

**ORIGINATOR: Vicky Day**

**DECISION NO. 44/2020**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision**

**SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner**

**SUBJECT: Storybook Mum and Dad**

**SUMMARY:**

In March 2020 prisons in the UK put in a place a restricted regime in order to mitigate against the risks of Covid-19 within prisons. Social visits were cancelled with immediate effect, with restrictions easing in July 2020.

Prisons continue to work with public health and NHS services to prioritise the safety of staff, prisoners and visitors. All prisons have introduced covid-secure ways of working. These ways of working have had an impact on social visiting arrangements, with uptake in family visits being impacted upon.

Children who experience parental imprisonment suffer a number of harms during 'normal' times. Research shows that many of those children later enter the criminal justice system themselves. For example, the Farmer Review (2017) referred to research highlighting that 63% of prisoner's sons went on to offend.

Furthermore, it is also recognised that prisoners who are able to maintain contact with their families and significant others are less likely to re-offend. The Ministry of Justice own research confirmed that 37% of prisoners who maintain ties with their families do not go on to re-offend.

Children with a parent in prison are not only coping with the challenges of lockdown, the closing of schools (and now the partial re-opening), the withdrawal of many support services, the isolation and the fear, but also meaningful relationships with their parent, which will inevitably amplify those harms and difficulties.

The PCC for Norfolk is working with Cambridgeshire's PCC to enable children and parents in prison to maintain positive relationships.

A total of £1,050 will be provided to Spurgeons and Sodexo, each receiving £525, of which Norfolk's PCC's contribution is £825, to purchase equipment to further enhance the existing StoryBook provision at HM Prisons Norwich and Peterborough.

StoryBook Mum/ Dad is a charity that uses storytelling as an effective method to maintain and promote family ties throughout a period of imprisonment.

Storybook Mum/Dad helps parents in prison to record bedtime stories and messages for their children on CD or DVD. For many families, these story discs are a lifeline, helping to heal rifts and build vital family relationships. It shows the children they are loved and missed. It helps prisoners to feel valued as parents and gives them the opportunity to have a positive impact on their children's lives.

Spurgeons Children's Charity is one of the UK's leading children's charities, offering Family Support services for prisoners and their families and friends who visit them at HM Prison Norwich with a particular focus on children and strengthening family relationships.

HM Prison Peterborough is a private prison caring for a complex population of both men and women, recognising the unique needs of both, with the aim to change lives for the better by reducing reoffending and risk of harm.

HM Prison Peterborough is operated by Sodexo Justice Services, and is the only dual purpose-built prison holding males and females in the country.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the PCC for Norfolk supports the allocation of joint funding to Spurgeons Children's Charity and Sodexo Justice Services to enable the purchase of equipment to further enhance the provision of StoryBook Mum/Dad in HM Prisons Norwich and Peterborough.

**OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY:** PCC/CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (Delete as appropriate)

*The recommendations as outlined above are approved.*



**Signature**

**Date : 14/12/2020**

## **DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION**

### **1. OBJECTIVE:**

To approve funding to purchase equipment to further enhance the provision of StoryBook Mum/Dad in HM Prisons Norwich and Peterborough.

### **2. BACKGROUND:**

In March 2020 prisons in the UK put in a place a restricted regime in order to mitigate against the risks of Covid-19 within prisons. Social visits were cancelled with immediate effect, with restrictions easing in July 2020.

Prisons continue to work with public health and NHS services to prioritise the safety of staff, prisoners and visitors. All prisons have introduced covid-secure ways of working. These ways of working have had an impact on social visiting arrangements, with uptake in family visits being impacted upon.

Children who experience parental imprisonment suffer a number of harms during 'normal' times. Research shows that many of those children later enter the criminal justice system themselves. For example, the Farmer Review (2017) referred to research highlighting that 63% of prisoner's sons went on to offend.

Furthermore, it is also recognised that prisoners who are able to maintain contact with their families and significant others are less likely to re-offend. The Ministry of Justice own research confirmed that 37% of prisoners who maintain ties with their families do not go on to re-offend.

Children with a parent in prison are not only coping with the challenges of lockdown, the closing of schools (and now the partial re-opening), the

withdrawal of many support services, the isolation and the fear, but also meaningful relationships with their parent, which will inevitably amplify those harms and difficulties.

There is a need to further enhance existing provision within HM Prison Norwich and Peterborough to enable children and parents in prison to maintain positive relationships.

**3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

These are difficult and unprecedented times for prisoners and their families. Visits are resuming but they are quite different.

There has been a noticeable lack of uptake of social visits within HM Prisons Norwich and Peterborough.

Keeping in contact behind bars, can be difficult. Those who maintain contact with their children are less likely to re-offend.

All necessary Safeguarding and Security protocols are in place at HM Prisons Norwich and Peterborough.

This is a one-off payment, working in partnership with Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

**4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

Not funding the scheme – this option has been rejected due to the lack of existing provision and the strain COVID-19 is placing upon parents in prison maintaining positive relationships with their children.

**5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:**

This project supports the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020 and the strategic aims of prevention of offending.

**6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

A total of £825 will be provided as a one-off payment, during the financial year 2020/21.

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:**

None.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	Y
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Y
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Y
Have human resource implications been considered?	Y
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Y
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Y
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Y
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Y
<p data-bbox="188 1435 767 1469"><b>Is this report a Confidential Decision?</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input data-bbox="1046 1447 1169 1518" type="checkbox"/> <input data-bbox="1240 1447 1362 1518" type="checkbox" value="NO"/> </div> <p data-bbox="188 1547 1412 1581">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the <a href="#">PCC Decision Making Policy</a></p>	

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER** (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

**Chief Executive**

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



**Signature:**

**Date: 14/12/2020**

**Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)**

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,  
OR
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,  
OR
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves  
AND
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

**Signature:**



**Date: 14/12/2020**

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION:** *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*