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A Fresh Start Together

## TOGETHER A CHANCE:

PILOTING SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AT  
HMP EASTWOOD PARK AND HMP SEND



With thanks to the Sylvia Adams Charitable  
Trust

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**POLL:** HOW MANY PEOPLE  
ARE CURRENTLY IN PRISON  
IN THE UK?

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**POLL:** WHAT PERCENTAGE  
OF THOSE ARE WOMEN?



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**POLL:** HOW MANY CHILDREN  
ARE ESTIMATED TO EXPERIENCE  
THE IMPRISONMENT OF A  
PARENT EACH YEAR?



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## REFLECTION

When you hear that a mother on your caseload is in prison, what are your first thoughts, assumptions and impressions?

*Drop your thoughts into the chat – remember that everyone can see them.*



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## KYRA'S STORY

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## HOW IT STARTED

- Recommendations from Visiting Mum evaluation 2017
- Based on Lord Farmer's Report (2019): Importance of Strengthening Prisoners' Family Ties to Prevent Reoffending and Reduce Intergenerational Crime.
- The project seeks to develop and test a new model of support that directly implements a key recommendation in the Lord Farmer report -that all women's prisons should have an on-site social worker as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

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## AIMS

Together A Chance is a partnership between Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust and Pact piloting a new approach to improve the life chances of some of the most vulnerable children in our society. This three year project will work to create systemic change in the women's estate around the needs of children whose mothers are in custody.



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**POLL:** HOW MANY PEOPLE  
HERE HAVE WORKED WITH  
SOMEONE IN PRISON?



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## WHAT IT IS

The social work role is intended to act as an advocate for women whose children are in or at risk of being taken into local authority care, or have social work involvement, and form part of the team around the child.

1:1 work  
with  
mothers

Parenting  
and  
relationship  
support

Quality  
information

Strategic  
change

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## REFLECTION

What sorts of strategic change do you think are needed, to better support people in prison?

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## A JOURNEY INTO PRISON

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## WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE

Liaising with social services, court and other community services for advice and information

Support relationship building with children's social worker

Facilitating mother's attendance at meetings e.g. CIN, CP (physically or virtually)

Hosting professionals who want to visit

Supporting mother's contact with their children

Reaching out to family members and supporting communication/discussions

Supporting mothers in attending court

Supporting access to legal representation

Attend meetings in community on mother's behalf on a case by case basis

Explaining process and procedures to mothers to promote better understanding

Providing in-cell work books and groups aimed at parenting, relationships with children

Supporting parenting assessments

Providing emotional support to mothers in custody

Providing practical support and much more...



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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

In your role, there are many things you can do to help...



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**POLL:** WHAT DO YOU NEED  
MOST TO EMPOWER YOU WITH  
THE CONFIDENCE TO WORK  
WITH A MOTHER IN PRISON?



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## REFLECTION

What one thing might **you** be able to do, to improve outcomes for families where a loved one is in prison?

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WILLIAM THE BEAR VISITS PRISON



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“I honestly think that the children have hugely benefited from the communication I have had with you and their mum, and also I hope that having established a relationship with mum prior to her release will help her to continue to do well and be able to sustain a positive relationship with the children with my ongoing support.”

*Family social worker in contact with project at HMP Send*

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"THE TENDENCY OF US AS HUMANS IS TO ACT IN WAYS THAT ARE PROMPTED BY A RANGE OF ASSUMPTIONS AND BIASES THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF."

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## How can we tackle unconscious bias?

- Recognise that we all have unconscious biases!
- Self reflection and analysis, both independently and through supervision
- Avoid making rushed or "instinctive" decisions, think about how you can promote objective judgement in your work
- Listen to others, seek feedback and share good practice with your teams

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## REFLECTION

What are the challenges and barriers that you might face when working with someone in prison?

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NOT JUST A PRISONER



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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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## CONTACTING US

Pact's website: [www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk)

Locked Out book: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/locked-out>

For discussion and queries about this project: [joanne.mulcahy@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:joanne.mulcahy@prisonadvice.org.uk)

To find information about prisons and their visiting arrangements:  
<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prison-visitors-guides>



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**POLL:** HOW USEFUL HAVE YOU  
FOUND THIS SESSION?

