Corin Morgan-Armstrong,
Head of Family Interventions, HMP Parc, and Invisible Walls Wales

Rehabilitation and reducing reoffending for prisons, probation, charities and voluntary organisations
Corin Morgan-Armstrong
Head of Family Interventions & Invisible Walls Wales
‘Disenfranchised grief’

... the grief experienced by those who incur a loss that is not, or cannot be, openly acknowledged, publicly mourned or socially supported.

Doka (1999)

shock
loss
sadness
fear
anger
loneliness
Family Interventions... Why bother?

• The MOJ Resettlement Survey 2008 showed that ‘offenders who had received at least one visit during their time in custody were 39% less likely to re-offend than those who had received no visits’

• Social Exclusion Unit report 2002 – ‘Creating and encouraging healthy family contact whilst in custody, can reduce the likelihood of offending by up to 6 times’.

• Prison Reform Trust 2011 - Prof’ F. Losel 2012/13 ‘heightened effectiveness of resettlement’ work in prison and release, where the family were engaged and involved in the process.

• Criminal Justice Policy Review USA 2011 - A study of 16,000 prisoners over 4 years - ‘using multiple measures of visitation and reoffending, found that visits significantly reduced the risk of recidivism’.

• MOJ Research Series 2012 – ‘over 75% of prisoners believe that support from their family and contact with their children would help prevent them from reoffending.’

• ‘Improving Prisoners Family Ties’ (New Philanthropic Capital- April 2011) - positive family engagement whilst in custody, amounts to an average financial cost saving in terms of a reduction in reoffending, upwards on a scale that starts at 16k per individual per cycle.
Family Interventions... Our 3 core aims:

- Reducing the risk of reoffending & prison
- Reducing the risk of intergenerational offending
- Reducing social exclusion of families in their local community
PARC SUPPORTING FAMILIES – STRONGER TOGETHER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

ARCYN CEFNODCI TEULUOEDD - MEWN UNDEB Y MAE NERTH

2013
Highest performing prisons in the UK process approximately 10-15% of their population through ‘accredited’ offending behaviour programmes. (MOJ.2011)

“Generally, these interventions have a range of positive but modest outcomes, e.g. in the large meta-analysis of Latimer, Dowden and Morton- Bourgon 2003, there was a 9% reduction across interventions” (Dr M Penman 2013)

“some rehabilitation programs work with some offenders in some settings when applied by some staff.” (Antonowicz and Ross 1994, p. 1)

“. . . the desistance literature has pointed to a range of factors associated with the ending of active involvement in offending. Most of these factors are related to acquiring ‘something’ most commonly a life partner, children or a family, which the desister values in some way and which initiates a re-evaluation of his or her own life . . .” (Farrall 2002: 11)

Lowest performing prisons in the UK provide 48% of their population with regular family visits. (PSO 14)
Visits – ‘The crucible of whole family rehabilitation’:

Global corrections evidence-base proves the rehabilitative impact visits have on reducing reoffending.

Majority of prisoners (48% a downward trend) in the UK receive regular visits.

Penology & corrections practice dictates visits as ‘security led’.

‘Security led’ visits intrinsically limit family engagement opportunities.

Subsequent opportunities released to innovate & maximise ‘whole family engagement’.

‘Interventions led’ visits therefore amplify the existing proven impact on recidivism.

‘Interventions led’ visits therefore amplify the existing proven impact on recidivism.

Clear evidence-base for symbiotic positive impact on intergenerational offending, wider family social exclusion, and reduction in crime costs.

Cost-neutral cultural shift, from ‘security led’ to ‘interventions led’ visits.

Majority of prison population (48%) now receiving regular opportunity for rehabilitation via ‘whole family engagement’.

Penology & corrections practice dictates visits as ‘security led’.

Majority of prisoners (48% a downward trend) in the UK receive regular visits.

Penology & corrections practice dictates visits as ‘security led’.

‘Security led’ visits intrinsically limit family engagement opportunities.

Subsequent opportunities released to innovate & maximise ‘whole family engagement’.

‘Interventions led’ visits therefore amplify the existing proven impact on recidivism.

Clear evidence-base for symbiotic positive impact on intergenerational offending, wider family social exclusion, and reduction in crime costs.

Cost-neutral cultural shift, from ‘security led’ to ‘interventions led’ visits.

Majority of prison population (48%) now receiving regular opportunity for rehabilitation via ‘whole family engagement’.
Invisible Walls Wales

- Custody & community
- Replication model
- Pre/post release
- Whole family approach
- Evaluation & research
- Partnership working
- Cost saving focus
- Big Lottery funded
An integrated approach between education, social work, criminal justice and charities can achieve:

- increased emotional well-being among children
- reduction in school exclusions
- greater family engagement with the school and other agencies
- a decrease in harmful behaviour
- increased engagement in school
- increased school attendance
- positive post-school destinations

Turning it around
MPACT at HMP Parc since 2011...
I hope my daddy comes out soon and he never does anything like it again because we miss him so much.

Alicia
MPACT at HMP Parc since 2011...
The Invisible Walls Accord is supported by...

Barnardo’s Cymru  G4S Care & Justice HMP Parc  Bridgend County Borough Council  Welsh Centre Crime Social Justice

Welsh Probation Trust  St Giles Trust  Families Outside  S.Wales Police  Police Crime Commissioner  Prison Advice Care Trust

Action on Addiction  Duke of Edinburgh  HMP Swansea  Action for Prisoners Families  HMP Cardiff

Care Family  Rho  Priso

Storybook Dads  Jigsaw family group  emailaprisoner  Safe Ground UK

Relate Cymru  Gibran  Wells Of Hope Ministries
He is 8 years old and his dad is in prison but no one asks how he is doing even though he misses his dad every day and he just can’t cope with the bullying any more. The truth is, things are not fine.

Children of prisoners are the innocent victims of their parents’ sentence. Reading between the lines, and offering support, does make a difference.
This is what successful family intervention looks like...
Reversible Writing

I'm going to end up in prison too

just because my dad's there

you're wrong if you think

there are other possibilities for me

I know

a criminal breeds a criminal

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGOB3QhGqtA