

Site

HMP Whatton

Name of project / initiative

Parallel visits

Overview

Many of our prisoners, due to the nature of their offences and/or the length of time they have spent in custody, do not receive visits. The Parallel visits initiative is intended for them.

Parallel visits are like family visits, but without the family. They are held in the visits hall. Prisoners meet together, eat a special meal (provided by the staff mess), engage in group activities, and listen to visiting speakers. This is an extremely popular and well supported project, run 4 or 5 times a year. Prisoners pay for their own attendance – which is part of teaching them to manage their money – so that the costs (primarily catering) are covered.

Longevity

Since 2017 (approx.)

Benefits

Improves well-being and helps tackle isolation for long term prisoners who've lost family contact

Uniqueness

We believe this to be unique

Applicability

Anywhere could do it in principle – it's especially relevant in long term estate

Requirements

The only special requirement is the capacity to provide a special meal for participants

For more information:

Laura Day - Laura.day@justice.gov.uk

Submitted by:

Lynn Saunders, Governor – lynn.saunders@justice.gov.uk