

Site

HMP/YOI Peterborough

Name of project / initiative

Motherhood Project

Overview

The Motherhood Project supports mothers and grandmothers in the prison, helping them cope with the grief of being separated from them, deal with the guilt and shame so many of them feel at “letting their families down”, and, where possible, maintain/rebuild their relationships with their children and grandchildren.

Motherhood Mentors, drawn from the prison population, provide a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on, as well as offering guidance and support, and sign posting to family and legal support services.

Monthly Mothers Clubs provide a safe space for the women to get together and support one another, and often include talks on particular themes of relevance to them.

Mothering Justice is a course for mothers in prison, letting them know they're not alone, exploring issues of guilt and shame, and looking at how to manage their relationships with their children on release and some of the challenges they are likely to face.

And, developed together with an academic expert, training for staff focuses on helping them to better understand the relevant issues.

Longevity

The scheme was launched in June 2021.

Benefits

The project is very popular with the women and the benefits of it are outlined above.

Uniqueness

We believe the Motherhood Project is unique in its comprehensiveness and the wide-ranging approach taken to supporting the women concerned.

Applicability

This model would be relevant, and could be rolled out, everywhere within the female estate.

Requirements

There are no particular requirements to preclude wider rollout across the estate, and Peterborough are happy to share their approach and materials with other establishments.

For more information:

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