



Winter 2018 Newsletter #12

Hello everyone and welcome to our newsletter. We've had a really busy year with lots to tell you about, with our new projects up and running and providing a welcoming space for people to come together.



The team have been joined by Inez, Adriana and Lauren from the University of Brighton and Megan from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

As well as getting experience in our HMP Lewes Visits Centre and Court services, the student placements are helping us with our communications and marketing strategy, and organising loads of exciting fundraising events.

Court support for families

Our Court Support Service is increasingly asked to provide assistance and support to families during trials and sentences. We can arrange for one of our court volunteers to accompany family members or friends of defendants at any of the Sussex criminal courts for trials or sentences. Also, if a family is unable or unwilling to attend a hearing, our volunteers can be there to listen to the progress of a case and feedback to families. Contact rachelle@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk

Quiz Night

**GRAB A
TEAM
ITS
QUIZ
NIGHT**

You are invited to our next fun filled quiz extravaganza, with tons of amazing(ish) prizes. All funds raised go towards our volunteer family support services in the Sussex Courts and at HMP Lewes.

Wednesday, 5th December

**THE EAGLE,
125 GLOUCESTER ROAD,
BRIGHTON, BN1 4AF**

Arrive 7.00pm for a 7.30pm kick off

'Families Connected'



As one of only six successful bids from 427 applications to Nesta's Share Lab fund, we

are pleased with our new forum offering a platform for prisoners' families to confide in each other, tell their story and get the support they need. At the time their loved one received a custodial sentence, families reported how their trauma and anxiety made it difficult to read leaflets or text-based advice. So, family members came together recently to create blogs and short films that are being shared on the forum. They are pleased that their voices are being heard, and hope others won't have to go through the same things that they have had to go through.

"We need to reach people who are hidden away or feel embarrassed about having a loved one in prison. We want to show that we're ordinary people out there who are struggling and we want to eradicate this stigma and get people using the support that is available and to get involved"

'Families Together'

Over the last six months over 50 family members have been enjoying days out in Eastbourne, Brighton and HMO Lewes, with arts, crafts and origami workshops at HMP Lewes, having fun and sharing their experiences.

**people's
health
trust**



'I just wanted to thank you and for a lovely day. All of us really enjoyed it. The kids are exhausted but had a great time and it was really nice to chat to you all. We really are very grateful to you both. Thank you so much, hope to see you again soon '

'I wanted to thank you for a lovely day, it was nice to get out for something different and meet people in similar circumstances and not be judged"

'This is the first time I've been around other people with someone in prison'

For families wanting to come along to 'Families Together' events please contact: danielle@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk or call Danielle on 07707507122 for a programme.

HMP Lewes family visits centre

We've been working closely with the prison staff, and the new family service provider Spurgeons, with the centre now open during visiting times offering a warm place to wait with tea, coffee, snacks, toys for the children and a listening ear. Families tell us that while visits can be hard, the new visitors' centre makes the experience a little easier, and new visitors are particularly grateful having a friendly face to show them around and explain the visiting process and systems.



A visitor came into the centre to say she was really anxious about the visit as she had never been in a prison before and was worried as she didn't know what to expect. Volunteers talked her through exactly what would happen at each stage. She came back to tell us that she felt much happier about going into the prison as a result of this help. "It made me feel less stressed. And it was all much better than I thought."

Training programme 2019

Lively, interactive workshops providing insights into the issues facing prisoners' families. You will gain new understanding and skills and take away new strategies and practical resources.

Hidden Sentence: Workshops are 9.30-4.00:
Cost: £40

21 st February	Eastbourne
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29 th March	St.Leonards
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29 th April	Newhaven
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13 th May	Bognor Regis
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4 th June	Burgess Hill
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Working with Families of Sex Offenders:
Workshops are 10.00-1.00. **Cost: £25**

12 th April	Bognor Regis
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31 st May	Newhaven
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7 th June	Burgess Hill
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Find out more and register for your place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sussex-prisoners-families-16563475359>

Great Xmas presents and hours of entertainment.

Why not buy a pack of our Doodle Cards as a Xmas present or stocking filler, and at the same time contribute to our work supporting families?



SPECIAL XMAS OFFER

ONLY £5.00 PER PACK

INCLUDING P&P



DoodleCards

10 different postcard designs with blank spaces for your ideas. DoodleCards spark the imagination and connect children with loved ones. **Doodle away and post today!**

I think we've caught something!

DoodleCards have been specially designed to help children stay connected with a loved one during a separation. They help divided families to share ideas, spark memories and dream about the future. Families can complete the captivating 'doodle starters' however they choose and then simply pop them in the post, providing a fun, visual way of keeping in touch. Each pack contains ten individually designed A5 postcards by acclaimed children's illustrator Guy Parker-Rees.

Doodle away and post today!

Price £5.00 including post and package
10 % discount on 10 or more
15 % discount on 100 or more

All proceeds go to Sussex Prisoners' Families, a social enterprise.
To order online please visit our website: www.sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk
For enquires please email info@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk or call us on 01273 488943

DoodleCards

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Order your Doodle Cards here ...

<http://www.sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk/products/doodle-cards/>

Go to our website to find out more about our work and feedback from families in our Annual Review 2017-2018



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www.sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk



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