prisoners, children and families may be achieved as community-based children’s services are more fully engaged
   * It will contribute towards a more consistent approach to supporting families across the region and country, working in partnership with community- based services
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation Procedures**

In order that the strategy continues to be developed, the following monitoring procedures are proposed. These will be managed on a day-to-day basis by the Children and Families Champion (Custodial Manager), with oversight by the Head of Reducing Reoffending.

Monitoring and Evaluation will include:

* Conduct an annual data collection exercise utilising surveys of residents, their families and staff, collaboratively with Barnardo’s
* Scrutinise numbers of spaces/attendees available on visits sessions and Prison Video via database
* Collate statistics regarding ethnicity, race and cultural attendance on family events
* Identify residents who do not receive regular visits via P-Nomis, cross reference with those who do not regularly access the PIN-Phone system to quantify numbers and consider how we will engage with them, in line with social isolators
* Record numbers of requests for help/advice
* Obtain feedback from residents and their families
* Study the number and content of complaints relating to visits
* Bi-monthly contractual meetings between Barnardo’s and HORR
* Bi-monthly attendance at Residents Council Meeting, with visits discussed as an agenda item

1. **Staffing Structure (Key – Players within Families and Significant Others Strategy Delivery)**

Governor Ian West [ian.west@justice.gov.uk](mailto:ian.west@justice.gov.uk)

Head of Reducing Reoffending – Operational Manager Adam Lennard [adam.lennard@justice.gov.uk](mailto:adam.lennard@justice.gov.uk)

Children and Families Champion – Custodial Manager George Vuckovic & Custodial Manager Nick Williams.

[george.vuckovic@justice.gov.uk](mailto:george.vuckovic@justice.gov.uk) and [nicholas.williams3@justice.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.williams3@justice.gov.uk)

Family Engagement Worker (FEW) – stafford@prisonadvice.org.uk

1. **Future Plans 2022-23**

We place a high degree of importance on the work that we do with Children and Families. We have therefore identified this work as one of our key pathways within our reducing reoffending action plan (RRAP). During 2022-23, we have a number of projects to deliver, which we believe will further enhance our current offer to our population, their children, families and significant others.

1. To deliver a communication hub within the Visits Hall (August 2022), enabling Prison Video sessions to be relocated from the Offending Behaviour Portacabin. Linking this to a reallocation of staffing resources following a profiling exercise (Aug 2022), this will enable us to deliver prison video sessions during evenings and weekends, targeting reading and homework sessions for those residents who are not subject to PPU/Child protection measures.
2. To deliver an extension to our Bistro provision, enhancing our food/refreshment offer to residents and families during domestic visits. This will be linked to Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP – Enhanced level). Hot food provision and table service (August 2022, subject to prevailing COVID-19 restrictions).
3. To enhance the external areas around the Visits Centre, with additional seating, screening and planting (Sept 2022).
4. To ensure a smooth transition period, during the current re-procurement of Family Services within the prison estate (Oct 2022), working closely with the chosen provider.
5. To complete the Children and Families self-assessment (shadow audit) for submission to PGD and HQ Families Services within prescribed timescales (currently awaiting time-line).
6. To re-paint the Bistro, Visits Hall, entrance and stairwell on both sides of the Visits Hall (during 2022).
7. Listen more to families and significant others, through feed-back and meetings, whether face to face or interactively via ZOOM calls
8. Deliver more innovative and interactive family days
9. Work more closely together across all functions in HMP Stafford to provide greater support
10. Work to reduce and remove barriers to enable family members to visit the prison and have quality visits
11. Develop a strategy to support prisoners who do not get visitors and offer face to face visits with third sector colleagues
12. Improve how we identify and work with young adults and care leavers

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Stage 1 – Initial Screening

**RISK REDUCTION PLAN**

The first stage of conducting an EIA is to screen the policy to determine its relevance to the various equalities issues. This will indicate whether or not a full impact assessment is required and which issues should be considered in it. The equalities issues that you should consider in completing the screening are:

* Race
* Gender
* Gender Identity
* Disability
* Religion or Belief
* Sexual Orientation
* Age (including younger and older prisoners)

**Aims**

*What are the aims of the policy?*

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| To reduce reoffending, enhance desistance and reduce the incidence of inter-generational offending. This policy document, aims to provide prisoners, their families and significant others information regarding our strategy and about the process of strengthening family ties and working with the establishment to achieve this. |

**Effects**

*What effects will the policy have on staff, prisoners or other stakeholders?*

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| We hope the effect will be to provide transparent information to prisoners, their families and significant others regarding opportunities where families can be involved and enhance ties whilst their family member is in custody at HMP Stafford. It also highlights that family contact may be subject to public protection assessment, dependent upon current and previous offences. |

**Evidence**

*Is there any existing sources of information about the operation and outcomes of the policy, such as operational feedback (including local monitoring and impact assessments), Inspectorate and other relevant reports/complaints and litigation/relevant research publications etc.? Does any of this evidence point towards relevance to any of the equalities issues?*

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| --- |
| HMP STAFFORD EQUALITY ACTION GROUP (EAG) MEETINGS  These are held every month and discuss prisoner access to all services at HMP Stafford in detail. Any concerns identified, regarding equality of services and treatment for any of the Protected Characteristics is assigned to a Senior Manager for action. A report from the EAG is discussed at the monthly Senior Leadership Team (SLT) meeting and again, concerns are highlighted and assigned to a member of the SLT for action.  **Nationality:** All prisoners have access to accredited translation and interpreting services wherever matters of accuracy and/or confidentiality are a factor.  **Disabled Prisoners:** The specific resettlement needs of prisoners with disabilities, including social care needs are accurately assessed and provided for on release and during custody.  **Older Prisoners:** The specific resettlement needs of older prisoners, including any social care needs are accurately assessed and provided for, while in custody and on release.  **Gender Identity:** Prisoners who are transsexual or transgender are supported via specific support groups/schemes within the establishment and through referral to external support networks.  **Sexuality:** Prisoners who are gay, lesbian or bisexual are supported via specific support groups/schemes within the establishment and through referral to external support networks. |

**Stakeholders and feedback**

*Describe the target group for the policy and list any other interested parties. What contact have you had with these groups?*

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| The target group is all prisoners, their families or significant others. Other stakeholders include functional heads and the provider of the Visits Centre Service (Barnardo’s & their staff). Numerous prisoner forums are conducted throughout the year. We come into contact with families and significant others via domestic visits and regular Governor Forums, conducted via ZOOM (currently due to COVID-19) and additional forums held with the Family Engagement Worker (FEW). |

*Do you have feedback from stakeholders, particularly from groups representative of the various issues that this policy is relevant to them?*

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| Feedback through Governor Forums with family members  Feedback via e-mail, letters, complaints, Twitter account (prison & Governor)  Feedback via the Visits Centre provider & FEW  Monthly prisoner council meetings, Request/Complaints & DIRF’s  Issues affecting any particular group of prisoners will be highlighted at the monthly EAG meeting |

**Impact**

*Could the policy have a differential impact upon staff, prisoners, visitors or other stakeholders on the basis of any of the equalities issues?*

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| No, it is a policy that is not aimed at any one specific group of prisoners, it is inclusive.  The strategy is aimed at all family members, on an inclusive basis. |

**Local Discretion**

*Does the policy allow local discretion in the way in which it is implemented? If so, what safeguards are there to prevent inconsistent outcomes and/or differential treatment of different groups of people?*

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| Any areas of need relating to the protected characteristics are dealt with on an individual basis and reported back to the monthly EAG meeting. |

**Summary of relevance to equalities issues**

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| Strand | Yes/No | Rationale |
| Race | No | The strategy and action plan is aimed at the whole prisoner population, regardless of race |
| Gender  (including gender identity) | No | The strategy is aimed at the whole prisoner population at HMP Stafford |
| Disability | No | The strategy is to support all prisoners and their families, irrespective of disability |
| Religion or belief | No | As part of the RR strategy, resettlement needs and subsequent community links and support groups to aid with resettlement are forged with faith based support groups, as and where appropriate |
| Sexual orientation | No | The strategy is relevant to all prisoners and their family members, irrespective of sexual orientation |
| Age (younger prisoners) | No | The strategy is relevant to all prisoners and their family members, irrespective of their age |
| Age (older prisoners) | No | As part of the strategy, resettlement needs and subsequent community links for older prisoners are forged with specific support groups and help networks. |

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| If you have answered ‘Yes’ to any of the equalities issues, a full impact assessment must be completed. Please proceed to STAGE 2 of the document. |

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| If you have answered ‘No’ to all of the equalities issues, a full impact assessment will not be required and this assessment can be signed off at this stage. You will, however, need to put in place monitoring arrangements to ensure that any future impact on any of the equalities issues is identified. |

**Monitoring and review arrangements**

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| Ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be via an annual children and family’s self-assessment (shadow audit) for submission to the PGD (Prison Group Director) and HQ Families Services. |

A review will take place on an annual basis, taking account of feedback from all stakeholders

Head of Function and Policy Lead: Mr ADAM LENNARD Signature: ***Mr ADAM LENNARD***

Date: 1st  October 2022