

EVERY FAMILY MATTERS:

Offenders' Children and Families in Bolton

A mapping exercise looking at the needs of Bolton offenders' children and families, illustrating areas of good practice, identifying gaps in services provision and outlining recommendations for the future.



Report Author

Partners of Prisoner and Families Support Group (POPS) is a charity that was set up in 1988, by a group of families trying to support a loved one in prison. Their aim was to try to help each other to cope with the stress, isolation and stigma attached to having a family member in Criminal Justice System. Farida Anderson MBE (POPS Chief Executive) was one of the founder members of this group of families. This was the very early and organic beginnings of POPS. The grass root level of development has enabled POPS to have intrinsic experience and understanding in how the Criminal Justice System affects families, offenders and the community. POPS is a pioneer in terms of creative and innovative service provision and is one of a handful of Offenders' Family Support Groups operating in the country. POPS have built an excellent reputation and successful service, which enables us to influence on a local, regional, national and international policy level.

POPS provides services via a continuum of care model that stretches over the Criminal Justice System from the point of arrest to release. This model mirrors the integrated offender management model. We provide Family Support Services via Police, Courts, Prisons, Prison Visitor Centres, Probation Community Sentence Offices and Resettlement Centres.

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ABSTRACT

In 2010 Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres and Bolton Council commissioned Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group to conduct a mapping exercise to establish the location of offenders and their families throughout Bolton and consider the services available to them in the locality. From this starting point the ensuing report explores the issues facing offenders' families and the barriers they confront in accessing services appropriate to their needs.

The scope of the research undertaken includes Sure Start Children's Centres in Bolton as well as contributors from local schools, prison visitor centres and family forums. Cross-referencing the identified areas of need against the services available in Bolton revealed replicable models of good practice and exposed areas where services are currently lacking. Whilst the report commends several excellent examples of good practice currently in place across the borough, it also identifies significant gaps in the services available, and in particular raises concerns around the level of current inter-agency working. The prevailing theme is one of poor communication and a lack of knowledge which in turn generates obstacles to families in accessing the support they need.

The report strongly recommends the need for an improved communication strategy at both a grassroots and regional level and highlights the importance of training staff across both the Criminal Justice System and agencies who have contact with children and families. It is also recommended that timely and accurate information is made available to staff and offender's families and that knowledge and experience is cascaded through existing services. It is surmised that in developing the confidence of current front-line providers, better service promotion will result and consideration can then be given to the creation of tailored services as directed by the families themselves.

Incorporated into the report are targeted resources to assist providers in better supporting children and families of offenders. These include a quick reference directory guiding them to recommended services, developed in accordance with the National Reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan, and a basic guide to the Criminal Justice Service to bring workers up to date with current process.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres and Bolton Council, under the guidance of the Sure Start Children Centre Practice Guidance document, Section 19 'Working with Partners and Families of Prisoners', have been recently considering how they could better meet the needs of offenders' children and families in their area. With this in mind in 2009 they commissioned POPS, an expert in the provision of services to offender's children and families, to deliver a series of training workshops to their Children Centre staff to raise awareness of this group's need. As a result of the training workshops and further exploration into this area it became apparent that more information and a better understanding of offenders' children and families specifically those in Bolton was needed. Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres and Bolton Council wanted to develop a plan of action that could demonstrate it met the needs of its residents, considered local, regional, national policy and research and reflected any good practice or learning that had taken place before.

In light of this in 2010 Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres and Bolton Council commissioned POPS to conduct a mapping exercise that delved into the following questions: -

- Which North West prisons were Bolton residents visiting?
- What issues were Bolton offenders' children and families facing?
- What services were available to Bolton offenders' children and families?
- What, if any, were the difficulties for Bolton Offenders' families in accessing these services?
- Where were the gaps in service provision for Bolton offenders' children and families?

The aim of the mapping exercise was to use the resultant findings to develop a series of recommendations that Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres and Bolton Council would use to underpin and provide evidence for the action plan they were hoping to develop.

METHODOLOGY

POPS has conducted similar mapping exercises for both Salford Council and Oldham Council in 2008. Using our experience and lessons learnt from these two previous projects we conducted the following exercises: -

- A literature review of relevant research, policy documents and government papers that evidence the need and value of working with offenders' children and families.
- Worked with the North West Director of Offender Management Office to obtain information about where Bolton residents were being held across the North West Prison estate.
- Devised a series of questionnaires that were distributed to Bolton families visiting prison (HMPYOI Forest Bank, HMYOI Lancaster Farms, HMYOI Hindley and HMP Styal) and Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres, Bolton Primary School Head Teachers and Bolton Sure Start Children's Centre Workers.
- Conducted a series of telephone and face-to-face interviews with offenders' families and professionals that offered the chance to discuss need, offer opinions and voice concerns.
- Held a series of consultation events that gave Bolton families of offenders the chance to discuss their needs, offer their opinions and voice their concerns.
- Mapped out a directory of useful services in Bolton to act as a resource for agencies to use when supporting children and families.



WHY SHOULD YOU BE WORKING WITH OFFENDERS' CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

It is widely acknowledged that families can play an integral part in reducing the risk of re-offending. However, children and families of offenders often need as much help and support for their own needs as the offenders. They may be experiencing a variety of problems making them vulnerable and at risk of harm. The Sure Start Children Centre Practice Guidance (2006) similarly echoes this sentiment by outlining the importance of working with partners and families of prisoners (see section 19). It is currently estimated that 160,000 children have a parent in prison and 7% of children see a parent imprisoned within their school years. The Children of Offenders Review (2007) indicates that as well as the recognized consequences of imprisonment, such as break up of the family unit and increased likelihood of financial instability, children and families of offenders are likely to experience social exclusion too.

Specifically, the Children of Offenders Review (2007) states that;

- children of offenders are three times more at risk of mental health problems.
- parental imprisonment can lead to stigma, bullying and teasing.
- children with a parent in prison often experience higher levels of social disadvantage and therefore will be significantly less likely to contribute to society as they are three times more at risk of anti social or criminal behaviour than their peers.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

The government has recognized that all children have the right to a good foundation in life; to be happy, healthy and succeed to their full potential. However, a child does not exist in a vacuum and so it is important that parents support needs are addressed as these can significantly impact their children. The Every Child Matters Agenda states that all children should be supported to;

Prisoners' children are the innocent hidden victims of crime, and are far more vulnerable than other children to becoming involved in crime in later life.

*PACT
2003*

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well being

Contact with the criminal justice system provides an ideal opportunity to alert the attention of support services to the needs of the family, as the experience from arrest to release on a child is often very negative. The Think Family (2007) report states that identification of children and family members of offenders, through their association with the criminal justice system, could enable a tailored whole family approach to be developed through joined up partnership working.

SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE

Children with a parent serving a prison or community sentence have an increased likelihood of growing up in social disadvantage. The Children of Offenders Review (2007) suggests that children and young people who have a parent in the criminal justice system often experience high levels of deprivation prior to a parent being taken into custody. The Cycles of Punishment (2007) report explains that offenders can be from a low income family, have previous convictions and may have experienced abuse and neglect during their own childhood. Consequently, when a parent goes to prison it can add to a series of social difficulties that already exist. This can also be the case when a parent is serving their sentence in the community.

The Families Do Matter (2007) report states that children who experience social deprivation are more likely to:

- achieve fewer qualifications, get suspended or excluded.
- experiment with alcohol or drugs
- have low confidence or self belief
- be involved in anti social behaviour or crime
- have mental health concerns and emotional issues

Only 5% of children stay in their own homes once their mother has been imprisoned due to a third of imprisoned mothers being lone parents.

*Children of Offenders Review
2007*

The Think Family (2007) report goes a step further indicating that children can often be trapped in generational cycles of disadvantage contributed to largely by having a parent in custody or on community order. It is also understood that children and young people often imitate their parent's behaviour, which can intensify problems. The Cycles of Punishment (2007) Report supports this by demonstrating that children may adopt offending patterns. A recent study by Murray and Farrington (2005) outlined in the report found that 48% of boys separated from their fathers due to imprisonment between the ages 1-8 years old went on to be convicted as an adult. These patterns of behaviour passed from one generation to the next are a further form of disadvantage.

**2% of families
experience five or
more risk factors,
this represents
140,000 families.**

*Reaching Out:
Think Family
2007*

Children of offenders often experience an increased level of stress linked to changes in their routine. The remaining parent may have to take on additional employment which could lead to less time spent with the child, in addition to the pressure caused by a partner's imprisonment or community sentence. In cases of maternal imprisonment, accommodation is more likely to be disrupted and children possibly taken into care. Children living in the care system can suffer from emotional and behaviour difficulties due to frustration at their circumstances. The Cycles of Punishment (2007) report states that children as young as 8 years old can be affected by discrimination. Problems within the home or school that may not be fully understood can lead to negative consequences such as exclusion as a result of bad behaviour in the classroom.

However, positive relationships between children and their parent or carers can be protective against negative consequences. Reaching Out: Think Family (2007) report indicates that a strong bond between the parent and child can often help promote good social and emotional skills. Parental interest in education can often lead to good cognitive abilities and high levels of achievement.

The population of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) offenders in the criminal justice system is disproportional to that in the general population at 26-29% to 9%. With this in mind the number of BME families affected by the criminal justice system will similarly be disproportionate to that within the general population.

Yet the number of specific services tailored to meet this groups needs does not reflect this. The SCIE Knowledge Review 17 (2007) stated that it is commonly accepted that members of the BME community are often less likely to access mainstream services and are often classed as 'hard to reach'.

POVERTY AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY

Imprisonment can have a negative financial impact on families, leaving family members vulnerable to instability, poverty and housing disruption. This can be attributed to the remaining parent leaving their job to look after the children or due to the imprisoned parent being the main earner and the resulting loss of income. The care of the children may be taken up by a kin carer (i.e. grandparent or aunt/uncle) or private fosterer which can lead to knock on effects such as risk to accommodation. The Cycles of Punishment (2007) report states that the cost of visiting offenders, in addition to sending clothes and other items to the prison, can build further costs for the family. However, in some cases, both parents are unemployed prior to imprisonment, which can lead to families who currently live in poverty and debt, experiencing further levels of deprivation during imprisonment. 72% of prisoners were found to be in receipt of benefits prior to coming into prison. The Reaching Out: Think Family (2007) report found that 22% of children live in households on low incomes and 13% experience existent poverty. This can lead to poor health and financial exclusion.

Imprisonment provides an opportunity to identify children at risk and offer support to mitigate negative effects of imprisonment on family circumstances.

POPS 2008

The Children of Offenders Review (2007) suggests that children and families experiencing financial poverty are also likely to experience other difficulties such as;

- reduced levels of educational attainment
- reduced levels of economic achievement
- increased likelihood of developing a physical illness or disability

Families involved in the criminal justice system can often incur significant levels of debt, especially as a result of imprisonment. This can relate to the cost of visiting a prison particularly if a family has to travel great distances. Research by the Prison Reform Trust reveals that in 2004 over 9,000 prisoners were held over 100 miles away from the town

where their court case took place, with male prisoners held an average of 51 miles away, and female prisoners 62 miles away. In addition to the direct costs incurred, families may often struggle to provide the offender with additional clothing and other requested items. This can put pressure on families to go without basic provisions themselves or to turn to loans in order to cover costs and by doing so acquire more debt.

Some families may not be aware of available support services. For example, some families are able to apply for benefits to cover the travel and subsistence costs incurred when prison visiting through the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme.

51% of families in the UK are accepted as homeless. Bad housing and overcrowding are linked to mental health problems.

*Reaching Out: Think Family
2007*

Whilst financial difficulties within the home can be a significant source of stress for families the consequences for family members can extend beyond monetary concerns to include physical, emotional or psychological issues. The Reaching Out: Think Family (2007) report states that parents who experience difficulties in one area of their lifestyle are significantly more likely to also experience other difficulties. For example, there is a strong link between a parent's income and the child's earnings as an adult. It is understood that strong family links can have a hugely positive impact upon childhood poverty.

MAINTAINING FAMILY CONTACT

The Home Office has identified that the maintenance of family contact whilst an offender is in custody is crucial to reducing the risk of re-offending. The Think Family (2008) report reveals that prisoners who receive family visits are 18% less likely to re-offend. Children and families also benefit from keeping in contact with the offender during their sentence. This is in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that children who have been separated from their parents have the right to maintain personal contact, unless this is contrary to their best interests (Article 9:3). Despite this the Home Office Reducing Re-offending National Action Plan (2004) has acknowledged that as many as 43% of children with an imprisoned parent do not keep in touch throughout a custodial sentence.

Some parents find it easier to tell their children the absent parent has got a job elsewhere and is living away from the family. It is widely recommended that parents and carers be honest with children as they may find out the truth from others or suffer distress when the offender is not around for birthdays or other important events. Parents who have support find it easier to tell their child the truth as well as benefiting from assistance to cope with other difficulties linked to their involvement with the criminal justice system.

Prisoners are up to 6 times less likely to re-offend if they maintain strong family ties whilst in prison. To do this and be able to rebuild their lives after imprisonment they and their families need support.

*Nationwide Foundation
2007*

Of particular note is the finding that parents who tell the children about the imprisonment of a relative are more inclined to visit and maintain links with the offender (Families do Matter (2007) report).

The Risk, Protection and Resilience Review (2008), found that maintaining contact between fathers and children was sustained by the positive attitude of the mother. By contrast the maintenance of contact between a female offender and her children was largely dependant on the relationship between the mother and current carer of the children. Only one quarter of children of women prisoners live with their biological or current fathers during imprisonment of the mother indicating that the 'carer' role must fall to other family members or friends.

By supporting families to keep in contact during a custodial or community sentence and by helping to establish a more secure environment for children, further negative consequences associated with having a relative in the criminal justice system can be prevented. This is a crucial issue as 66% of women prisoners and 59% of men in prison have dependent children under the age of 18. There are, as a consequence, a significant number of children potentially negatively affected by association with prison or community sentencing options, who could benefit from contact and support.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Every Child Matters agenda (2003) states that every child has the right to be healthy. However, the Children of Offenders Review (2007) reveals that children of offending parents are three times more likely to suffer mental health problems compared to children with non offending parents. This can be as a consequence of a stressful arrest or due to pressure on the family resulting from one of the parents being absent. Some children experience stigma, bullying and teasing through school, friends or the wider community following a parent being charged with an offence. Family members may also experience depression or anxiety.

Remaining parents or caregivers often also experience the stress associated with the imprisonment of a loved one. Many families experience fear of being stigmatized by disclosing they have a relative in the criminal justice system. This can manifest itself in a child lying or keeping their parent's whereabouts a secret. As a consequence, families may not access appropriate support from schools, children's centres or external agencies. If support agencies are not aware of the identity of families supporting an offender, it is more likely to perpetuate the existing situation in which limited information is collated regarding the children affected, where they live and which or if any services they are accessing.

The reaction of a child to a parent being taken into custody or receiving a community order can vary and will depend on a number of factors;

In 2006, more children were affected by the imprisonment of a parent than by a divorce in the family.

*Families Do Matter
Ministry of Justice
2009*

- age of the child at the time of parent's arrest.
- reaction of the existing parent
- change or upheaval to lifestyle
- nature of the offence
- length of sentence
- distance of prison from home
- poverty resulting from imprisonment
- witnessing of arrest

Young children may be confused and find it difficult to understand changes in their home life. This can lead to the child or young person experiencing feelings of blame or guilt, arising from the belief that the absence of their parent is somehow their fault. The Cycles of Punishment (2007) report explores the impact of parental imprisonment on a child's future relationships with particular reference to the fear of abandonment that may manifest during their childhood as a direct result. It has also been documented in the Community Care (2009) report that children are known to plead with the remaining parent, promising to behave better if the offending parent could be allowed back to the family home. Babies may be too young to understand the circumstances but may feel affected by the stress within the home, which can have an effect on their health.

The Reaching Out: Think Family (2007) states that parental health concerns can negatively impact a child's emotional and social skills. 35% of offender's children are reported to experience mental health difficulties compared to children of non offenders. This is of great concern as nearly half a million parents in the United Kingdom experience mental health problems.

The Families Do Matter (2007) report clearly underlines that children and families of offenders can have complex needs and would benefit from agencies working in partnership to offer a comprehensive service to identify and address the issues they face.



EMERGING THEMES

This section outlines the key trends that have emerged from our various avenues of research.

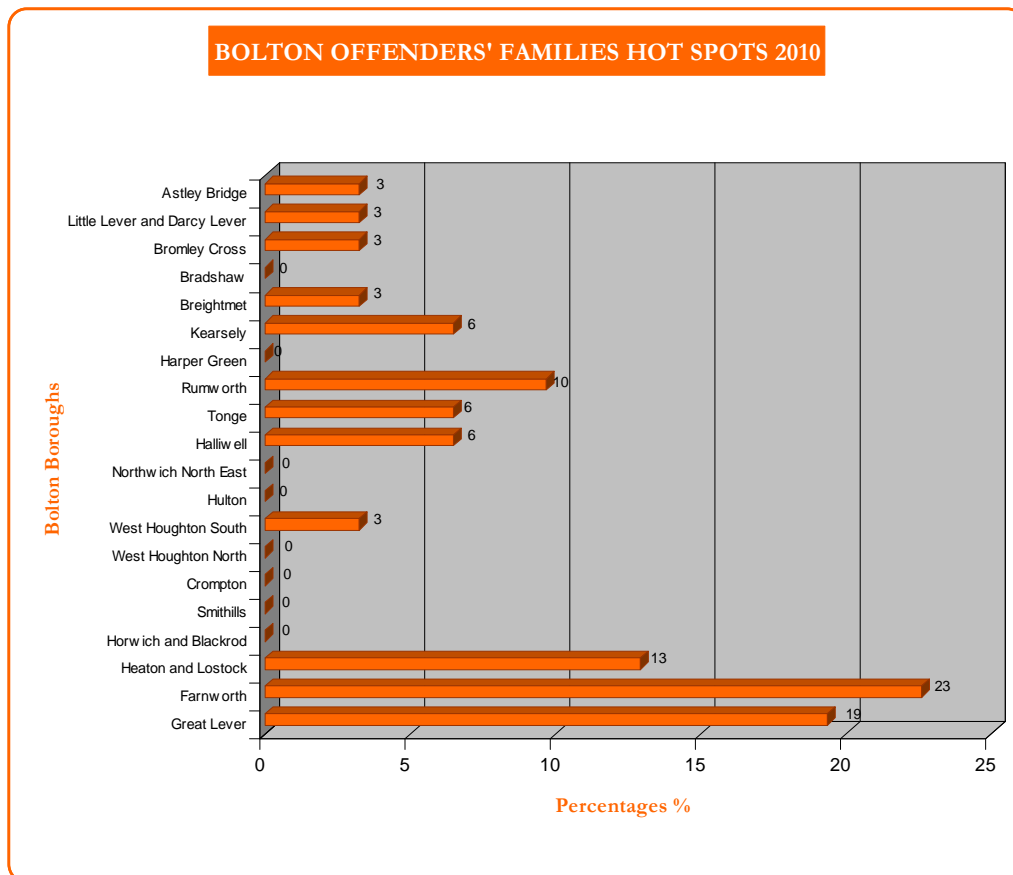
WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF BOLTON OFFENDER' CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

- Most families were dealing with a high level of guilt and processing feelings of loss similar to that of bereavement. In many cases this manifested into both physical and mental health issues such as head aches, back problems, nervousness and anxiousness feelings linked to stress.
- Most families did not know of any offender family support groups in the Bolton area, apart from those attached to the prisons they visited.
- Childcare concerns were the most noted responses.
- 75% of families stated that they did not currently access any child and family services for fear of 'social services' involvement.
- Families highlighted that finance and debt issues were a problem, with regards to the pressure of having to send it Postal Orders and property into prison and/or dealing with a lack of income relating to that of the offender. Many families were not aware of Assisted Prison Visits Scheme and therefore not claiming appropriate travel benefits.
- Many families were concerned with the drug and alcohol issues of the offender. There was a distinct lack of understanding about what services were available to the offender and therefore feelings of confusion and worry were a major result.
- Many families expressed a lack of knowledge and understanding about the criminal justice system.

- Housing and accommodation was an issue for some families as instability with the removal of the offender may have caused problems with tenancy agreements, ability to pay mortgage etc.
- Most families expressed feelings of isolation with regards to social networks that understood what they were going through. Families spoke about wanting to meet with other families to share their experiences and get peer support.

WHERE ARE OFFENDER' CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN BOLTON?

Figure 1 highlights hot spots where offenders' families that engaged with this project reside in Bolton. This information is based upon the questionnaires received from offenders' families visiting Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres, HMPYOI Forest Bank, HMP Styal, HMYOI Hindley and HMYOI Lancaster Farms.



WHERE ARE BOLTON OFFENDERS IN THE NORTH WEST?

From the information in *Figure 2* it is evident that the vast majority of adult male Bolton offenders in the North West are situated in HMPYOI Forest Bank (29%), HMP Risley (17%) and HMP Wymott (9%). This can be explained by the migration routes of offenders at the point of sentence from Bolton Courts. From the court offenders are moved to a local prison or are held on remand at HMPYOI Forest Bank, progressing in time to a category B prison such as HMP Risley, moving through the system to a lower security category C prison such as HMP Wymott. From HMP Wymott an offender will most likely move on to HMP Kirkham, which is a low security, open prison from which they will eventually be released.

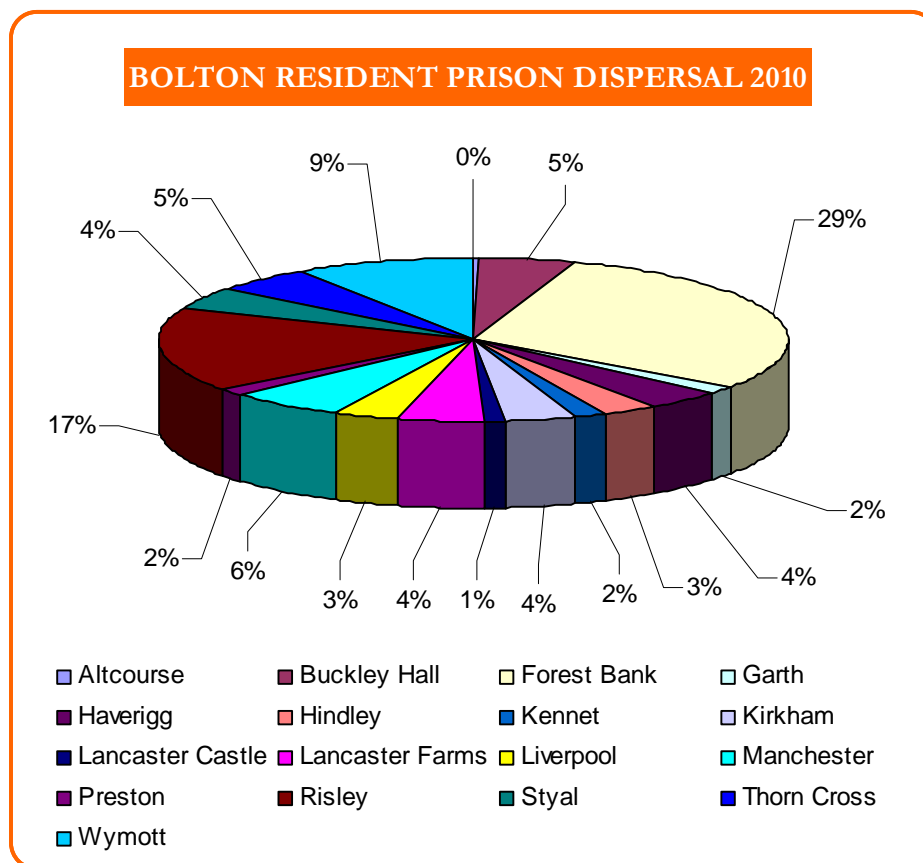


Fig. 2: Release of Offenders Report (2009)

4% of Bolton offenders in the North West are female, housed in HMP Styal; 3% of Bolton offenders in the North West are juveniles males aged between 15 – 17 years old, housed in HMYOI Hindley; and 9% of Bolton offenders in the North West are young offenders males aged between 18 – 21, housed in HMYOI Lancaster Farms and HMYOI Thorn Cross.

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF BOLTON SURE START CHILDREN'S CENTRES?

All Bolton Children's Sure Start Centres were contacted via questionnaire and a sample was interviewed. The resulting emerging themes have been detailed below: -

- All Bolton Children's Sure Start Centres primarily identify children and families of offenders through self disclosure by existing parents, grandparents, current carers or referrals from another agencies.
- All Bolton Children's Sure Start workers are very aware of the services that the centres provide for family members, as well as acknowledging which social groups the service caters for. However there is no dedicated level of support or service aimed at children and families of offenders.
- 50% of staff in Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres are unaware of services for offenders' families in the local area and are therefore limited in how they can support these families. However one of the Bolton Sure Start Children's Centre Coordinators attended a recent POPS training session on the effects of imprisonment on a child. Therefore some of the Bolton Centres have knowledge of offenders' families services in the region and information on where to signpost families of offenders, but this is not Bolton wide or Bolton specific at present.
- 50% of respondents indicated that there is currently a general lack of information and knowledge about relevant services, or the existence of a services database to be used to assist agencies to support families of offenders and make referrals.
- All of Bolton Sure Start Children's Centre workers were keen to express that offenders' families do not tend to make self-referrals to agencies which can often lead to families being falsely identified as single parent families. Bolton Sure Start Children's Centre workers were also concerned that offenders' families may not be accessing any services appropriately and may be missing out on necessary levels of support and advice. Bolton Sure Start Children's Centre workers observed that there needed to be improvements in the methods used to identify families of offenders.

- 100% Bolton Sure Start Children's Centre workers believed that children and families of offenders were not getting the practical help and advice they may need when they were back at home in their community. Addressing issues such as maintaining parental contact via prison visits or writing letters could be supported by Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres but it was felt that a lack of knowledge and confidence around the subject matter could be an issue for many front line staff leading to a lack of identification and consequent offers of service.

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF BOLTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS?

All Bolton Primary Schools were contacted via questionnaire and a sample was interviewed. The resulting emerging themes have been detailed below: -

- When identifying children of offenders 55% of schools relied upon the children's family making this clear to the Head Teacher. This was often through a parent or grandparent of the child. 25% of schools indicated that if a child were on a vulnerable or Special Educational Needs (SEN) list then the school might discover if the child had a relative in prison via this route.
- 74% of schools suggested that they had no specific support services in place for children of offenders. Some schools stated that school mentors and/or pastoral care was available if a pupil required additional support, but that these services were mainly linked to safeguarding practices for very vulnerable children.
- Some schools suggested that the route to accessing support would be through the Head Teacher or class teachers.
- 62% of schools were keen to share what services were available to support their own staff. These were documented as links with Social Services, Bolton Parent Partnership, Child Action Meetings and SENCO.
- All schools admitted that they were unaware of any database or directory currently in operation for schools to access support or advice.

- 18% of schools were keen to share what gaps they perceived in services currently available. These included: -
 - a lack of contact with relevant partnership agencies
 - a lack of information sharing protocols
 - a lack of good practice shared amongst other agencies and or schools.
- No schools indicated awareness or knowledge on how an offenders' family could access external support services.
- The majority of schools indicated that they would be unable to offer support to families in completing Assisted Prison Visit Scheme application forms or booking a prison visit.
- 62% schools stated that they didn't have any children of offenders in their school or that families had not disclosed this information to the school.
- 44% of schools declared that they had never been asked to assist in supporting contact between a child or family and an offender.

CONCLUSIONS

During the course of this mapping exercise a number of conclusions have been drawn from the research undertaken as summarised below: -

1. **Awareness and understanding.** There is a distinct lack of awareness and understanding with regards the needs of offenders' children and families. Agencies and their staff seem to have a fear about broaching the subject with families they suspect may be supporting an offender, which in turn creates distance between the practitioner and the service user. Many seem to feel that offenders' children and families are simply too hard to reach and will not engage with any agency, but evidence shows that this is not the case.
2. **Multi-agency approach.** Both the Department for Children, Families and Schools and Criminal Justice System agencies have a responsibility to work with and provide services for offenders' children and families. At the current time it appears that agencies are not looking to each other to tackle this. The lack of a strategic and joined up approach results in duplication, competition and the emergence of gaps in essential services.
3. **Needs assessments.** At the moment when a person with children is arrested or imprisoned, and consequently separated from their family, there is no automatic needs assessment of the children affected unless they are taken into care. The only person asked about their needs is the offender. The offender will be questioned about their family relationships or children on their initial induction assessment at a prison but if they choose not to answer (for fear of a negative ramifications i.e. children being taken into care) or give false information then the child/family is not further considered or given the opportunity to have their say.
4. **Prison Visitor Centres.** Most prisons in the North West have a Visitor Centre which provides, in basic terms, a place for visitors to go to before and after a visit, to shelter from the elements and perhaps use the toilet facilities. Many now provide a host of other services from play and refreshment facilities to in depth family support. More and more Visitor Centre providers are looking to expand

the services they offer by encouraging other agencies to provide drop in clinics or share resources.

5. **Preparing and dealing with release.** There is currently little or no support to help children and families cope with the release/return of an offender home.



RECOMMENDATIONS

From the comments and results of our mapping exercise we have developed a series of recommendations which could be used in the development of future action in Bolton.

1. **Get around the same table!** The development of an information sharing and communication protocol between agencies providing services to Bolton residents is vital. This could involve the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCFS), Local Authority (L.A.) schools, children's centres, social services, GPs, nurses and third sector organisations forming links with Criminal Justice agencies such as police, probation and prison services. A 'Think Offenders' Children and Families' multi-disciplinary group could be set up to meet on a quarterly basis. This group would learn more about each other, develop working relationships and work together to design a Bolton approach to improving outcomes for offenders' children and families and reducing re-offending. This group will also ensure that work is not duplicated and that gaps in services are addressed.
2. **Fulfill the thirst for knowledge.** A central directory could be developed to hold information about services able to support offenders' children and families in Bolton and the North West. During the mapping exercise a useful existing directory was identified (www.help4me.info). It currently does not hold any information on services for children and families of offenders and so a quick reference directory (see appendix) was drawn together to illustrate the type of agencies that are currently providing services to Bolton residents that have a connection with the criminal justice system.
3. **Identify and intervene earlier.** An arrest referral protocol could be developed, by agencies working with children and families in Bolton. For example the protocol could direct that relevant agencies, who are signed up to an agreed information sharing protocol, could be informed when either, a child witnesses an arrest at home, or when a family member is removed from the home due to an arrest. This could then automatically instigate an early assessment of the child's/family's needs via the use of a tool such as the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).

4. **Educate and empower your workforce.** There is a need for staff in both the Department for Children, Families and Schools (via Local Authorities agencies) and amongst Criminal Justice System agencies to develop their understanding of the impact that the Criminal Justice System can have on a child and on the family unit. Staff also need to be aware of the support that is available on a local, regional and national level. It is evident that many staff are not confident in encouraging families to disclose if a child has a family member in prison, for fear of not knowing how to support them or offering incorrect advice. Training is available from a number of different third sector providers to raise awareness, explore scenarios and develop critical thinking skills around this subject matter.

5. **Hands on information.** An information pack for Bolton Sure Start Children Centre Staff could be developed. This information pack could provide information in the form of good practice guide, DVDs and other useful resources on:
 - Working with offenders' children
 - Providing support to parents and cares of offenders' children

6. **Develop Offenders' Children and Families champions.** Each agency should consider appointing a champion who could become an expert in understanding the needs of offenders' children and families and also research and promote awareness of the services available to support them. These champions could promote new ways of working, ensure that accurate information is circulated to others and motivate and support others to be more confident in engaging with this group. Champions could meet on a quarterly basis to share knowledge, good practice and identify training opportunities. The information shared could then be developed into a feedback report for the 'Think Offenders' Children and Families' multi-disciplinary group.

7. **Develop a robust referral process with North West prison Visitor Centres.** Bolton Sure Start Children Centres could look to collectively band together and approach the North West Prison Service to set up a referral process between all North West Visitor Centres and all Bolton Sure Start Children Centres. This could reduce the risk of any silo work being conducted, areas or

work being duplicated, or missed out. If this was to take place be mindful of other agencies already working in North West Prison for example most Visitor Centres in the North West are managed by 3rd sector agencies that have public sector contracts with HM Prison Service. Allying forces with other partners, such as these, will enable true partnership working to develop, may reduce costs and will certainly make for a better quality referral process. The best avenue for developing a process such as this would be via the Regional Offender Management Service Children and Families Pathway.

8. **Are you promoting what you know?** Once you are confident in your knowledge and ability to meet the needs of offenders' children and families the next area to consider is how you are going to promote this? Consider the best ways of making it clear to children and families of offenders' that you are able to help and that you can empathise with what they are dealing with. For example create a display notice board in your Sure Start Children's Centre/prison visitor centre/ school communal area/GP waiting room. Consider delivering a lesson about the impact of imprisonment of children and families. Display information leaflets about visiting prison with other information you provide. Begin to educate others.

9. **Design a specific service with and for offenders' children and families.** Once you have begun engaging with offenders' children and families ask them what they want, need or wish for in a service. Think about the commonly asked questions or problems that they present with. Consider how your service could be adapted to meet that need. For example could your Bolton Sure Start Children's Centre offer child care services to families that want to visit prison without their child? Could your school mentors do some one to one work with a child after they have had a prison visit, so that they could be encouraged to work through their feelings and emotions about the experience? Or can you set up an Offenders' Family Peer Support Group in Bolton?

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APPENDIX

CASE STUDIES: GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Ormiston Children and Families Trust, Play Therapists

Ormiston Children and Families Trust work to promote the wellbeing of children and young people through projects based around the east of the UK. As well as running Children's Centres they work in ten of the region's prisons and young offender's institutions. Prison Link Workers employed by the trust provide support and guidance for families affected by the imprisonment of a loved one. This can include opportunities to talk confidentially about the issues affecting the family and provision of accessible information to help children understand about visiting prisons.

A highlight of the work with offender's families is the one to one support offered to children and young people by play therapists. Working out of local schools and children's centres, play therapists help children affected by the arrest or imprisonment of a parent, to work through what they have seen and experienced. Amongst a general selection of toys the play therapist has certain targeted items, including a replica police station. These items allow the child to act out the experiences they have faced in a safe and secure environment. Acting out the scenarios in play can enable children to learn how to express their emotions and regain a sense of security as they take back control of circumstances that were originally beyond their control. This can then have a positive impact on their behaviour at home and at school, as well as improving their mental health and increasing their resilience to stressful situations.

Claredon Primary School, Bolton

Claredon Primary School has recently undertaken a restructure to incorporate modern issues into the existing curriculum. The school recognised that due to changes in the needs of modern families the curriculum and how it was taught needed to be adapted. Claredon Primary has adopted a pupil needs-led approach to develop these changes and customize the way information is communicated. This can be illustrated in the development of the annual activity of making father's or mother's day cards and Christmas cards. Instead of asking the children to give them to a parent at home, the teacher offers to post them to the parent as many children do not live with one or both of their parents. Claredon Primary School realised that those children and young people with parents living away from the family, or in prison, may not see that parent for a significant period of time and a card is a good way to keep the family in contact. The teacher posts the card but asks for the address to be written down rather than called out, to avoid drawing attention to the fact that a parent may live elsewhere. This is an ideal way to protect children of offenders from stigma or embarrassment. This is also a very subtle way for the school to offer a good level of support to families even when the school may not be aware that a child has a relative in prison. In addition to this, Claredon Primary have an active playground buddy scheme in which older pupils offer assistance to younger children who may need support but do not feel they can speak to an adult.

Oxford Grove Sure Start Children's Centre, Bolton

Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres provide direct services to all families across a range of support needs. The aim of the Centres is to provide integrated education, care, family support and health services under one roof. Bolton Sure Start Children's Centres are aware that families of offenders may be attending the Centres but may not identify themselves as supporting someone in prison for various reasons. The Centres are keen to offer an increased level of support to these families and have developed good partnership links with POPS to achieve this. For example, the Oxford Grove Children's Centre Team Leader recently attended a training session delivered by POPS which outlined the reasons why offenders' families may need additional support and how best front line staff can provide this level of service. Consequently the staff at Oxford Grove Children's Centre have developed a wall display from the information provided to deliver information directly to families who need the services and who want extra information. This is a fantastic way to raise awareness within the community of the needs of offender's families and a discreet way to provide vital information to the families most in need.

Think Offenders' Families, Merseyside

A forum has been set up in Liverpool to service the Merseyside region. This forum is based on the 'Think Family' philosophy and has been set up to allow various agencies to work together to develop a shared vision, direction and support plan for children and families of offenders in Merseyside. The agencies that are represented in this forum are Sure Start Children's Centres, Prisons, Probation Services, Youth Offending Services, Education, Health agencies and Third Sector agencies such as POPS, PSS and Barnardo's. The forum is in its infancy and at present developing its membership and terms of reference. But it will be one to watch in terms of innovative ways of developing partnership approaches to service provision for offenders' children and families in the future.

POPS Family Information Network (FIN), North West

POPS' Family Information Network (FIN) is a project that has been recently developed to ensure offenders' families are given the opportunity to:-

- Gain access to peer support meetings so families can support one another.
- Get involved in having their voice heard via Research Consultations, Feedback forums, Awareness Raising films, conference presentations and much more.
- Gaining access to training i.e. stress relief, creative writing and presentation skills.
- Volunteering and get involved in new opportunities.
- Steer the direction of POPS and our future development.
- Fundraise.

POPS have developed a registration questionnaire which families can complete if interested or agencies can request if they would like to refer a family to the network.

APPENDIX

QUICK REFERENCE DIRECTORY: USEFUL AGENCIES

ACCOMMODATION

Salvation Army Housing Association

Charitable national registered social landlord providing supported accommodation, education and employment opportunities for homeless individuals and their families.

Customer Service Centre
33-35 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4QR

Tel: 0800 970 6363
Email: General.EnquiriesCSC@saha.org.uk
Web: www.saha.org.uk

Befriending Refugees and Asylum Seekers (BRASS)

Support for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Refused Asylum Seekers living in Bolton.

Wesley Suite, Victoria Hall
37-39 Knowsley Street
Bolton, Lancashire
BL1 2AS

Tel: 01204 397152
Email: admin@brass-bolton.org
Web: www.brass-bolton.org

Sarah Lodge

Temporary accommodation for single women, pregnant women and women with children in need of accommodation in Bolton.

70 Pole Street,
Tonge Moor,
Bolton.
BL2 2DY

Tel: 0800 652 5404

CCRS Bolton Supporting People project

Accommodation service for young women and their children based in Manchester, Blackburn and Bolton. Designed for those who are often alienated from their own families or have experienced violence, disruption or loss.

Catholic Children's Rescue Society
390 Parris Wood Road
Didsbury
Manchester
M20 5NA

Tel: 0161 445 7741
Email: info@ccrsorg.co.uk
Web: www.ccrsorg.co.uk

Bolton Young Persons' Housing Scheme

Provides temporary supported accommodation to people aged 16 - 25 who are homeless and/or in education in Bolton.

146 Blackburn Road
Bolton, Lancashire
BL1 8DR

Tel: 01204 373979
Freephone: 0800 731 9150
Web: www.byphs.org.uk

English Churches Housing Group

Providing 12 self-contained flats to prepare individuals for independent living.

66-68 Chorley New Road
Heaton
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 4BY

Tel: 01204 386010

ATTITUDES, THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR

Bully Free Zone

Aims to raise awareness of alternative ways of resolving conflict and reduce bullying.

Chorley New Road,
Bolton
BL1 4AP

Tel: 01204 454 958

Web: www.bullyfreezone.co.uk

Triple P - Positive Parenting Programme

An eight week programme designed to help parents in Bolton address difficult behaviour in their children and provide guidance on parenting skills.

Positive Contributions
3rd Floor, Paderborn House
Le Mans Crescent
Bolton, BL1 1UA

Tel: 01204 337178 / 01204 337260

Web: www.connexions-bolton.com
www.triplep.net

Parent Line Plus

Provides help and support to anyone caring for children i.e. parents, grandparents, step-parents, relatives. For families living together as well as apart.

Tel: 0808 8002222

Web: www.parentlineplus.org.uk

Bolton Solidarity Community Association

The aim of the BSCA is to develop a centre of information and services to assist newly emerging BME communities integrate within wider society. They also campaign for equal rights and opportunities on their behalf.

Back 192 Deane Road,
Bolton, Lancashire BL3 5DP

Tel: 01204 399239

Web: www.boltonsca.org

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Action for Children

A children's charity that supports and speaks out on behalf of the UK's most vulnerable and neglected children and young people.

Trinity House
Brightmet Street
Bolton
BL2 1BR

Tel: 01204 362002

Web: www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Bolton Behaviour Support Service

Provides support for children, young people and their families experiencing social and emotional difficulties.

Bolton Council Children's Services
Endeavour House
98 Waters Meeting Rd
Bolton
BL1 8SW

Tel: 01204 338133

Web: www.boltonlea.org.uk

Bolton Literacy Trust

Offers an opportunity for people to participate in literacy, numeracy and ICT activities.

Great Lever Learning Centre
Block H, ESSA Academy
Lever Edge Lane
Bolton
BL3 3HH

Tel: 01204 332 760

Web: www.boltonliteracytrust.org.uk

Bolton Medi8 Services

Conflict resolution for young people in years 7/8/9 experiencing difficulties in school.

Bolton Mediation Service
2-16 Mayor Street
Bolton, BL3 5HT

Tel: 01204 335 258

Web: 01204 335258

CAFCAS

Looks after the interests of children during family legal proceedings and advises the court on the best possible course of action.

3 Great Moor Street
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 1NS

Tel: 01204 370831 / 01204 548200

Web: www.cafcass.gov.uk

Cheshire Contact Group

Provides support for families with relatives in prison, offering practical and emotional help, plus support for families at court as well as advice on housing and finance matters.

Ascot Court
71 - 73 Middlewich Road
NORTHWICH
CW9 7BP

Tel: 01606 47107

Web: www.contactcsg.org

Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service

Asylum seekers often encounter homelessness and face difficulty in obtaining accommodation. The Home Office now provides support through the National Asylum Support Service (NASS).

Homes for Bolton
2-16 Mayor Street
Bolton
BL3 5HT

Tel: 01204 335218

Web: www.homesforbolton.org.uk

Bolton YMCA

Offers weekend and after school activities for 5-13 year olds. Sessions focusing on healthy living, arts and sports.

125 Deansgate
Bolton
BL1 1HA

Tel: 01204 522 855

Web: www.boltonymca.co.uk

Children's Opportunity Group

A charity to support children under five with disabilities or special needs. Supports and encourages families to meet and share similar experiences.

Lowndes St
Bolton
BL1 4QB

Tel: 01204 491 055

Web: www.boltoncog.co.uk

Bolton Families Information Service

Provides information on childcare and toddler groups, as well as financial help towards the cost of childcare and local/national services including holiday activities. For children and young people aged 0-19, their parents, grandparents and carers.

Central Library
Le Mans Crescent
Bolton, BL1 1SE

Tel: 01204 386030

Web: www.childcarefinder.direct.gov.uk

PACT

A charity which supports people affected by imprisonment. Offering practical and emotional support for children and families of offenders in addition to support for prisoner's themselves.

PACT central office
Park Place
12 Lawn Lane
Vauxhall
London
SW8 1UD

Tel: 020 7735 9535
Fax: 02077353989
E-mail: info@prisonadvice.org.uk
Web: www.contactcsg.org

POPS

POPS provides a variety of services supporting anyone who has a link with someone in prison, prisoners and other agencies. POPS provides assistance to these groups for the purpose of enabling families to cope with the stress of arrest, imprisonment and release.

Valentine House
1079 Rochdale Road
Blackley
Manchester
M9 8AJ

Tel: 0161 702 1000
Fax: 0161 702 1000
E-mail: mail@partnersofprisoners.org.uk
Web: www.partnersofprisoners.org.uk

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Phoenix Futures

A support provider for people affected by drug or alcohol abuse through a relative. This service provides support in the community, prisons and in residential areas.

3rd Floor, ASRA House
1 Long Lane
London
SE1 4PG

Tel: 020 7234 9740
E- mail: info@phoenix-futures.org.uk
Web: www.phoenix-futures.org.uk

360 Substance Misuse Service for young people and families

Services for young people under 19 years old with substance misuse problems. Offers advice and support for service users and support for friends and families.

1st Floor
The Base
Marsden Road
Bolton. BL1 2PF

Tel: 01204 337 330
Web: www.boltondrugsinfo.co.uk

Bolton ADS

The Alcohol and Drug Service centre offers therapeutic and complimentary therapies, educational training and social activities.

20 Wood Street
Bolton
BL1 1DY

Tel: 01204 393660 / 01204 382230
Web: www.alcoholanddrugservices.org.uk

Harbour Project

A voluntary support group for parents, families and friends who are affected by someone's drug and alcohol misuse in Bolton. Referrals made via GP.

Tel: 01204 62274
Web: www.boltondrugsinfo.co.uk/FamiliesFriends/HarbourProject.aspx

BCOM Counselling Service

Free, private and confidential service with qualified counselors for people who have experienced trauma, drugs, depression, relationship difficulties or any other concerns and are 16 years and over. Counselors speak Gujarati, Urdu and English.

1 Vicarage Street
Bolton
Lancashire
BL3 5LE

Tel: 01204 363680
Web: www.thebcom.org

Lifeline Project Ltd

Lifeline provides drug and alcohol support services to service users (individuals and families) including offenders, women, people from black and minority ethnic communities, refugee and asylum seekers, sex workers and the homeless.

101-103 Oldham Street
Manchester

Tel: 0161 834 7160
Web: www.lifeline.org.uk

EMPLOYMENT

Jobcentre Plus, Bolton

Provides information on Benefits such as Income Support, Disability Living Allowance (**DLA**), Incapacity, Child Tax Credits, Working Tax Credits and Working Age Benefits.

52 Blackhorse Street
Central Bolton
BL1 1SX

Tel: 01204 516 516
Web: www.jobcentrepplusuk.co.uk

BoltonWISE

Helps people obtain and sustain employment with the aim of reducing levels of poverty and problems associated with it such as unemployment and economic inactivity. For people living in Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

The Quest Centre
Brownlow Way
Bolton, BL1 3UB

Tel: 01204 393 081
Web: www.boltonwise.co.uk

The Work Shop, Bolton

Supports unemployed residents of Bolton who are looking for employment. Advice and guidance, access to training, assistance with applications and interview techniques, plus training in areas such as confidence, motivation building and CV preparation.

39 Newport Street
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 1NE

Tel: 01204 333713

Connexions

Offers 13 -19 year olds information and advice to support their decisions and choices. Personal Advisers are in every school and college or can be accessed through one of the many access centres around the borough.

The ground floor
The Wellsprings
Le Mans Crescent
BL1 1NS

Tel: 0800 052 5559
Web: www.connexions-bolton.com

DBBC

Diversity in Barrier Breaking Communications is a group of volunteers' with a passion for learning and helping others to reach their full potential. This project is open to all people, all ages, and all abilities.

Office 5
Bolton Market
Ashburner Street
Bolton
BL1 1TQ

Tel: 01204 373107
Web: www.dbbc.org.uk

Bolton Steps

Provides support to anyone suffering from mental health issues by offering them assistance with their own individual needs in order to help them find a pathway back into employment.

Victoria Hall
Knowsley Street
Bolton BL1 2AS.

Tel: 01204 397976
E-mail: info@boltonsteps.org.uk
Web: www.boltonsteps.org.uk

FINANCE

Bolton CAB

Advice regarding welfare and employment rights, health, benefits, equal opportunities and legal advice. Helps people resolve their legal, monetary and other problems by providing free independent and confidential advice.

Citizens Advice Bureau
Bolton and District CAB
26-28 Mawdsley Street
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 1LF

Tel: 0844 826 9707
Web: www.boltoncab.co.uk

Manchester Advice Service

Offers impartial advice regarding financial concerns as well as other welfare advice and information.

Manchester City Council.
P.O. Box 536
Town Hall extension
Manchester
M60 2AF

Tel: 0161 234 5600
Web: www.manchester.gov.uk

Bolton Welfare Rights Advice Line

An independent advice and information service on rights and entitlements covering a range of welfare issues and concerns.

Bolton Council
Freepost 5115F
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 1RU

Tel: 01204 380460
Web:
www.bolton.gov.uk/website/Pages/Welfarerightsadvice.aspx

Asian Elders project.

Helps support older Asian people to be independent, healthy and active.

61 Northfield Street
Bolton
BL3 5JH

Tel 01204 651123
Fax 01204 651019
E-mail: email@aeibolton.co.uk

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

BAND

Bolton Association and Network of Drop-Ins (For Community Mental Health) is a mental health advice and drop in centre.

The Bolton Hub
Bold St
Bolton
BL1 1LS

Tel: 01204 546070

Web: www.band.org.uk

The Mental Health Independent Support Team (MhIST)

Provides a friendly and confidential service to support and voice the interests of mental health service users and their carers.

30 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4AP

Tel: 01204 527 200

Web: www.mhist.co.uk

Community Care Options

Specialise in managing and providing community support for people with learning difficulties, mental health problems and associated difficulties.

The New Horizons Centre
Back Bank Street
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 2BN

Tel: 01204 382 408

Web: www.comco.org.uk

The Simeon Centre Counselling Service

Offers an opportunity to talk through your feelings in a confidential, peaceful and sensitive environment. Can address subjects such as relationships, stress, alcohol abuse, depression, family problems, anxiety, loss, abuse and low self esteem.

Victoria Hall
Knowsley Street
Bolton BL1 2AS

Tel: 01204 387 363

Web: www.simeoncentre.org.uk

Children and Young People's Primary Health Team

Aims to improve the physical, emotional, psychological and social well being of children and young people up to 18 years old.

Pikes Lane Centre
Deane Road
Deane
Bolton, BL3 5HP

Tel: 01204 463 669

Black Health Agency

Provides a service to support Black and Minority Ethnic, disadvantaged and other marginalised communities with health needs. Seeks to identify and challenge discrimination and stereotyping through encouraging good practice in service development. Mon–Fri 9am -5pm.

Zion Community Resource Centre,
339 Stretford Road,
Hulme, Manchester.
M15 4ZY

Tel: 0161 226 9145

Web: www.blackhealthagency.org.uk

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Bolton Citizens Advice Bureau

Offers free, confidential and impartial advice to support people experiencing difficulty in a range of areas to solve their problems. Provides advice and information on debt, benefits, tax credits, housing and employment concerns, plus legal matters and family problems.

26-28 Mawdesley Street
Bolton
BL1 1LF

Tel: 0844 826 9707
Web: www.boltoncab.co.uk

Rhasta Dhoondahana

Offers support and counselling for Asian women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

P.O.Box 595
Bolton
BL3 6WZ

Tel: 01204 532 610

Victim Support and Witness Service

Provides free and confidential help to victims of crime, their family, friends and anyone else affected. Offers emotional support and practical help.

Bridge Street South
Bolton
BL4 2BA

Tel: 01204 399736
Web: www.victimsupport.org.uk

Or

Keith Salt House
31 Chorley Old Road
Bolton, BL1 3AD

Tel: 01204 399 736
Web: www.victimsupport.org.uk

FortALICE

Bolton based charitable organisation offering assistance to women and children who are affected by domestic abuse.

43 Bradford Street
Bolton
BL2 1HT

Tel: 01204 356 677
Web: www.ortalice.org.uk

APPENDIX

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BME Communities - The acronym for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities.

CAF - Common Assessment Framework. Aids how practitioners record assessments of service users to assist in delivering the appropriate level of support.

Children and Families Pathway - One of the areas the government has recognised as important in Reducing Re-offending Action Plan.

Complex Needs - Children and families who have more than one area of need and have several risk factors that need to be addressed.

Community Order - When an offender serves their sentence within the community rather than in custody. This allows the offender to keep contact with their family as well as maintaining their employment and accommodation. A Community Order can cause less disruption to family life and consequently can have a positive affect on the whole family and reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

Contact with the Criminal Justice System - Involvement with any aspect of the criminal justice system e.g. police, courts, probation or prison.

DCSF - Department of Children, Schools and Families. Has responsibility for children's services, families, schools and the Respect Taskforce.

Generational Cycles of Deprivation - The suggestion that if children grow up in poverty or in families where the parents are long term unemployed they are more likely to experience similar circumstances in their adult life. Therefore patterns of lifestyle are passed from one generation to the next.

Inclusive Partnership Working - Agencies who are working with other relevant services to offer the service user an increased and wider ranging level of support.

Kin Carer - A guardian or carer who is a relative of the child or young person e.g. grandparents.

NOMS - National Offender Management Service. Responsible for the commissioning and delivery of adult offender management services for England and Wales in order to protect the public, rehabilitate and punish offenders and reduce re-offending.

Private Fostering Arrangement – Where a child or young person is looked after and provided with accommodation by someone other than a relative for longer than 27 days.

Reduced Levels of Attainment - Achievement of low level of qualifications which can have a negative effect on employment prospects.

Risk of Harm - If there is reason to believe that children or young people are likely to be, or are being abused or exploited.

Social Deprivation - When individuals do not have access to their basic needs including adequate housing, facilities, food and education. Social deprivation during childhood can have a negative impact on individuals in their adult life.

Social Skills - The way people interact and communicate. If children and young people have limited social skills it can have a negative impact on their achievement in life.

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W: www.partnersofprisoners.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1048152
Company Registration Number: 3067385
VAT Number: 883303130