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‘Families... a critical factor for change’

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Going Out, Staying Out – Personalising Resettlement
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Aim of the presentation...

1	Overview of POPS
2	How imprisonment affects offenders' families
3	What is resettlement and how can families be involved?

Part 1

1	Overview of POPS
2	How imprisonment affects families
3	What is resettlement and how can families be involved?

POPS History...

- POPS was formed in 1988 by a handful of offenders families.
- POPS is a needs led organisation based upon the people affected
- POPS is now a growing organisation which owns it's own offices and employs almost 100 staff and over 20 volunteers
- POPS still receives no statutory funding, but has contractual arrangements with the public sector
- POPS has an annual turnover of over £1 million
- POPS now supports over 300,000 families and 2,000 Black offenders last year

Our Inspiration was ...

Developed from

NEED

Grass roots

RESPONSE

to gap in local service provision

POPS aims to ...

- Bridges the gap
- Improve and maintain family ties
- Reduce risk of re-offending
- Break the cycle of offending behaviour
- Provide practically and emotionally
- Challenge the perception families have of themselves.

Our activities are...

- **Visitor Centres** – 7 based outside prisons across the North West
- **Family Link Workers** – 8 based in prisons across the North West
- **Prisoners' Families Telephone Helpline** – National free phone helpline run by POPS, Ormiston Children and Families Trust and Action for Prisoners Families **0800 808 2003**
- **Black Prisoner Support Project** – Group work in prisons in NW and SY/H.

Part 2

1	Overview of POPS
2	How imprisonment affects offenders' families
3	What is resettlement and how can families be involved?

The impact of imprisonment on families ?

- Imagine only seeing your mum or dad for 1 and a half days in a year?
- 30% of offenders' children suffer significant mental health problems
- Offenders' families are often socially excluded, isolated and vulnerable
- Offenders' families are often labelled as 'guilty by association'

The impact of imprisonment on families ?

- Research shows that failures to tackle offending behaviour means that offender' children are at greatest risk of becoming the next generation of offenders.
- Over 140,000 children have a father in prison
- 65% of these offenders children are likely to end up in prison themselves
- Boys with a criminal parent are 25% more likely to become an offenders themselves

What does this mean?

Offenders' Families and Children are more likely to:

- Live in poverty and deprivation
- Suffer from emotional and psychological problems
- Experience health problems
- Drop out of education
- Have behavioural problems
- Become an offender

Part 3

1	Overview of POPS
2	How imprisonment affects offenders' families
3	What is resettlement and how can families be involved?

Definition of resettlement...

“It encompasses the totality of prisoners, their families and significant others in partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies.”

Association of Chief Probation Officer (ACOP)

Resettlement cant happen without...

- The supportive family
- Links between the prison, LAA and CRPD's
- The sharing of information via Offender Management Unit
- Understanding the journey for an offender is a complex one that consists of many different elements
- The working together of RRDP Pathway and identify any cross cutting areas
- A multi-agency/sector approach - share information and engage with one another

Why should families be involved in resettlement?

- A supportive family is often the one constant thing throughout an offenders' time in the system.
- If involved and supported properly families can be part of the solution and not the problem
- Families can be a critical factor for change in an offenders' life
- Involving prisoners families can enable successful beginning to end management of offenders.
- A stable and supportive family can increase the success of resettlement and reduce the risk of re-offending after release.

How can the families contribute?

- Involve in the sentence planning of the offender
- Provide accommodation on release
- Help the offender find employment
- Recognise changes in the offenders' health and behaviour
- Manage the offender on release i.e. tagging licences etc

Recognise the family as an 'Offender Supporter'

- Offenders have...
 - An offender supervisor
 - An offender manager
 - A case manager
 - A case administrator
 - Families can support the prisoner to complete their sentence
- But who supports them... the families
- POPS would advocate for the families to be classed as an 'Offender Supporter'

Case Manager
Probation

Offender Supervisor
Prison

The Offender

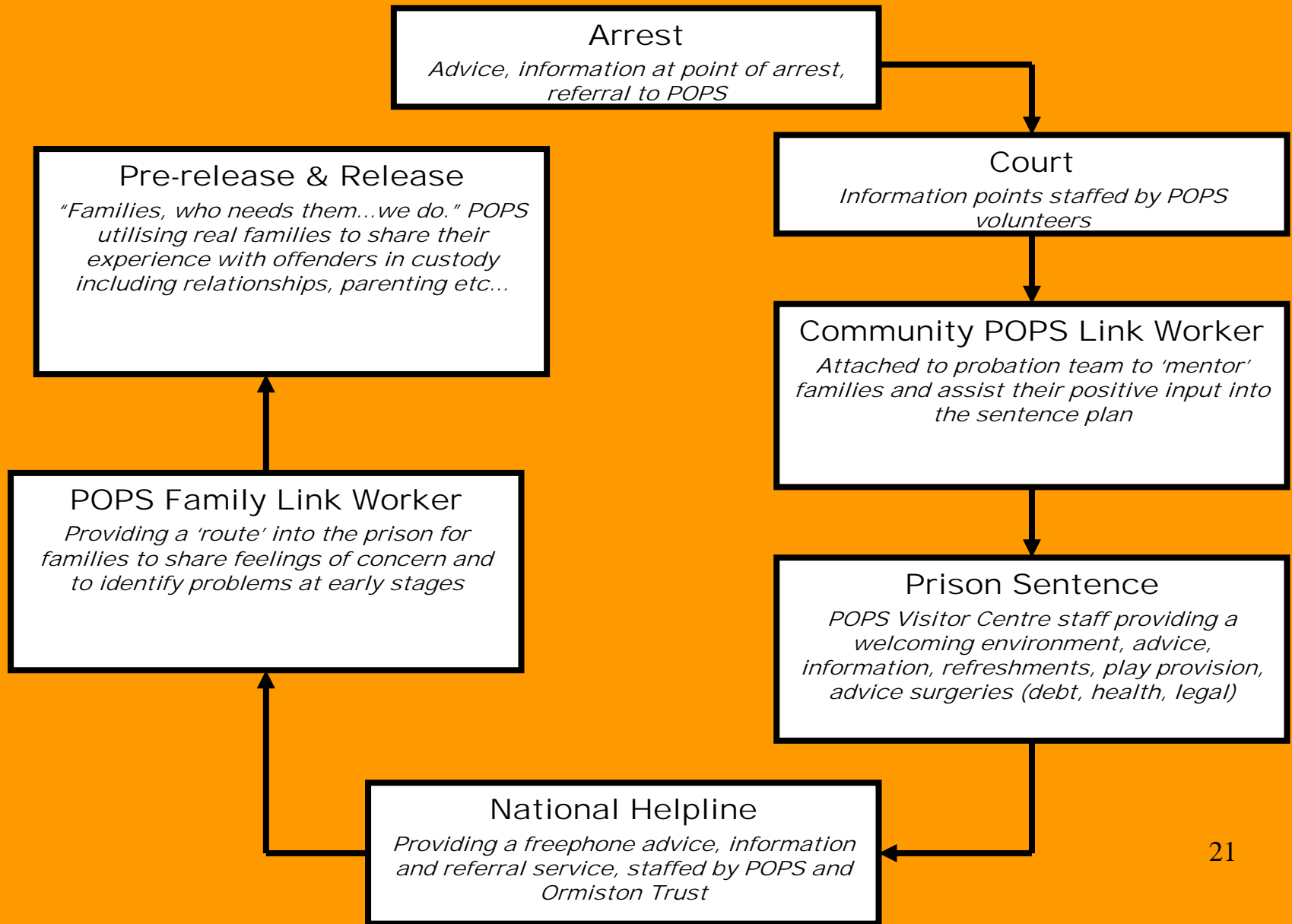
The Offender
Supporter
Families

Case Administrator
Probation

When should families be involved and resettlement start?

From the start!

How to ensure a seamless approach...



Families can't support the offenders' resettlement without support for themselves **first!**

- We need to acknowledge that families and children of offenders are 'AT RISK' of becoming socially excluded.
- The families can experience stigma for being 'Guilty by association'
- Families can often be the 'forgotten victim'

'Families, who needs them?' Project

- Families as Volunteers
- They deliver workshops to the offenders in prison
- Alleviate some of the warped perspectives of release and resettlement held by the prisoners
- The project empowers families and prisoners

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