

# Invisible Fathers



A study exploring the pilot of Mellow Dads Parenting Programme in Her Majesty's Prison Oakwood.

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# The Invisible Fathers Project

The background

How we progressed

What we did

What we found

Moving forward



# Background

- Problematic stereotypes of fathers
- Professionals informed by personal experiences
- Excluded from services
- Children experiencing disadvantage
- 39% less likely to reoffend when linked with family
- 45% of fathers lose touch with their families



# How the study progressed

- Being heard
- Measured outcomes
- Mixed Methods
- Study A
  - Peer researchers
  - Partnership
- Study B
  - Existing measures



# Study A – a participatory approach



- Legitimate fatherhood
- Course environment

# Study B – measuring outcomes

- 7 out of 7 reported thinking differently about the need for change
- 7 out of 7 reported changes to parenting style
- 6 out of 7 reported changes in how they understood their role



# Findings

- Nature of the father-child relationship
  - Legitimate fatherhood
  - Changes to parenting style
- Not more visits
- Nurturing environment



# Recommendations

- Partnership continues
- Earlier in the prison journey
  - Links with local courts
- Mellow Mums
- After Mellow
  - Visits
  - Environment

