



Safeguarding Update - October 24 -  
Family member in Prison

This month's staff safeguarding Newsletter focuses on Children with a family member in prison.

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## Why is this potentially a safeguarding issue?



200,000 children a year have a parent in prison!

Children with a Family member in prison:

Are at risk of poverty, stigma, bullying, isolation and poor mental health

Might not do as well at school

Are likely to feel the effects at home. For example, their family finances might suffer, or they might have to move or take on extra responsibilities at home

As a school, we have a duty to promote children's welfare – this includes taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes and protect their mental health.

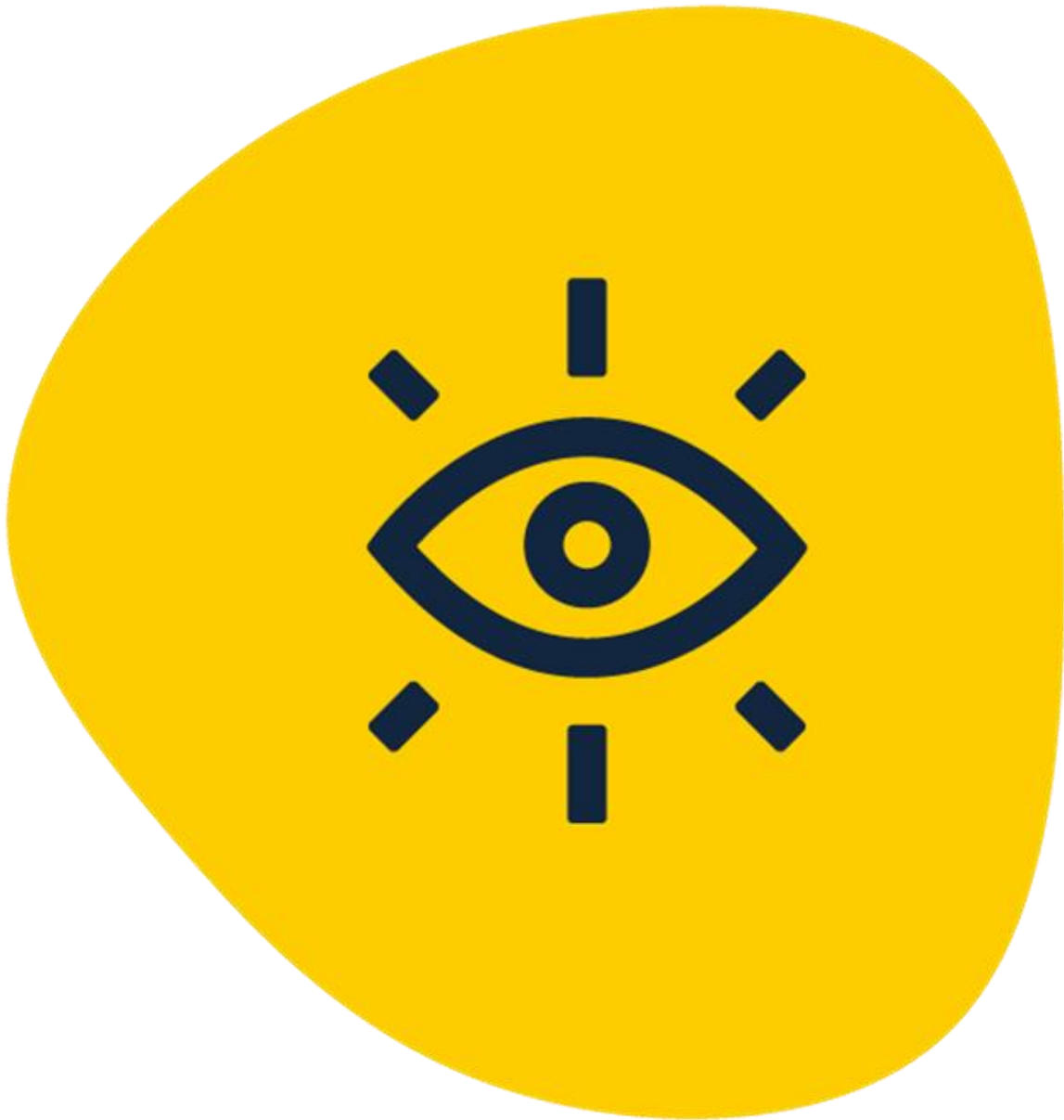
## Parents in Prison - Russell Webster

Children and young people are often subject to situations that they cannot change. The home environment is an important part of producing youngsters, able to meet life's challenges. Learning outcomes, socialisation and future prospects, will all be effected by things effectively out of the school or pupil's control. One of those factors is whether the child or young person has a parent in prison. The sudden removal of one parent or in some cases both, is a major upheaval in any child's life. A core participant in that young person's formulation into an adult, is suddenly not around. The family unit is disrupted and the continuity of life broken. Whether it is a long spell in prison or a short one, the effects can be noticeable on the pupil. In a fascinating study Russell Webster has looked into the numbers of children, that this issue may effect. Their study is an excellent read for those who are looking to understand this impactful issue better. A stepping stone to providing better support to those children whose parents may have been incarcerated. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.russellwebster.com/200000-children-a-year-have-a-parent-in-prison/>

To find out more about helping children with a parent in prison go to: [www.nicco.org.uk](http://www.nicco.org.uk)

## Look out for signs that a pupil's family member might be in prison



The child or their family might not tell us due to fear of stigma. Share any concerns you have with the DSL (or deputy). Look out for signs such as:

- Changes in a child's family situation, e.g. where they live or family finances
- Stigma from other children/their parents, being bullied or hostility from within the community
- Changes in a child's behaviour and emotional wellbeing
- Not concentrating as well and not doing as well at school

## Supporting a child in school

Remember, every child is different, so there won't be a one-size-fits-all approach

Be non-judgemental – the child hasn't done anything wrong

Be consistent, firm and sensitive in response to their needs, including aggressive behaviour

Be particularly sensitive to their needs if they've been to visit a relative in prison, as this is likely to be an upsetting and difficult experience

Let the child know they can talk to you about their feelings

Deal with any bullying they experience in line with our policies and procedures

Remember confidentiality and privacy – don't tell anyone who doesn't need to know, or put the child in a situation where they need to tell a peer about it

Refer the child for counselling/ELSA Support if you think they need extra support

Be alert to whether the child might need early help

## Children Heard and Seen



Children Heard and Seen is a charity aimed at ameliorating the issues caused by parental incarceration. Founded in 2014, by social worker Sarah Burrows. The recipient of multiple awards for her work towards aiding children of imprisoned parents, including the Point of Light Award (2017), the Butler Trust Commendation (2019) and the Leading Innovation and Social Change Award (2022) among other accolades. The charity aims to fill an existing gap in the provision of support for children and young people in these circumstances. They currently offer one-on-one support from trained practitioners, assistance for parents and carers, peer support groups and more. If you are in need of their support, or find this challenging sector interesting then please follow the link below:

<https://childrenheardandseen.co.uk/>

## Reminder of DSL Team

**Safeguarding Concerns**

**Are YOU concerned about a child?**

**Speak to a DSL**

 Ms Martin Headteacher	 Mr Gadsby Deputy Headteacher	 Mrs Bramley Assistant Headteacher
 Mr Glanney Yr3/4 Leader	 Mrs Tarling EYFS and Nursery Lead	 Mrs Beesley Family Liaison Officer

Record your concern in writing on

**CPOMS**

<https://biertoncombined.cpoms.net/>