



The Open
University

Introduction to the Survey

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Dr Victoria Cooper, Professor Jane Payler and Dr Stephanie Bennett from The Open University would like to invite you to take part in this online survey being conducted in collaboration with YSS. Before you decide, we would like you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it would involve for you to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this online survey is to speak directly to families who have a parent currently in prison, to see what support they are currently receiving, and to find out what further support is needed.

Do I have to take part?

There is no obligation for you to take part and it is entirely up to you to decide whether you would like to join the study.

What will happen if I take part?

You be asked to answer a short set of survey questions. All responses are entirely confidential and anonymous. We will not ask for your name and address. All data collected will be held securely and password protected. The survey will take you around 10 minutes to complete.

Expenses and payments

The survey is free to complete and there is no cost to you apart from your time. No expense, payments or incentives are available.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Aside from using your time, no disadvantages are anticipated. Your identity will never be revealed in my final report or any published material, and all data will be presented in summary format.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Whilst it is unlikely that you will receive any direct benefit as a result of taking part in the study, you will be contributing towards important research. It will help us with up-to-date knowledge about the extent to which services and support are needed by families with an adult family member currently in Prison.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

The survey responses can only be accessed by one member of the research team, and the data file will be password protected. Survey responses will be stored up for up to 1 year. After this time, the data file will be deleted.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

All questions are optional. If you wish to abandon the survey before completion, you can simply leave the website or simply miss out any questions you would rather not answer.

If you complete all or part of the survey, but then decide you would like to withdraw your data, please be aware that it will *not be possible* due to the anonymous nature of online surveys.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the research team, who will do their best to answer your questions. Dr Victoria Cooper can be contacted on: victoria.cooper@open.ac.uk

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The findings may form part of a published paper or book later. Summary findings may also be presented at relevant conferences. You will not be personally identified in any publication.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is being funded by YSS and carried out by academics from the Open University, Children's Research Centre which will be providing insurance.

Who has reviewed the study?

This project has been approved by the Open University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and adheres to OU ethics review processes (HREC reference no. HREC/3887/Cooper). All data will be collected, processed, and stored in accordance with data protection legislation.

Further information and contact details

You are welcome to see the results and findings once the research is complete and the report is written and published. At completion and when the research findings are published you are welcome to express your feelings about the research, the researchers, and your participation.

For any other queries, please contact the researchers in the first instance on the details given above. Thank you for taking the time to read this information regardless of whether you decide to participate or not.

Consent Questions

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information presented above. I have had opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I can choose not to take part. I understand that if I begin the survey, I am free to stop completing it at any time without giving any reason. However, it will not be possible for my responses to any completed questions to be removed from the survey as they will already be anonymous.
3. I understand that the data collected during the study will be looked at by the research team from the Open University in summary format. I give permission for these individuals to have access to my data.
4. I agree for my responses to be presented in summary form in academic publications e.g., journals and book chapters, and at conferences. I understand that no identifying information will be asked of me.
5. I agree that quotations from any written responses I make to questions can be used for illustrative purposes in reporting the research, but that I will not be identified with those quotations.
6. I agree to take part in the above study.

- I consent.
- I do not consent.

I confirm that:

- I am aged 18+
- I have children
- My partner/the children's parent is currently in Prison

- Yes, I confirm.
- No, please withdraw me from this survey.

What Gender do you identify as?

Do you live in Worcestershire?

- Yes
- No

Which Country do you live in currently?

- England
- Wales
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland

What County in England do you live in?

What County in Wales do you live in?

What County in Scotland do you live in?

What County in Northern Ireland do you live in?

Please note that from this point that all questions are optional.

Just answer questions that you feel comfortable enough to do so, if you do not know the answer to a question then please leave that question and move to the next question.

What is your Ethnicity?

How old are you?

Move the slider (blue circle) along until it rests on the correct age.

18 24 30 37 43 49 55 61 68 74 80

Age

What is the highest qualification you have received?

- No qualifications
- Level 1 or equivalent
- G.S.C.E or equivalent e.g. Level 2 NVQ
- A Levels or equivalent e.g. Level 3 NVQ
- Degree
- Postgraduate Degree

What is your employment status?

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Unemployed looking for work
- Unemployed not looking for work
- Retired
- Student
- Other

Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What is your marital status?

- Married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never married
- Civil Partnership

How long have you been in a relationship with the adult currently in Prison?

- less than 1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11+ years
- We are no longer in a relationship

About the Adult who is currently in Prison.

What Gender is the Adult currently in Prison?

How old is the Adult currently in Prison?

Move the slider (blue circle) along until it rests on the correct age.



What is the Ethnicity of the Adult currently in Prison?

Does the Adult in prison current have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What was the employment status of the Adult currently in Prison prior to being sentenced?

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Unemployed looking for work
- Unemployed not looking for work
- Retired
- Student
- Other

What is the highest qualification the Adult in Prison has received?

- No qualifications
- Level 1 or equivalent
- G.S.C.E or equivalent e.g. Level 2 NVQ
- A Levels or equivalent e.g. Level 3 NVQ
- Degree
- Postgraduate Degree
- Not sure

Which Prison are they in currently?

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How long (to the nearest year) have they been in Prison so far ?

Move the slider along (blue circle) until it rests on the correct number of years.

0 3 5 8 10 13 15 18 20 23 25

Years

How many years remain on their sentence?

- Less than 1
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11+

Is this their 1st time in Prison?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

How many other times have they been in Prison that you know of?

- One other time
- Two other times
- Three or more other times

Your household

How many children do you have at home currently?

Please can you let us know the gender and age of your children, please indicate if they have additional needs.

	Child Gender		Type in Child Age	Child has additional needs
	Boy	Girl	Age	Select if YES
Child 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Support offered

What support have you been offered by local organisations?

What parts of the support have you found particularly useful so far?

How useful has the support offered by local organisations been so far?

- Extremely useful
- Very useful
- Moderately useful
- Slightly useful
- Not at all useful

What support have you been offered by National (outside of your local area) organisations?

How useful has the support offered by National organisations been so far?

- Extremely useful
- Very useful
- Moderately useful
- Slightly useful
- Not at all useful

What additional support do you need right now?

Have you told the following people that your partner/ child's parent is currently in Prison?

	YES	NO
Your Children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child's school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Close Family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Close Friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other professional e.g Social Worker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work e.g. Boss or Work colleagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How supportive have the people been that you have told so far?

What makes you decide not to tell people that your partner/child's parent is in Prison?

- Don't know how to bring it up in conversation
- I am embarrassed
- I am not sure how people will respond.
- Would rather pretend it isn't happening
- I will tell people when I am ready
- I am concerned that it will impact my job
- I don't want to say why
- Other, please state below:

Communication

How often do you communicate with your Partner/the Child's parent in Prison?

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every few months
- A few times a year
- Other

**In which ways do you communicate with your Partner/the Child's parent in Prison?
Select all boxes that apply.**

- Written letters
- Phone call
- Video call including Purple visits
- Visit in person
- Other

How often do the children communicate with their parent in Prison?

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every few months
- A few times a year
- Not allowed to communicate
- Other- please specify below

In which ways do the children communicate with their parent in Prison? Select all boxes that apply.

- Written letters, cards and drawings
- Phone call
- Video call including Purple visits
- Visit in person - supervised
- Visit in person - unsupervised
- Other - please specify below

If your Partner/the Child's Parent was in Prison before March 2020, how has Covid-19 changed the way in which you communicate?

How has Covid-19 impacted the relationship you have with your Partner/the Child's Parent in prison?

Please use this space to share any further comments around Covid-19 and how it has impacted you and your family.

Would you attend a peer support group?

- Yes, face to face
- Yes, online
- Not sure
- Absolutely not

Do you think there should be a formal support system for families of Prisoners?

- Yes
- Not sure
- No

How do you feel about your partner's/the child's parent release from Prison?

Thinking about your own life and personal circumstances, how satisfied are with your life as a whole *right now*?

▼

Thinking about your own life and personal circumstances, how satisfied were you with your life as a whole *before your partner in prison received their sentence*?

▼

How good would you say your child's wellbeing is currently? (just answer for the children you have at home).

	Extremely bad	Somewhat bad	Neither good nor bad	Somewhat good	Extremely good
Child 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have you heard about the following organisations? Please select all boxes that apply.

- Families First – YSS
- PACT
- Families Outside
- Prison Reform Trust
- Prisoner Families Helpline
- Prison Chat UK
- Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group
- Ormiston Trust
- NEPACS
- Out There
- Sussex Prisoner Families
- Children Heard and Seen

This is now the end of the survey. If you wish to go back and review your answers, please use the backwards arrow to do so now.

Please use this space to tell us anything else you would like us to know about your current situation.

Additionally, any feedback about this survey and how it can be improved is welcomed. You will be provided with details of support organisations in the final section of this survey. Please click the forwards arrow to continue to the final page.