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**Tracy Hayes &  
Caroline Larmour  
with  
Amy, Anna, Bev,  
Emily & Kayleigh**

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**Working with  
Children & Families**  
Health, Psychology and  
Social Studies, University  
of Cumbria

**Family Learning in  
Prisons: Doing Time,  
Making Time, for Family  
Time**

# Aim of our talk

We will:

1. Discuss our volunteering project
2. Share our reasons for getting involved
3. Engage in the wider debate about our attitudes towards people who transgress: educate and rehabilitate or punish
4. Invite you to consider how you would respond to such an opportunity

# Introduction

- Who are we?
- What did we do?
- How – and why - did we do it?
- Who was involved with us?
- What did we learn?



# Exploring the title

- Doing time – this is slang for spending time in a jail or prison
- Making Time - to allow time for something in particular
- Family time - provides an important arena in which family values are enacted and confirmed

Why would two women, both of whom are mothers of four children, employed as full-time lecturers, and juggling the demands of part-time PhDs, chose to spend time with prisoners and their families?

And why would so many students be keen to join us?

It is not as if we had 'time on our hands...

Some of the responses we've had from people on hearing about our new project include...

*Why are you choosing to spend  
time with them?*

*What a waste of time, they're  
in there to be punished,  
not to have fun!*

*Why should they be allowed  
time with their families?*



*They should have  
thought of that before  
they offended*

**In contrast...**

*That's really interesting,  
can I come?  
How can I help?*

# Pilot Project

- Summer 2016
- 2 recent graduates, plus colleague's friend from other university
- 2 days:
  - general visiting
  - Lifers Day (sentence of 10 years+)
- Learning from this – transport, timings, training, reflection
- Who to include as volunteers?
- How to incorporate this into BA in WCF

# Volunteers...

Amy, Anna, Bev, Emily, Kayleigh, Harriet, Lauren;  
Also: Beth, Jenna (2016 graduates, on pilot)

## Harriet:

“Although I was forewarned that many of the children weren’t aware that their fathers were in prison, I was surprised when one child asked “do you work with my Dad?”

It allowed insight into how the families explain their father’s absence to the children, but also highlighted that many of the children questioned their father’s absence.”

## Emily:

“Even though we did not know the reasons for imprisonment some of the men didn't strike me as a danger to society and it just made me think that too many people are imprisoned today and is there no alternative.

It was heart-breaking at the end of the day when families and prisoners had to say goodbye especially the children, this just strengthened my thoughts that prison should be a last resort.”

# What sort of things did we do?

- We couldn't take photos or films to show you
- We talked a lot...
- We did a lot of crafts...

When you do craft together you can connect – we aim to support fathers to talk to their children while they are doing something together.

**Over to you...**  
**how would respond to an opportunity like this?**

