

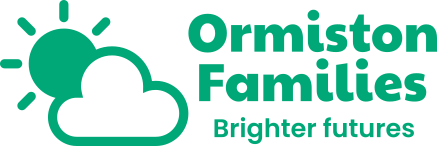
Family and Significant

Others

Strategy

2022

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| NICOO Partners |
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| December 2023  HMP Hollesley Bay, Rectory Road, Hollesley, IP12 3JW  Main Phone Number 01394412400 |

**[](https://www.prisonersfamilies.org/)

# Purpose

“Family and significant relationships are considered as a key means by which we can prevent reoffending and reduce the likelihood of intergenerational crime. Supporting a prisoner in a meaningful and constructive relationship with his or her family or significant others, should be a primary focus for anyone caring for those in custody who hope to achieve positive change and transform lives. HMPPS therefore has a moral and ethical responsibility to assist any meaningful and constructive relationship in preparation for their release.”

Maintaining family relationships is paramount in achieving a reduction in re-offending.

HMP Hollesley Bay is committed to the fostering of good family relationships and the maintenance of existing relationships, to aid the resettlement of prisoners. The prison aims to provide a framework that enables positive outcomes and interactions for children and families with a close family member in our custody. The impact of any custodial sentence is not only felt on the family member but also on the family and friends of the prisoner.

Due to the dynamics of the population within HMP Hollesley Bay “families” at times are also extended to the prisoner’s support network as part of their resettlement plans.

For a long time, prisoners’ families were also referred to as the ‘hidden’ or ‘invisible’ victims of punishment or crime, since the hardships they experienced were not immediately obvious*.*

What is the impact of imprisonment on prisoners’ families?

Since every family is different (including who is considered to be part of a ‘family’), the impact of imprisonment is different for everyone. However, research suggests that there are some common experiences.

Over 10 million children in the world have a parent in prison and Action for Prisoners Families estimates that in the United Kingdom approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year.

**Specifically:**

* Families experience emotional distress even with the loss of a loved one from the family home and/or family life: for example, families miss out on sharing family events such as birthdays and Christmas, or even simple family activities such as meals, with the imprisoned family member.
* Prisoners are stigmatised for their offence, and their families often are too. Families are seen as guilty by association even though they are legally innocent and generally have were not involved in the offence. This stigma is sometimes referred to as stigma by association. This stigma makes the imprisonment even more difficult for family members, and it can also mean that families are treated negatively by other members of their community, or face negative treatment from colleagues, peers, the media and even friends and family.
* Following the imprisonment of a person, partners of prisoners are often forced to take on multiple roles and responsibilities, particularly where the incarcerated family member has previously had an active role in the household.
* Imprisonment tends to impose financial strain on the families of the prisoners in two ways: by decreasing the family income and by increasing family expenditure, due to costly visits and phone calls, and handing in money for their loved ones in prison. Prison thus can exacerbate existing socio-economic disadvantage.
* There are often particular difficulties associated with prison visiting. Visiting often involves great deal of time, effort (both physical and emotional) and expense. Visiting can be quite an emotional experience, with both positive and negative feelings in the mix: for example, families usually enjoy seeing their imprisoned loved one, but due to the brevity of the visit saying ‘goodbye’ comes quickly, which can be distressing.
* Visiting can be particularly difficult for children, with poor facilities that are not ‘child friendly’ and confusing rules restricting how they can interact with their imprisoned family member; families often have to travel long distances to a prison and are often reliant on public transport; visiting times may not be compatible with teatime and bedtime routines, leaving children irritable or tired, which then may impact on school performance the following day.
* Stigma for the children of prisoners can be manifested in being bullied by classmates in school.
* Longer-term, children of prisoners are three times are more likely to engage in anti-social or offending behaviour than their peers who do not have a parent in prison.
* Assist individuals to address some of the potential disadvantages of being a Care Leaver. When compared to the general population care leavers are:
* Less likely to be in education, employment, or training. Over a third of 19-year-old care leavers are not in education, training, or employment.
* More likely to be attempting to live independently; and more likely to have criminal conviction. Care Leavers have been estimated to make up 27% of the adult prison population, even though less than 1% of under 18s enter local authority care annually.
* Young adults in the criminal justice system who are Care Leavers may need more support to help them through their transition to adulthood than other young adults. They may also need help to understand the differences between the youth and adult justice systems.

Why focus on Families and Significant others?

Supportive families are a great resource for prisoners, and they often play a vital role in helping an individual move away from crime. A supportive family can also provide effective protective factors for prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm. Having a stable family to return to on release, can also encourage prisoners to engage in sentence planning interventions and maintain positive behavior whilst in custody.

Research on desistance from crime, also suggests that positive family ties can have an encouraging effect on the rehabilitation of offenders. Prisoners who had not received visits whilst in prison were 39% more likely to re-offend, compared to those prisoners who had received visits from family members (Action for Prisoners Families).

At HMP Hollesley Bay the Family and significant others Pathway, aims to ensure the interests of prisoners and their families are addressed through:

* Helping to maintain family ties, where appropriate.
* Improving parenting skills of prisoners.
* Provide advice and guidance to families and prisoners.
* Developing a family friendly focus in our visits Centre.
* Including families in the sentence plan process
* Involving the family in Resettlement decisions when appropriate.
* Threading the Children and Families pathway through all the Resettlement pathways.
* Provide a purposeful and varied regime enabling men to acquire life skills that lead to opportunities to support themselves and their families in progressive work on both ROTL and release.

The Family and significant others provision is promoted and supported through the Head of Reducing Reoffending, Chloe Ballantyne, and championed by Custodial Manager, Ian Carver.

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| In September 2016 Lord Farmer was commissioned by the government to investigate how connecting prisoners with their families can improve prisoner wellbeing, assist in keeping the 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 and made families and significant others at the heart of his report. According to the farmer review **‘families should be the ‘golden thread’** running through the processes in all prisons.  All recommendations in the Farmer Review were accepted by the government, and the program to the implement them has been running since then. The History of HMP Hollesley Bay Hollesley Bay began in 1887 as a colonial college training those intending to emigrate. The prison had housed a labour colony for the London unemployed. In 1905 the land was transferred to the London Unemployed Fund, subsequently it was taken over by [London County Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_County_Council).  Hollesley Bay engaged prisoners in work either on agricultural tasks or in the kitchens and other relatively unskilled activities.  In 1938 the [Prison Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prison_Commission_(England_and_Wales)) purchased the site for use as a [Borstal and Detention Centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borstal_and_Detention_centre" \o "Borstal and Detention centre). In 1983  Hollesley Bay became a Youth Custody Centre, this replaced the borstal system. This in turn was replaced by [Young Offender Institution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Her_Majesty%27s_Young_Offender_Institution) in 1988. In 2002, the old borstal site became mainly for the use of minimum-security adult offenders.  Hollesley Bay did have the largest [prison farm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prison_farm) in the British prison system, along with the oldest established stud for the Suffolk Punch Horse in the world. The Prison farm was sold in 2006, however the Prison retains a small land holding. The stud of [Suffolk Punch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffolk_Punch) horses, which are still 'shown' at local County and National shows, was sold to the Suffolk Punch Trust, which was set up in 2002 to maintain the breed locally and which continues the heritage of the site, known as Sink Farm. Today, Hollesley Bay Prison holds up to 655 Category D adult male prisoners, Category D Male Young Offenders, and Male Life Sentenced prisoners (at the [parole board](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parole_board)'s discretion). Accommodation at the prison comprises of nine Residential Houses, these are Hoxon, Stow, Plomsgate, Terraces, Cosford, Wilford, Blything, Samford and Mutford. |
| **Our commitment**  A warm welcome from HMP & YOI Hollesley Bay and myself as Head of Reducing Reoffending**.** Firstly, congratulations on your family member or loved one achieving Category D status and being granted a move to Open conditions. At this prison, we are working hard to make prison less prison like and prepare men for release back into the community. That takes many forms, from making our physical environment less prison like, to having venues in the prison similar to the community (Coffee Shop, Barbers) where men can demonstrate independent living by self-budgeting money and building relationships, through to encouraging and supporting men to gain employment in the community. Alongside this, we offer a wide range of educational courses and vocational courses such as, brick laying, roofing, motor mechanics and hospitality to name but a few. Our aim is to help men here build a better future for themselves and of course you, as friends and families too.  We are also developing ways of making the visiting experience to Hollesley Bay a better one. Of course, the men here not only need the support of our staffing team, they need your support too. Between us, by being positive, providing encouragement and supporting the men here, I am confident that we can make being at Hollesley a positive experience. Thank you for all that you do and continue to do.  Chloe Ballantyne  Head of Reducing Reoffending  **Our Reducing reoffending Staffing Structure**  **Specific Employment Hub Staffing Structure**    Getting Here  See the source image  [Find Hollesley Bay on a map](https://www.google.com/maps/place/HMP+Hollesley+Bay/@52.0510453,1.449134,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x47d9822b94d566bb:0x9a95d1b3488f0581!8m2!3d52.051042!4d1.451328)  The closest railway stations are Ipswich, Woodbridge and Melton. From there you can get a taxi.  To plan your journey by public transport use:   * [National Rail Enquiries](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/) * <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/buses/timetables/>   If travelling by car please use sat nav postcode IP12 3JW. Please ensure you leave sufficient time and plan your journey well. On arrival there is a free visitors car park and there is also a disabled visitors car parking spaces available.  **Family Visits**  Our visits are run every weekend (except holidays etc) and have a relaxed feel. They are held in a central, recently rejuvenated visits hall area, which has both disabled and baby changing facilities.  We are currently enhancing a family room, complete with sofa, TV and baby sensory, and have recently developed a gaming area, complete with Nintendo Switches, for those families wanting to be a little more competitive! Our Visits Café has a selection of refreshments available to purchase with cash. We have a view to expand to contactless in the future.  A room with a couch and toys  Description automatically generatedA play area with toys  Description automatically generatedWe are also currently developing a fenced outside area for families to spend time in the fresh air playing games or enjoying refreshments.  A playground with a fence and a gate  Description automatically generated with medium confidence  **Family Days**  The prison offers a variety of regular family days throughout the year in conjunction with Ormiston Families and Phoenix Futures. These days are even more relaxed then the usual visit and are extended for extra time together. They are usually run within school holidays and may be themed. They will always consist of crafts, games, and activities to cater for varied quality family time.  All men are able to apply for a family day visit. There are no criteria, but in exceptionally busy times, those not accessing ROTL and who have not had a recent visit, will be prioritised.  A person in a garment sitting on a couch  Description automatically generatedA person in a garment holding a tray of food  Description automatically generatedA typical Family Day will run from 10am- 2pm and see Ormiston and HMPPS supply a variety of crafts and offer support in completing these. There may then be an organised ‘sports day’ type games, ie egg and spoon, hoop jumping, parent races, bean bag throwing or parachute fun. In the summer months we often complete these in our enclosed Victorian walled garden! A hot lunch will always be provided and the hours that follow would usually then be less structured enabling you to enjoy time as you require as a family. Pictures are always taken with permission.    We have been lucky to receive annual visits from both Santa and the easter bunny during our family days!  Ways to get in touch  To promote the importance of family engagement we have several dedicated telephone numbers that any family friend or significant other is welcome to contact to seek further information, check visits information or raise any concerns or pass on important information.  Phone credit can be topped up by your loved one through their canteen sheet. Phone booths are located on the unit. Only people on the prisoners’ phone list can be contacted between 6.30am and 11pm through outgoing calls only.      2 letters per week can be sent free of charge through the prison. Your loved one can purchase stamps through canteen if more letters need to be sent.  The Digital visits system helps you and your loved one stay connected by video calls.  Phonehub Logo    You can book family visits via the internet or telephoning 01394 412 559. Visits are run every weekend between 14:00- 16:00hrs. The visits Centre has a small offer of hot and cold refreshments available to purchase. The Centre has baby changing facilities, family room, and access to a gaming area. We are currently developing an outside play and seating area    If you have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a prisoner at HMP Hollesley Bay that are not an immediate concern, call the safer custody hotline on 01394 412 462 24 hour answering machine  Leave a message giving as many details as possible including the prisoners name, prisoner number and what House they are located on if you know it. If you wish, you can leave your own details and a contact number so the prison can give you feedback, if appropriate.  You can also [read more information about safer custody concerns](https://www.prisonersfamilies.org/pages/category/need-urgent-help) on the Prisoners Families website  In an emergency the switch board can be called on 01394 412400 and ask for the orderly officer or Duty Governor. Leave a message giving as many details as possible including the prisoners name, prisoner number and what House they are located on if you know it. If you wish, you can leave your own details and a contact number so the prison can give you feedback, if appropriate.  Safer Custody Portal  New for 2024, the safer custody portal is an additional way you can contact the prison regarding raising non-urgent concerns around a loved one. The portal is promoted within the Government website and requires you to complete a ‘SMART Form’ Once completed this can be submitted directly to our safer custody team. A response will be provided within 48 hours by a member of the safer custody team.  Official Prison Visitors: Prisoners who do not have anyone who is able to visit can request to have a volunteer prison visitor who will visit and provide support through phone calls or as a pen pal. This service is offered by the Chaplaincy Department.  Storybook Dads: Prisoners can create a recording of them reading a story for children, and this will be made into a visual storybook DVD for children to keep and watch as a bedtime story, or through the day. This scheme is run by the library in collaboration with Ormiston Families and Phoenix Futures  Foreign national phone credit and letters: Foreign national prisoners are entitled to convert their standard visiting orders to phone credit to make calls abroad or airmail letters.    Pregnancy and maternity lead  The prison has an appointed D&I Lead Representative for Pregnancy and Maternity’ Chloe Ballantyne’ and assist representative ‘Megan Nelli’ Both representatives are able to provide support and signposting to new or expectant fathers and will support our OMU department in accommodating Special Purpose leave for the birth of a child wherever possible. Information is readily available in how they can support themselves and their families throughout the establishment.  The Prison Regime  Hollesley Bay is a working prison, but all prisoners are afforded the responsibility of their own keys to their rooms and are free to use the House facilities and outside areas. The core day of work and education runs from around 8am until 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8am until 11.30am on a Friday. At weekends prisoners can socialize, access the gym &Library, and keep in touch with friends and family. Those who are privileged to be progressed to external work on license outside of the prison, will work the days and hours agreed by the place of work and the establishment.  Sequencing Strategy  HMP Hollesley Bay works closely with our Education Provider, People Plus, to engage men in education, prior to working within the regime or industries workshops, and then potentially progress to external voluntary or paid work placements. All men can express their interests in where they wish to be placed for education/work following induction and a guided tour, and these interests will be explored by our multi agency allocation board to ensure the best allocation where possible, dependent on skills sets, job aims and allocation availability. Men can request to move work areas or education and these requests can be progressed where applicable.  Within Education we offer a varied supportive syllabus enabling men to support themselves and further support their families. Some courses to name are:   * Action for Employment- Enables men to develop interview skills, and CV writing * Motor mechanics- enables men to develop skills required to make basic fixes to motor vehicles * Bricks/Carpentry/Plastering/Horticulture – to equip men with impressive DIY skills for home! * Business Enterprise- to use own initiative when developing a business * Catering/food hygiene- to prepare and cook meals in a safe and clean environment * Fitness/health living- to raise awareness of healthy living lifestyles * Mental health- To raise awareness around mental Health and how to support wellbeing. * LIFE skills- Enables me to learn skills as ‘Living independently and financially equipped.’   There are a variety of physical jobs available within industries consisting of LMB workshops, Recycling, Grounds maintenance and Waste management. All allow our men to engage in the regime but with the potential to complete contextualized learning alongside.  There is a variety of more ‘trusted’ progressive roles which have minimal staff supervision including our prisoner/staff café, Barbershop, Farm shop and Transport department.  How do we further support our Men and their families?  All men have access support to further services offered through our Employment Hub and Activities Provision:   * Financial services offered through **CFO3** * Accommodation support through **Probation** * Family support through **Ormiston** * Job and benefit support through **Job Centre Plus/Prison Employment Lead** * Career and Job advicethrough **Forward Trust** * Gambling addiction through **Breakeven** * Neuro Diversity support **through our new Neurodiversity manager** * Reading support**- Through Shannon Trust** * The Employment hub will also support with providing men with the correct ID and a bank account.   Drug and alcohol support can be accessed through Phoenix Futures and healthcare needs assessed through the Practice Plus Group.  Prison Offender Managers (POMS) will offer a supportive role to their prisoner caseloads, identifying prisoner needs and referring to relative functions for support and progression. Courses such as Sycamore Tree (Victim Awareness) will also be promoted by prisoner POMS  All functions will make referrals to other functions if they feel additional support is required.  Chaplaincy, Mental health allies, peer mentors and ‘listeners’ are all readily available daily across the establishment.  What we committed to in 2023 against what we completed:   * Installation of digital visits within our Prisoner café to enable more flexibility and warmer social environment.   + **This was installed and has consistent prisoner use every Wednesday evening.** * See the completion of our outdoor family area.   + **We now have a fantastic open space complete with sandpit, seating, outdoor games, toys and a Wendy house.** * Introduction of a play worker on visits to support with families.   + **We continue to have support from our play worker now each weekend offering a variety of themed activities and support.** * To encourage more families to attend our quarterly recognition events to celebrate prisoner education success.   + **Our Christmas Quarterly Recognition event sees applications of 9 families so far, some with younger children and is the first to be supported by our family’s provider.** * To ensure we establish more external work opportunities to prepare more men for release.   + **This year we have welcomed on board Sunskips, Adnams and Ichiban offering some recycling/hospitality and factory work opportunities.** * To enhance our 2023 Curriculum to include life skills classes to support men to be more self-sufficient in regard to household tasks such as ironing etc   + **We have completed….. LIFE skills courses within 2023 which remain well attended and supportive.** * To explore the potential requirement of a family/Friend’s council to address concerns and suggestions approaching prerelease of men.   + This has not been progressed with yet. However, with a view to link to our newly established Discharge boards for 2024. A Families safer custody portal is also to be available in 2024 supporting further with this.   Our commitment for 2024 and beyond   * To further develop digital visits to include a live story book dad opportunity. * To continue to develop a new sensory safe space for visits, family days and specific neurodiversity support. * To improve our support service with those with neuro diverse needs with the recruitment of our new Neurodiversity specialist * To promote our recently established Reading Strategy through a whole prison approach * To ensure a Families portal is implemented and promoted. * To continue to develop further work placements with employment on release prospects. * To explore the potential requirement of a family/Friend’s council to address concerns and suggestions approaching prerelease of men. * To continue to promote and establish a ‘visits experience’ for those not accessing ROTL or Visits. * Continue to Support quarterly recognition ceremonies with Ormiston Families so that families have the opportunity to celebrate the successes of their loved ones. * To support those prisoners on ISFL with a specific additional family Day specific to their needs/requirements. * To develop a ‘Rent Ready’ provision supporting men to learn skills to navigate and pursue Housing offers. |