

# Family Engagement in Prisons in England and Wales



<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/our-services/relationship-and-parenting-courses/time-connect>

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Chief Executive  
Pact  
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Care Trust)

*'I now  
have a  
son..*

*instead of  
a stranger'*



## Charity / NGO

**Voluntary organisation (Third Sector' )**

**Company (limited by guarantee)**

**Service Provider in c50 prisons**

**Advocate/Influencer/Voice**

**Catholic Social Teaching**



**Diverse**

Foundation Training

**Our Vision** is of a society in which justice is understood as a process of *restoration* and healing, in which prisons are used sparingly and as places of *learning* and *rehabilitation*, and in which the **innate dignity** and *worth* of every human being is valued.

**Our Mission** is to support prisoners and their families to make a **fresh start**, and to minimise the harm that can be caused by imprisonment on offenders, families and communities

# Prisoners · Families · Communities · A Fresh Start Together

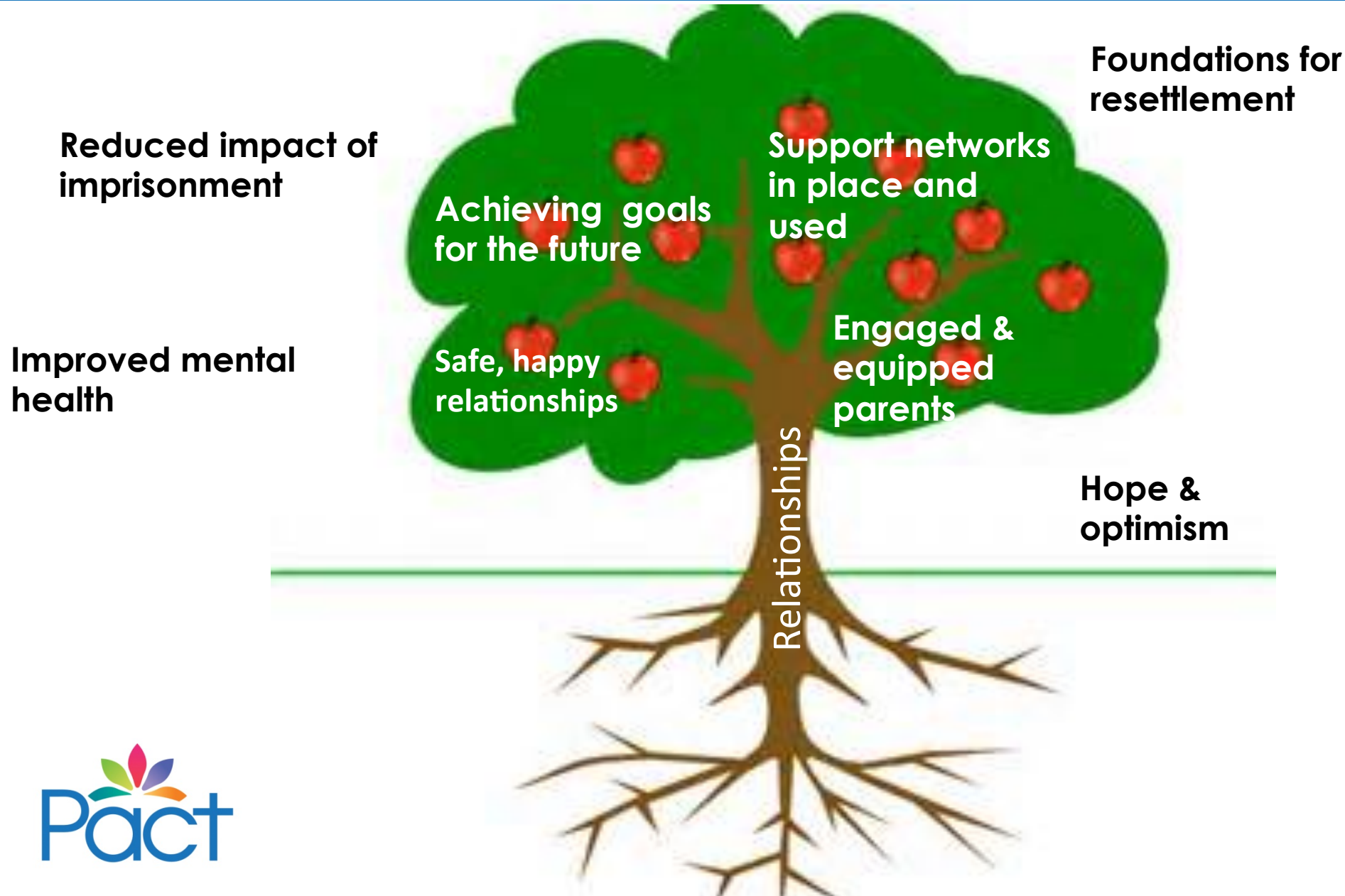
- UK Prison population c86,000
- c200,000 children affected per annum
- Increasing use of private sector
- No new data on re-offending until 2017
- Big staff cuts
- Growth of new psycho-actives
- Increase in violence, suicide, incidents and medical emergencies
- Community-based services, esp. for women, shrinking
- Increasing role for NGOs/charities



## Some social characteristics of people in UK prisons

- Average age 27
- Care leavers 27%
- Education
  - 47% no qualifications
  - 20-30% learning difficulties
  - 21% literacy difficulties (48% below 11 yrs)
- Health & Well Being
  - Nearly two-thirds of sentenced male prisoners (63%) and two-fifths of female sentenced prisoners (39%) admit to hazardous drinking
  - 90% report some kind of mental health problem (including extreme stress)
  - Over 50% admit offences connected to drug taking
  - Over representation of people from Black & Minority communities (including travellers)

# Prisoners · Families · Communities · A Fresh Start Together





## Eton School

Cost of a place at  
Eton per year is  
£34,434



## Prison in England or Wales

Cost of keeping someone in a prison in England or Wales for one year is, on average is £36,237



# What does Pact do?



# Prisoners · Families · Communities · A Fresh Start Together

- Supporting family/carers in the London **courts** to cope with aftermath of being left behind.
- Supporting family/carers in the **community** to reduce stress/poverty/risk of homelessness and to keep families together.
- A website, helpline & **online** information.
- One-to-one support **in prisons** linked to post-release support to improve '**social inclusion**' outcomes on release for 'hardest to help' prisoners.
- One-to-one '**Mentoring**' support in the **community** for people who have offended.
- A group model providing supportive relational communities to people in their first three months **after release**
- **Family literacy** projects
- **Baby groups/early parenting** projects

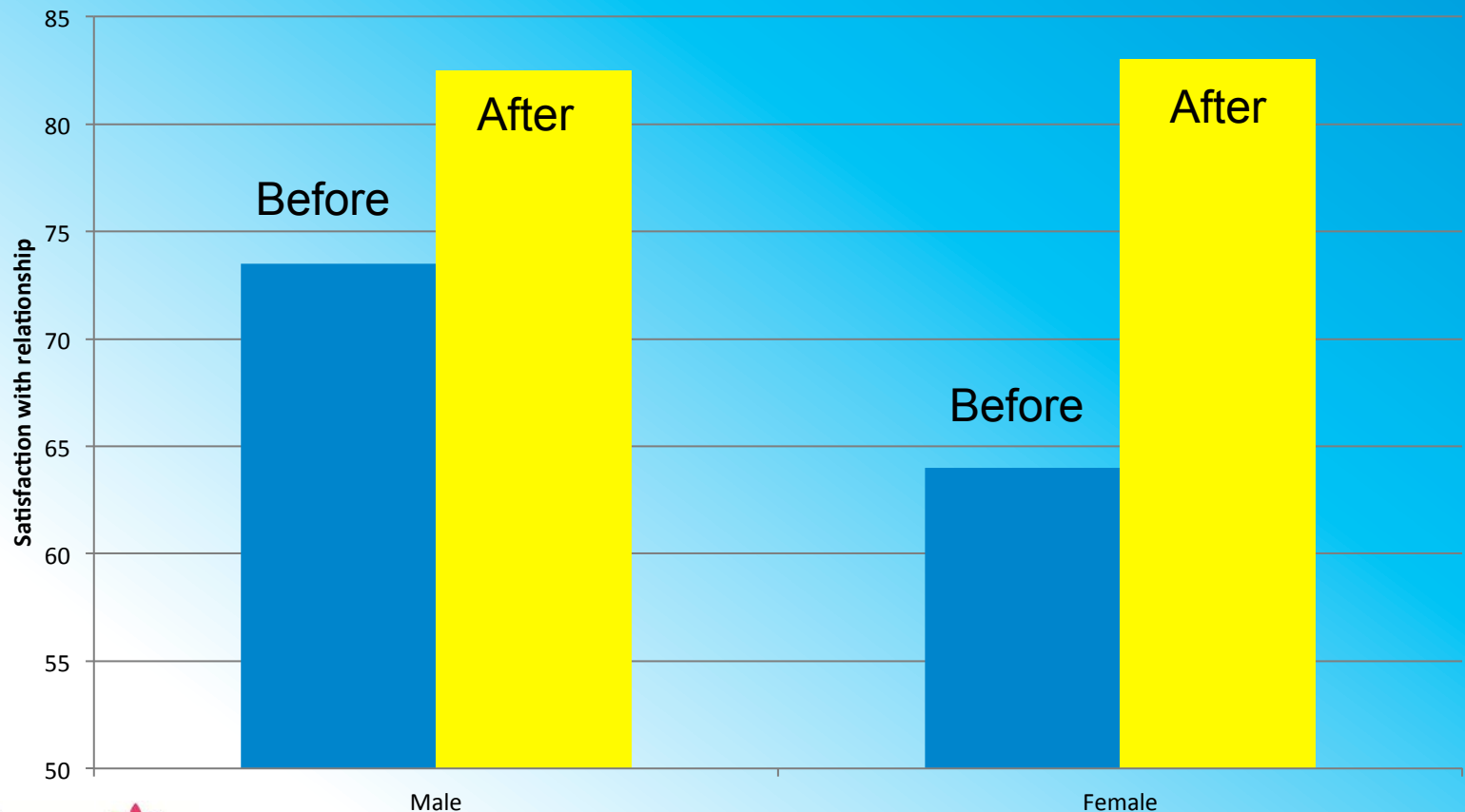
- Structured group work programmes to improve parenting/relationships skills and 'attachment' and adult relationships
- **Safe & happy contact** with family members in prison.
- Tea bars/catering for prison visits
- Supervised **play** services for prisoners' **children**
- Support for children who would otherwise not be able to visit parents inside
- Strategic **advocacy** campaigns
- Working with policy makers and practitioners to **join up systems** and provision and raise awareness.
- **One-to-one support in prisons to reduce risk of family breakdown/separation, and to strengthen/improve relationships.**

- 116,113 family members supported to maintain contact including 20,326 children
- 5,000+ women and men in prison provided with personalised support to address family concerns
- 661 participants in relationship programmes
- 36,952 family members supported through one-to-one information, advice & guidance

- Improved relationship with partners: 72%
- Improved social networks: 81%
- More positive family relationships: 79%
- Improved communication with family: 90%
- Reduced harm to family from prison: 82%
- Improved relationship with children: 88%

# Impact of Building Stronger Families

## Change in Relationship Satisfaction Before & After Course





SO WHAT?

Why should any Justice Ministry in Europe spend public money to support the family life of people who are in prison?

Is it being soft on criminals?



# Reduction of re-offending Criminological Literature: **Desistance**

## Theoretical Models

- Maturation
- Social bonds (Relationship/attachment)
- Narrative/Labeling

## Practice Goals

- Develop personal **responsibility** for consequences and future behaviour
- Heal, build and strengthen pro-social **relationships** and social capital (**family & community**)
- Develop an identity based upon **valuing & respecting others and oneself**

# Relationships matter

‘Relationships’ matter because:

- People with strong & positive family relationships re-offend less
- Stable loving families produce fewer offenders

Result..

- Less crime
- Fewer victims
- Less harm to children (‘collateral damage’)
- Less cost to the State and the citizen

# Impact on Desistance

- Families shown to be more effective than state agencies in securing accommodation, training and job outcomes straight from prison. Investment in family secures best return on investment.
- Prisoners who receive regular family visits were 39% less likely to commit crime after release.

 <p>Home Office</p>	<h2>Findings</h2> <h1>248</h1>
<p>The Research, Development and Statistics Directorate exists to improve policy making, decision taking and practice in support of the Home Office purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with information necessary for informed debate and to publish information for future use.</p> <p>Findings are produced by the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate.</p> <p>For further copies visit: <a href="http://www.home-office.gov.uk/rds/publications.html">http://www.home-office.gov.uk/rds/publications.html</a></p> <p>© Crown copyright 2005 ISBN 1473-8406 Printed by: TABS</p>	<h3>Resettlement outcomes on release from prison in 2003</h3> <p>Stephen Niven and Duncan Stewart</p> <p>Following the first resettlement survey in 2001 (Niven and Clagundoye, 2002), a second survey was conducted in March and April 2003. In this survey, 1,945 prisoners in the last three weeks of their sentence were interviewed about their expectations concerning employment, training, education (ETE) and housing after release. Related factors such as previous employment, qualifications, housing plans and activities in prison were also examined. The key results from the 2003 survey are compared with those from 2001 and the main factors influencing ETE and accommodation outcomes for prisoners meaning release are discussed.</p> <h4>Key points</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There were no statistically significant changes between the two surveys in the proportions of prisoners with employment, training or education arranged on release (20% for both surveys) and with accommodation arranged on release between 2001 (67%) and 2003 (71%).</li><li>• Prisoners in employment, training or education in the four weeks before custody were much more likely to have ETE arranged on release (59%) than those who were not (17%). Accommodation arranged on release and receiving family visits were also both strongly associated with ETE arranged on release.</li><li>• The majority of ETE outcomes were arranged through family, friends and/or personal contacts in the community. However, agencies had a greater involvement in arranging ETE outcomes for those who had never been in work before custody compared with other groups.</li><li>• Living in private or rented accommodation before custody, receiving family or partner visits, not having a drug problem before custody and being in ETE in the four weeks before custody were statistically significantly associated with having accommodation arranged on release.</li><li>• Almost one-third (31%) of prisoners received no visits during their sentence. They were less likely to have jobs or accommodation arranged on release.</li><li>• Findings from this survey suggest that opportunities for involving families and/or partners in the resettlement of prisoners should be increased.</li></ul> <p>The survey aimed to measure the proportion of prisoners expecting to take up employment, training or education (an 'ETE outcome') and those with accommodation arranged on release. ETE and stable accommodation have been identified as key factors in the effective resettlement of prisoners (SIL, 2002). The Prison Service has introduced initiatives in recent years to increase the proportion of prisoners being released into accommodation and ETE. The research also aimed to identify and examine the key factors associated with successful resettlement outcomes. All results reported are statistically significant unless stated otherwise.</p> <h4>ETE outcomes</h4> <p>In 2003, 30.4% (n=591) of prisoners had ETE outcomes arranged on release - slightly higher than in 2001 (29.5%). However, the difference was not statistically significant. A further 4% of all the prisoners had an interview arranged after release for ETE (3% for the 2001 survey).</p> <p>The views expressed in these findings are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the Home Office (nor do they reflect Government policy)</p>

# Impact of Imprisonment on Children

200,000 children affected in UK

Very high risk factor

- Loss of security/home/poverty
- Failure at school
- Risky behaviour/delinquency
- Mental illness
- Teenage pregnancy
- Criminal record

May be causal (Murray & Farrington)

# Social Return on Investment

- Independent evaluation of Pact & NEPACS prison-based Family Workers\* by 'New Economics Foundation' found that for every UK£1 spent by the State, there was a return of over £11 in hidden savings (reduced re-offending, reduced pressure on the system)
- Return was higher in women's prisons due to reduced risk of children being taken into care.
- Here is the link:  
[http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/system/files/public/Research/nef\\_Pact%20IFS%20Economic%20study.pdf](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/system/files/public/Research/nef_Pact%20IFS%20Economic%20study.pdf)
- Model is now shared with two other UK-based agencies, POPS & NEPACS

\*Service model was called 'Integrated Family Support' at the time of evaluation, but is now called 'Family Engagement'.

# Positive Outcomes

Independent evaluation by University of Roehampton also found that the Pact/NEPACS service:

- Reduced self-harm and suicide risk
- Improved prisoner behaviour
- Improved practice and culture of prison staff
- Is popular with prisoners, families, staff & governors
- Here is the link:

<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/EvaluationReport.pdf>

# Positive Outcomes

- These studies confirmed several findings from previous studies of similar work including:
- <http://www.safeground.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Boswell-2009-FSW-evaluation.pdf>
- <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/there%20when%20you%20need%20them%20most%20a%20review%20of%20pact's%20first%20night%20in%20custody%20services.pdf>



# Family Engagement in Prisons in England and Wales

## Lessons learned in England & Wales

Specialist Family Engagement Workers (Family Support Workers) operating inside prisons deliver:

- ✓ **Cost:Benefit of £11 return for every £1 of public funds**
- ✓ **Reduction in risk of self-harm and suicide**
- ✓ **Improved prisoner behaviour and relationships between prisoners and prison officers**
- ✓ **A dedicated resource to support family relationships/ stability, thereby achieving improved resettlement and rehabilitation outcomes, particularly accommodation, training & employment**



# Family Engagement in Prisons in England and Wales

Me: 'Tell me, what do prisoners need when they come out of prison to stop them re-offending, and what should I focus on?'

Colin Allen (former governor)

'Somewhere to live, something to do, and someone to love'

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