



## Child Impact Assessment Project: Data Protection Guidelines

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### Outline of the project

[This project](#) is about evaluating the use of Child Impact Assessments for children with a primary carer (usually a mother) in the criminal justice system. The Child Impact Assessment aims to ensure children are listened to at every stage of their mother's journey (arrest, court appearance, community sentence or imprisonment, and release) and that they are meaningfully involved in decision-making about their care and any support needs they may have. The project will also consider how the assessment is best used to ensure all children affected are sensitively recognised and appropriately supported at the earliest opportunity. The project is funded by the [Churchill Fellowship Activate Fund](#) and is led by [Prison Reform Trust](#) Associate Sarah Beresford. Sarah has over ten years of experience of working with families affected by imprisonment and is particularly passionate about ensuring children affected get the support they need. At the end of the project (June / July 2022), Sarah will publish a report of the project's findings. This report will be largely informed by feedback from participants in the project.

### Who can take part?

This project is open to any child with past or current lived experience of a mother in the criminal justice system; any mother with past or current lived experience of the criminal justice system; any carer looking after a child because their mother is in the criminal justice system; any voluntary or paid staff working directly with children or mothers who have lived experience of the criminal justice system; and anyone who works within any other sector related to children and mothers who may have experience of the criminal justice system (e.g. education, social work, health, etc.).

### What will be involved in taking part?

- If you are a **child or young person**, the project will involve completing a section (or more than one section) of the Child Impact Assessment and giving feedback on whether the assessment is helpful and how it could be improved.
- If you are a **mother with lived experience of the criminal justice system**, or a **carer looking after a child with a mother in the criminal justice system**, the project will involve giving feedback on whether the Child Impact Assessment is something that could be (or could have been) helpful for the children in your life and how it might best be offered to them.
- If you are **someone who works with children and / or mothers**, you will be asked to give feedback on how the Child Impact Assessment might support your work with children and / or mothers and how it might fit within existing systems and structures.

### How will information I share be used?

- If you are a **child or young person** completing a section (or more than one section) of the Child Impact Assessment, the organisation helping you with this will follow their own data protection guidelines (this means they will tell you how they store personal information about you and what they do with that information). Nothing that you share as part of the Child Impact Assessment will be passed on as part of this project; the only information that Sarah will receive is your evaluation of the assessment if you are happy to do that. The evaluation form only asks for your age; no other personal information about you is needed, just your thoughts on the Child Impact Assessment. Your feedback will be used to write the report about Child Impact Assessments. If you are happy for any quotes to be used in the report, Sarah will make up a name and only use your age so no one reading that report will know it is you.
- If you are a **mother or carer**, no identifying information about you will be used in the report. If you are happy for a quote to be used, Sarah will choose a pseudonym and you will be described using that name and your role (e.g.

Anna, mother who has been in prison, or Maureen, granny looking after 3 children because their mother is in prison).

- If you are a **member of staff, or a volunteer, of an organisation** working with children to complete the Child Impact Assessment, you should adhere to your own organisation’s data protection and safeguarding policies at all times, bearing in mind that having a parent who commits an offence, or goes to prison, is not a safeguarding concern in and of itself. If you work with children and / or mothers, or your role relates in some way to this project, you can choose if your name, role and organisation (or some or none of these) are stated in the report. Those who provide direct quotes, attributed by name, will be given an opportunity to read a draft of the report before it is published.

**Any personal data or information Sarah receives will be stored securely, not held longer than necessary, and will not be used without seeking the permission of the participants first.**

**What are the benefits of taking part?**

It is hoped that this project will mean children who have a mother in the criminal justice system are listened to. Being involved will give children, and those looking after them and supporting them, the opportunity to have their voices heard and to share their experiences in a positive way. When policy makers hear the voices of people who are living with the issues being considered, it can make a real difference to their perspectives and can lead to positive changes.

**What are the possible risks of taking part?**

If you are a child, young person, mother, or carer with lived experience of knowing someone, or being, in the criminal justice system, it can sometimes be difficult talking about your experiences. There are sources of support and listed below.

**Who should I contact if I have any questions?**

You can contact Sarah Beresford on [sarah.beresford@prisonreformtrust.org.uk](mailto:sarah.beresford@prisonreformtrust.org.uk) or on 020 7251 5070.

**Further information and support**

<p><b>Children Heard and Seen</b> supports families impacted by parental imprisonment in Oxfordshire (face to face) and in other parts of England (via Zoom). <a href="http://www.childrenheardandseen.co.uk">www.childrenheardandseen.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Out There</b> supports families of prisoners in Greater Manchester. <a href="http://www.outtherecharity.org">www.outtherecharity.org</a></p>
<p><b>Families Outside</b> is the only national charity that works solely on behalf of families in Scotland affected by imprisonment. <a href="http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk">www.familiesoutside.org.uk</a></p>	<p>The Prison Advice and Care Trust (<b>Pact</b>) is a national charity that provides support to prisoners, people with convictions, and their families. <a href="http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk">www.prisonadvice.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Nepacs</b> supports prisoners and their families in the north east of England. <a href="http://www.nepacs.co.uk">www.nepacs.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Partners of Prisoners (<b>POPS</b>) supports families affected by imprisonment in the north west of England and Yorkshire. <a href="http://www.partnersofprisoners.co.uk">www.partnersofprisoners.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>NIACRO</b> provides support to families impacted by the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland. <a href="http://www.niacro.co.uk">www.niacro.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Time-Matters UK</b> supports children from Merseyside with a parent in prison. <a href="http://www.timemattersuk.com">www.timemattersuk.com</a></p>
<p><b>Women in Prison</b> is a national charity that delivers support for women affected by the criminal justice system. <a href="http://www.womeninprison.org.uk">www.womeninprison.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Kinship</b> supports kinship carers in England and Wales who raise children when their parents can't. <a href="http://www.kinship.org.uk">www.kinship.org.uk</a></p>