

## Site

HMP Nottingham

## Name of project / initiative

Families Come Dine With Us

## Overview

The concept of 'families come dine with us' is to give prisoners and their families a totally 'out of prison' experience – something so 'normal' in the community, which the rest of us take for granted... sitting down and eating a meal with their families.

The events are held in the prison's Bistro, which provides the perfect setting for families to come together, order food, play board games, listen to music, talk, laugh and do normal everyday things, and feels more like being in a "normal" café than a prison. The Bistro is run by staff, together with prisoners who are working towards a qualification in hospitality. The events are organised and supervised by the prison's Family Link in Custody (FLIC) Officer, who also holds a forum for all attendees after the meal is finished, to discuss any issues they might wish to raise whether about prison life. The events are currently restricted to Enhanced prisoners, but the plan is to open them up to those on Standard and, in time and subject to a risk assessment, to Basic prisoners too.

The prisoners working in the Bistro were also given an opportunity to invite their family members in, and staff cooked and waited on them to say thank you.

## Longevity

Since Sept 2021. In the first nine months, we have hosted 217 visitors across 62 families.

## Benefits

These events provide a real lift for prisoners and their families, and help to maintain and consolidate their relationships - the feedback from participants has been "phenomenal". They also provide an opportunity for the prisoners training towards their hospitality qualification to practice many of the skills they are learning.

## Uniqueness

We are not aware of other events being held in quite this way, away from the normal visits environment.

## Applicability

Any prison with a suitable venue could hold events like this.

## Requirements

There are no particular requirements, other than a venue, for this to be rolled out elsewhere.

## For more information:

Contact: Becky Edwards, Rehab Culture Lead, [Rebecca.Edwards1@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Edwards1@justice.gov.uk)  
See also: [KnowX.uk/Nottingham-RMT22.pdf](https://knowx.uk/Nottingham-RMT22.pdf) [Participant feedback]

## Submitted by:

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