

Site

HMP Grendon

Name of project / initiative

Staff Family Open Days

Overview

In response to requests from staff, Grendon have instituted a programme of regular (quarterly) open days for the family members of staff. The visits last around two hours, with family members shown around the jail by their loved ones and are open to all ages.

The open days are highly popular, and provide an opportunity for staff to show their family members around the prison – while for family members it is a chance to see behind the prison walls and find out more about their loved ones' work.

Benefits

Staff members report feeling proud to show their family members where they work, and that an enhanced sense of pride in their work extends beyond the visits themselves. They also note that they feel more able to turn to their families for support when they have had a difficult day now that their families have a greater understanding of their work.

Family members report feeling a greater sense of understanding and pride in what their loved ones do, and that the visits help assuage any anxiety they might have about their roles.

What's special about it?

Grendon is one of a small number of jails offering open days for staff family members. The Governor feels that the impact on staff morale, and on family members, is a profound positive for all concerned.

Wider applicability

While there are obviously security considerations in bringing in family members, the Governor believes that the idea of family open days could be rolled out across the estate, and the financial costs are negligible.

For more information:

Contact: The Governor

Submitted by:

The Governor