

# REDUCING REOFFENDING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

## FAMILIES AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

The 2025/26 'Wellbeing Visits' timetable is now available on all wings and in the visitors' centre. This year, we're offering 12 Wellbeing Visits, plus a special quarterly event for those without family contact and/or no positive contact with Family and Significant others. This year, we also have a New Dads visit – which will be for fathers with children under the age of 12 months. Everyone is welcome to apply – Forms will be shared through reps and staff on the last Wednesday of each month. We'll keep track of all applications and give priority to those who've waited the longest or haven't had a visit before.



NEWLY  
ADDED!

## FAMILY REPS AND MENTORS

We currently have three Family Representatives who provide peer support as a first point of contact. They work closely with PACT to ensure a smooth and efficient process. Our peer mentors assist with writing applications, completing family work books, signposting to relevant services, and helping fellow prisoners maintain family connections while navigating the prison system. Family Reps are available during the induction process and can be requested through wing staff and/or PACT.

If you are unsure of who your Family Reps are, please speak to Mandy from PACT.



## CGL FAMILY SUPPORT

If you're struggling with drugs or alcohol, and the impact on your family, we're here to help. The CGL Family Service can help you with rebuilding your relationships with your family.

- We can support you with learning through groups, workbooks and 1 – 1 interventions.
- We can help you in maintaining contact and rebuilding family ties through letters, phone calls, video links, visits and family days.
- We can help you in rebuilding relationships and contact through family court, mediation support and child contact.
- We can also help in maintaining and creating links with Social Services, Probation, Prison Services, Action for Children, Storybook Dads and Community support.
- It is prudent to note that that relevant checks are always carried out before any contact with families can be made.

HMP Guys Marsh Family and Significant others contacts:

Offender's Families Helpline: 0808 808 2003

The Safer Custody Hotline: 01747 856586

Family Support Mailbox: [FamilySupport.GuysMarsh@justice.gov.uk](mailto:FamilySupport.GuysMarsh@justice.gov.uk)

Safer Custody Mailbox: [SaferCustodyGuysMarsh@justice.gov.uk](mailto:SaferCustodyGuysMarsh@justice.gov.uk)

## PRISON EMPLOYMENT LEAD UPDATE

-Self-Employment Event at HMP Guys Marsh

A massive thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make this event a success!

Day 1: We kicked off with an insightful session from Robynne and Nicola, personal trainers at Riversmeet Leisure Centre, who shared their expertise on building a career in the fitness industry.

This was followed by an invaluable workshop from Kevin Whitehouse on business development, with participants receiving free copies of his book to take away.

Day 2: Alex, the DWP Prison Work Coach, delivered an informative session on flexible support funds and the process of registering as self-employed when reintegrating into the community.

Later, Stephen Wyatt, CEO of Restored Retro, gave a moving talk about his entrepreneurial journey, inspiring the men and giving them hope for the future.

Day 3: Four participants pitched their business ideas in a 'Dragons Den' style session to Steve Penson, Dominic Hegan, and Anthony Wilkinson. For those who preferred a more relaxed approach, 'fireside' chats were had to answer any existing business queries that they had. Monthly mentoring sessions have been generously offered to provide ongoing support before release.



### COMING UP:

- MARATHON A MONTH CHALLENGE ALL OF APRIL
- CFO STARTING AT HMP GUYS MARSH IN APRIL
- RIAZ THE DENTIST 16/4 IN VISITS HALL
- 'DO WHAT REALLY MATTERS' LIVED EXPERIENCE TALK 29/4 IN LIBRARY
- COFFEE MORNING FOR THOSE WITHOUT VISITORS OR POSITIVE CONTACT 28/05

## ATTITUDES, THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR

The team performed exceptionally well in their KLOE audit, achieving predominantly green scores—an outstanding result!

A big congratulations to Chris, who successfully completed his facilitator training and has already delivered his first TSP group. Sophie went the extra mile by leading a 1-1 NMS group, taking on additional responsibilities to support a prisoner in addressing their offending behaviour.

Kofi has been an incredible asset, not only supporting the development of a new colleague but also taking on extra administrative tasks to assist Sophie. Meanwhile, Svetlana has worked diligently to ensure all referrals are up to date ahead of the new programme. We'd also like to extend our congratulations to her on securing a new position within OMU—well done!

Great teamwork all around!



## DRUGS AND ALCHOL

The Drug Strategy Lead has launched First Contact, a new initiative for complex prisoners who aren't engaging with CGL. After referral, the lead will make initial contact, and participants will be supported through a 'buddy system' with daily check-ins and buddies receiving Friday supervision.

HMP Guys Marsh is also working with Finding Rat Park, offering personal insights, recovery tips, and step-by-step guidance for overcoming addiction and homelessness. It aims to bridge the gap between those in recovery and their support networks.

A huge shoutout to CGL for providing the best through-the-gate community care in the South West!



## MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

The gymnasium is excited to launch the 'A Marathon A Month' Challenge in support of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance (DSAA). This challenge is open to both staff and prisoners, with all funds raised going directly to DSAA. For more details, please contact CM Quickfall.

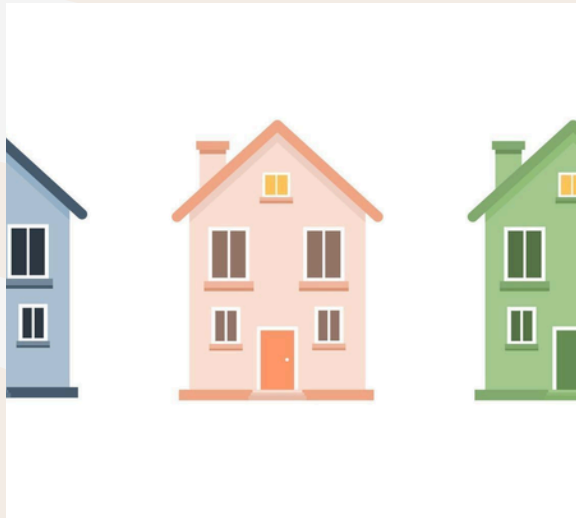
In other news, the gym recently completed a successful Tackling Drugs Through Sport course, with strong participation and completion rates. Additionally, our revised gym programme has improved accessibility, ensuring fair and equal opportunities for all within the prison to engage in fitness activities.



## ACCOMMODATION, FINANCE, BENEFIT AND DEBT

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) supports prisoners during custody and their transition back into the community by:

- Employment Support: Offering advice, training, and job search assistance through Prison Work Coaches.
- Welfare and Benefits: Helping prisoners apply for benefits like Universal Credit.
- Reducing Reoffending: Ensuring timely access to employment and benefits to help former prisoners reintegrate into society.



A Strategic Housing Specialist in a prison helps improve housing outcomes for prisoners upon release by:

- Coordinating Housing Support: Ensuring prisoners have access to suitable accommodation.
- Identifying Improvement Areas: Addressing gaps in housing support and services.
- Partnership Building: Collaborating with probation services and homelessness prevention teams.
- Data and Guidance: Providing informed guidance and improving housing data quality.

This role is crucial in reducing reoffending by ensuring stable housing for former prisoners.

### Emergency Contact

If you have a concern that there is an imminent risk of danger to a person in our care and you wish to speak to a member of staff to raise this concern, then you can call the switchboard:

**01747 856 400**

The member of staff who answers the phone won't be able to talk about the person we're caring for, but they will quickly share your concerns with a senior team member who can help. We try to handle any issues right away during the call and will let you know what happens next.

### Non-Emergency

If you are worried about the safety or well-being of anyone we are caring for at Guys Marsh, and there is no immediate danger, you can leave a voicemail message for the Safer Custody Team at:

**01747 856 452 (Mon-Sun)**

This voicemail service is checked numerous times a day. Alternatively, you can use the Safer Custody mailbox: [SaferCustodyGuysMarsh@justice.gov.uk](mailto:SaferCustodyGuysMarsh@justice.gov.uk) – Monitored Mon-Fri.

### Online Forms –

If you do not want to speak to anyone over the phone, then you can complete a safer custody contact form on the Prisoner's Family Helpline website and someone from the safer custody team will pick this up within 72 hours–

(Go to [HMPGuysMarsh@gov.uk](mailto:HMPGuysMarsh@gov.uk) – Concerns, problems and complaints to find the online form)