



Summary of the Reach Out programme.

Fusion has developed an exciting new family communications programme for families with a parent in prison. The Reach Out Project consists of 5 interlinked components.

Child interest surveys - Our research showed that prisoners felt they lacked information about their child's daily activities and needs. This created distance and a vulnerability at the heart of their capacity to engage with their child. The purpose of these surveys is to garner information from both parent and child about their everyday activities, likes dislikes, hopes, dreams and expectations.

Child development module – This module examines the three core developmental stages that children progress through from the ages of three to twelve years. The module includes information on the behaviours that accompany these developmental stages and the thought processes and activities best suited for children throughout these stages.

Enhanced Communications module – This module covers the following components: problem solving, creative thinking, social skills, management of emotions, negotiation skills, values enhancement, and critical reasoning. Each component focuses on practicing certain skills.

Mentoring – Mentors are trained in an evidence based mentoring programme with a dual purpose. The programme Focuses on mediation and goal orientated planning strategies, crisis management, family problem solving, and perspective based communication practices. Mentors are provided with monthly supervision by Archways.

Trainee Workbooks - Will target problems in communications and relationships that prisoners routinely face. These Workbooks will enable prisoners to problem solve and practice the key skills required to deal with the emergence of unexpected family situation or issues of personal crisis in relation to family communication.

