



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER



Ministry of
JUSTICE

National Offender
Management Service

Beyond Conviction...

the story of children and families affected by imprisonment and
offending behaviour

May 21st 2009

Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford



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Registration and Refreshments



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Welcome from Tony Hassall
NOMS Regional Manager
Custodial Services



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Introduction to the conference from the Chair Juliet Lyon CBE Prison Reform Trust



PRISON
REFORM
TRUST



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Rt HON Beverley Hughes MP
Minister for Children and Schools
Pre-recorded speech



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Martin Narey
Chief Executive
Barnardo's



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Andy Buck
Chief Executive
Rotherham Primary Care Trust



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Lunch



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Service User Perspective



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Helen McMullen
Director
Children and Learners



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Beyond Conviction

Helen McMullen

Director for Children and Learners
Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber
21 May 2009

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Government Office – who we are

Whitehall in the Regions

Sponsored by 10 Government Departments

Cross government perspective aligns priorities and integrates strategies

Timely local knowledge strengthens National Policies

Joining up policies and supporting effective partnership to drive local delivery

Linking up the National, Regional and Local perspectives



Children and Learners Directorate - Our Public Service Agreements

PSA 9 - Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11

PSA 10 - Raise the educational achievement of all children and YP

PSA 11- Narrow gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds, and their peers

PSA 12 - Improve the health and well-being of children and YP

PSA 13 - Improve children and young people's safety

PSA 14 - Increase number children and young people on path to success

PSA 16 - Increase proportion socially excluded adults in settled accom/EET





Every Child Matters

Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution, Achieving economic wellbeing

We know there is a strong correlation between parental imprisonment and poor child outcomes,

Research does not prove a causal link.

Little conclusive evidence on whether imprisoning parents actually causes these outcomes for children, or makes poor outcomes poorer.

It is clear however that children of prisoners are at higher risk than the wider child population, and are likely to require extensive support

It is therefore important that we use existing levers wisely to address outcomes for all groups of children and young people





What we do know

Estimated there are around 160,000 children with a parent in prison a year

Many of the boys in YOIs are dads themselves

Prison/probation do not necessarily see link between prisoner and child.

Two and a half times the number of children in care, (estimated that around half of children in custody have some experience of the care system)

Over six times the number of children on the Child Protection Register

These children may already have complex needs and are likely to be from socially excluded families

They need to be at the heart of the Every Child Matters agenda





Linking it all up

Many of these already socially excluded families will be well known to children's services through schools, social services, YOTs, prison and probation – its about making the linkages.

The focus should not be on creating a new strategy but personalising and developing the existing offer to children and families, embedding existing cross-government work on improving child outcomes, reducing re-offending, keeping children safe

Prisons and probation staff must try and see the impact from the perspective of the child and family as well as thinking about what would be beneficial to the prisoner





Leaving Care

Key Children and Family Legislation and Policy / National/Regional Levers

ECM Agenda

Think Family

Children's Plan

All PSAs around poverty, health and educational
achievement and exclusion



Children's Bill and Care Matters



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The links between this group and children in and on the edge of care cannot be ignored

The Bill attempted to strengthen the custodial/local authority arrangements for children in care by stating:

Local authority still has a duty to visit a child who has been in care and finds themselves in a custodial setting.



The House of Commons Select Committee on Looked-after Children published 9 Mar 09

“Relationships, continuity and stability are often severed by custodial sentences.”

The report recommends that the Government identify and implement a mechanism for automatically triggering a needs assessment when a child comes into contact with the criminal justice system.



Government's Response to Lord Laming's Report on Child Protection – Action Plan

“All services that have contact with children or with members of their families need to be alert to signs that a child has additional needs, ...[where] adults in the family face problems that affect their capacity to parent effectively...”

“Schools and Children’s Centres have most regular contact with children than other services and have a particularly important role to play in early intervention”





How GOYH are working within this framework

GOYH work closely with a range of LA and external partners and agencies across the vulnerable children and family agenda including:

- DCSs and Lead Members
- LSCB Managers and Chairs
- Children in Care networks
- Young People (Care leavers) Participation Groups
- 14-19 networks
- Parent Support Advisers
- Healthy Schools
- Workforce Leads
- Early Years
- VCS

As well as many government departments, agencies and field forces



How GOYH are working within this framework

Aim

To use these levers to feed wider messages about vulnerable groups

Encourage integrated working between services,
Raise awareness

Encourage the sharing of good practice (example from Hull this afternoon)

Support local authorities in developing effective strategies





Examples of GOYH Activity

- Recently brought together key local strategists to discuss taking forward Child Protection in the Region
- Safeguarding Advisers meet regularly with LSCB Managers and Chairs to ensure effective provision around safety of children in localities, through Working Together Guidance (due to be revised this year)
- Convene Integrated Process Managers from across our Region regularly to discuss effective information sharing, embedding the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), ContactPoint and integrated processes across agencies.
- Work closely with the VCS - key when it comes to existing good practice

Feeds Children's Services Advisers - challenge and support to Children's Services as part of their strategic engagement



Conclusion

“In the female estate,...most of the girls are without a partner. They are dealing with the loss of their kids – whether it be to family members or foster carers – as well as mounting debts and insecure tenancies.”

(CLINKS - supporting voluntary organisations that work with offenders and their families)

Clearly states the effect on the prisoner – but what about her children?

It is a question we cannot afford to ignore in our efforts to ensure that Children’s Trusts work effectively to protect these children, socially, emotionally, educationally and morally.





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Helen McMullen

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Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber
21 May 2009

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Break and Refreshments



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Farida Anderson MBE

Chief Executive

**Partners of Prisoners and Families Support
Group (POPS)**

Part of the Fabric or just the Embroidery?

Farida Anderson MBE
Chief Executive

Beyond Conviction
May 21st 2009



Aims of the presentation....

- Information on POPS, What we do... **'Seen and not heard'**
- Partnerships; how to become strong.
- Applying the Nolan Principles.
- Challenges for the BME Third Sector

A stylized, abstract figure in shades of orange and yellow, composed of overlapping curved shapes. It has a circular head and a long, pointed tail-like extension. The figure is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the background.

POPS Film.....

'Seen & not heard'

POPS & the offender supporter....

Arrest

- Arrest/Referral Scheme - Stretford Police

Court

- Court Family Support Worker – Probation NOMS
- Intensive Alternative to custody– Probation, NOMS

Prison

- 7 Visitor Centres. Family User Forums – Prison Service, Barnardo's
- 2 x Family Link Workers – DAAST
Routes to Roots
- Black Prisoner Support Group

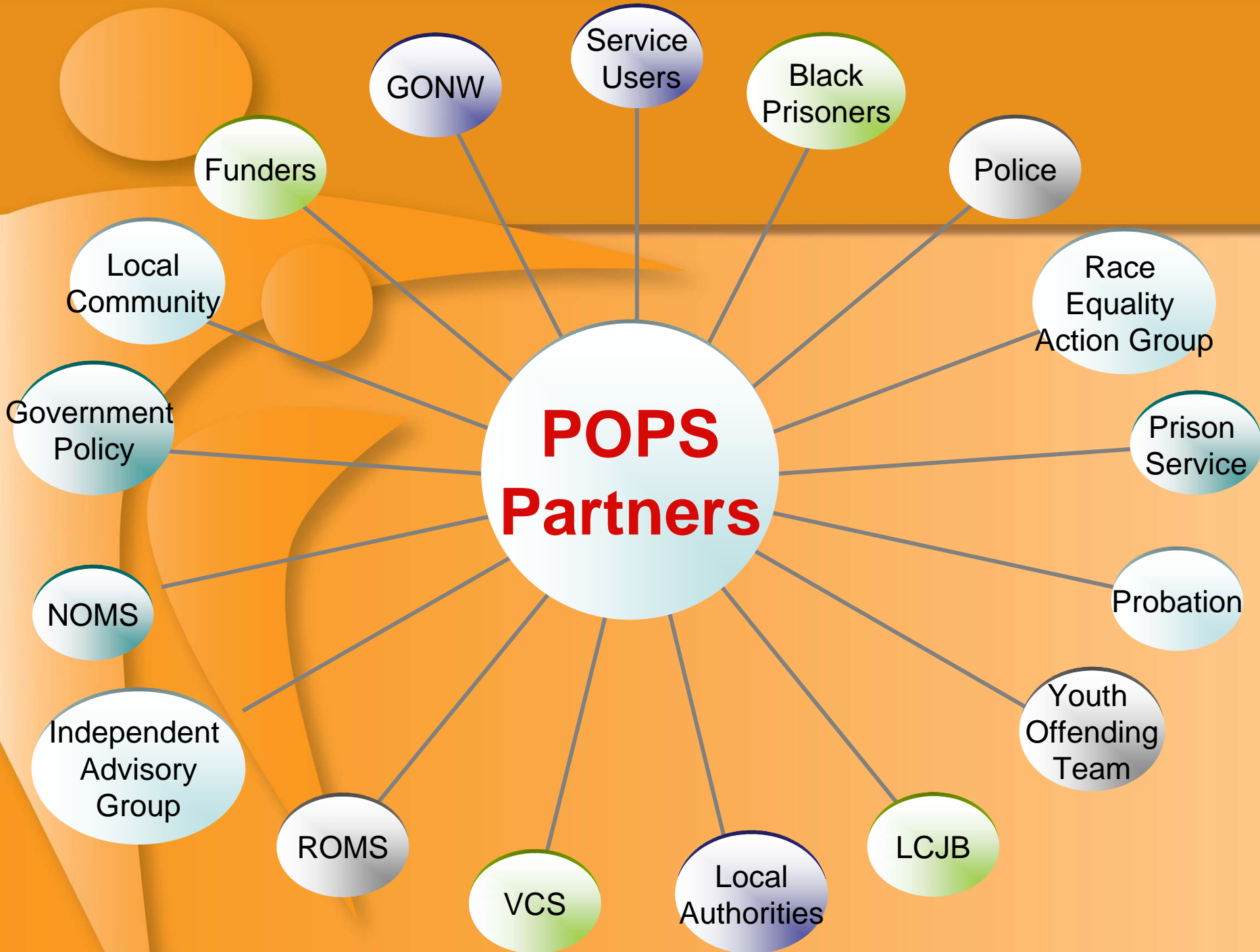
Release

- Outside in the community we have Family Users Forums
- Family Link Workers

Partnerships....

A stylized graphic of a human figure in shades of orange and yellow, positioned on the left side of the slide. The figure is composed of simple, rounded shapes, with a circular head and a body that tapers towards the bottom. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow.

“To achieve something that cannot be done alone by pooling resources and skills. To do this you need a shared vision of your goals and a way of working together which realises this ambition.”



POPS Partners

Funders

GONW

Service Users

Black Prisoners

Police

Race Equality Action Group

Prison Service

Probation

Youth Offending Team

LCJB

Local Authorities

VCS

ROMS

Independent Advisory Group

NOMS

Government Policy

Local Community



Strong Partnerships....

Stage 1: Early Days

Stage 2: Going Steady

Stage 3: Becoming real partners

Stage 4: Settling down

Stage 5: Growing old together

The reality.....

- Capacity for Third Sector to be fit for purpose.
- No opportunity to develop and grow.
- Commissioning does not provide room for emotional intelligence.
- No opportunity for early intervention for resolving conflict.
- Compliance.
- No personal investment.
- Partnership working opportunities reduced.
- Poorly managed process.
- Commissioning / procurement?

Send for Nolan....

- Openness.
- Integrity.
- Accountability.
- Selflessness.
- Honesty.
- Leadership.
- Objectivity.

Part of the fabric....

- Integral planning and developing of services.
- Need to be included.
- Share experiences.

Develop a bank account mentality....

FABRIC

Pendulum

EMBROIDERY

Credit

Agenda shared
Win Win
Synergise
Keeping promises
Understanding & being understood
Resolving differences
Sharing control & influence
Honest Feedback

Debit

My agenda
Win Lose
Parallel thinking
Breaking promises
Making assumptions
Enjoy the fight
Seeking to Dominate David and Goliath
Defensiveness and arrogance

Challenges for the BME Third Sector....

- Tokenistic – tick the box.
- Bureaucratic process.
- Stereotypical views of the sector.
- Perceived lack of trust – additional monitoring imposed.
- Cultural Differences – language issues.
- Seen to have the expertise but not the competency to deliver.
- No representation of the BME Sector on the commissioning process.
- Viewed as argumentative/aggressive.
- Perception that commissioners prefer to work with ‘big players’.

Solutions for the BME Third Sector....

- BME Capacity/resources.
- Instil in BME Sector Confidence – ‘Confidence Teams’.
- Regional BME Champions.
- Involved sooner rather than later.
- Doing it together – not having it done to us.
- Diversity/cultural competence for commissioners – training.

Final Thought....

'Can we honestly say when we are entering into partnerships we are applying social values in what we do, if we are then I believe that's when we will only see the biggest impact of the changes we want in the CJS. That's when true confidence is developed and matured to benefit both partners alongside the users groups from offenders to their families.'

Contact us

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Question Time

Farida Anderson, CEO, POPS

Norma Harrington, Governor, HMP Wealstun

**Diana Johnson, Assistant Chief Officer, West Yorkshire
Probation Board**

Simon Pellew, Chief Executive, Time for Families

**Steve Wagstaffe, Director of Offender Management,
NOMS Yorkshire and Humberside**



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Closing Comments

Steve Wagstaffe

Director of Offender Management

NOMS Yorkshire and Humberside



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Close

Thank you for attending the Beyond
Conviction Conference