

The Jigsaw Piece



Jigsaw Visitors' Centre
Putting the pieces together

Jigsaw Visitors' Centre celebrates award nomination



One day back in October 2005 the Governor, Ian Blakeman, came down to see us at the Visitors' Centre—nothing unusual in that you may say... but this was different because he had come down with some very exciting news! He came down to tell us, that without us knowing anything about it, he had nominated us for a

prestigious Prison Service Award and we had been short-listed to the final 3 in our category. He went on to tell us that there were 6 categories in total and 10 prisons in the Yorkshire & Humberside area that had all nominated one team for each category.

The awards ceremony was to be held on November 23rd where the final 3

teams for each category were invited to a black tie event including a meal and the formal ceremony of announcing the winners. We all felt very honoured to have been recognized and singled out for such an award. Our category was 'Support Services'. The evening was very enjoyable then the time came for the award ceremony. They showed 3 short films of all the finalists. Unfortunately we didn't win, a team from Wealstun prison won. They had raised money for a colleague who had died earlier that year. Although we did not win we took comfort that the Governor had nominated us in the first place which is an achievement in its own right.

Malka Denton
Service Development
Co-ordinator

My first three months in post at Jigsaw have flown by and I'm really impressed by the level of dedication and enthusiasm for this unique Centre. As a team we are currently engaged in planning for the coming year. Given the rapid development of the Centre it's now an appropriate time for us to consolidate our practice and also be clear on our future focus.

Providing enhanced support for families, promoting the broad health agenda, engaging with the community and working in partnership with the prison on initiatives which support the reduction of re-offending will be central to what we do. As always we will actively seek out views and input from our stakeholders. On 26th April we have our Partnership Event and I hope to see many of you then. In the meantime our Best Wishes are with Susie who produced a healthy baby boy Jack (9lbs 4 ozs!)

Rita Hindley Jigsaw Visitors Centre Manager

The Visitors' Centre celebrates Christmas in style

The Jigsaw Visitors' Centre celebrated Christmas by organising its annual Christmas fayre on Friday 2nd December. We had:

- **A Santa's grotto for children**
- **Cakes & Buns stall**
- **Raffle, & tombola**
- **A stall by Armley Helping Hands project**
- **A stall by Christchurch Youth Project**
- **Face painting**

- **Complementary therapy**

The event attracted over 100 people including prison visitors, prison staff and people from the local community.

The fayre was a real community event with other community providers attending and actively involved.

A great time was had by all who attended and we raised £185.

This money will contribute to purchasing of a computer for community use in the Visitors Centre. So feel free to pop into



the Visitors' Centre and make use of the new computer which will have internet access. Thanks to Santa who made it all the way from Lapland to be with us

Christmas is a time for families at HMP Leeds

On 19th December 2005 we held our fifth Christmas Visit. 17 prisoners took part, each inviting 1 adult and their children, we had 24 children/young people attend. Dads joined in with their children working together on arts and craft activities e.g. hat making, Christmas card making and photo frame decorating. We also had a sing song, a visit from Santa, party games and lunch.

These are a few of the comments from families:

- "You can cuddle and walk around with each other"
 - "Actually sitting at the side of my partner without his bib on and obviously family contact"
 - "We could sit together and do things as a family"
- "Prisoner was able to get up, walk about and play with his children properly"
- These are a few of the comments from Dads:
- "Absolutely brilliant, being able to play with my kids, thank you."
 - "I would like to thank all the

staff and officers for a grand morning, we could do with a few more days like this, a day to remember, Thanks"

- "Make them more often and for 2 ½ hours. It was good family time. Thank you."

- "Very enjoyable, thanks a lot"

"It was very nice to spend more time with my family"

The feedback from all those that took part has been overwhelmingly positive and we

believe these types of events are crucial to maintaining family relationships. This is particularly important for the children involved, who benefit enormously from having contact with their fathers. We hope to continue to develop family visits alongside other parenting courses taking place inside the prison.

Debbie Freeman
Senior Family Worker

Prisoners and their families celebrating Christmas together at the annual special Christmas visit



Property service at HMP Leeds

Bringing in of property is a vital element for prisoners and visitors at Leeds prison. The property office is situated within the Visitors Centre. The main duties of the property officers are:-

- Accept inmates' property and clothes in line with HMP Leeds property policy
- Check all inmates applications against their property card. If their entitlements are correct then enter date of hand in or exchange in the daily dairy
- Each day in advance obtain property cards from reception, also obtain any property hand outs. Take all to the

office in the Visitors Centre and deal with hand outs/hand ins as they occur

Handing in and out of property takes place Monday—Saturday 9.00am—11.00am & 1.00pm—3.00pm and Sunday 1.00pm—3.00pm. We handle a wide variety of items which include clothes, electrical items, jewelry and books.

The job entails face to face contact with families, friends, and relatives of prisoners. It is therefore necessary to be polite and helpful and provide as much guidance and assistance as possible.

We are available on 0113

2032770 to answer queries, mainly on property, entitlements and applications received.

Robert Quigley
Office Support Grade (OSG)



Sensory room available at the Visitors' Centre

If you're having a really stressful time at work and need some time to yourself to relax, then why not visit the sensory room that is available at the Jigsaw Visitors' Centre. The sensory room offers you the opportunity to destress and relax with its soothing light effects and music. With comfortable chairs,

bean bags and mats available you can relax in comfort. To use the sensory room you can either book an appointment for the room by phoning Carolyn on 0113 2032771 or just drop into the Visitors' Centre and see if the room is available. The sensory room is open Monday—Friday 9.00am—5.00pm.



Meeting room for hire at the Visitors' Centre

The Jigsaw Visitors' Centre has a bright, airy, spacious community meeting room available for hire. The meeting room can be used for:
Meetings, Training Sessions
Seminars, Away Days
Activities

The community room can hold up to 30 people. There is a small charge for the room

which is as follows:

Free for groups who have no paid staff
£5p/h for small community/ voluntary organisations with paid staff
£10p/h for statutory and large community organisations
Refreshment packages are available. To book this room contact Carolyn on 0113

2032771.



Volunteer Opportunities

**Are you interested in Volunteering at the Visitors Centre? You will get to meet new people and make friends
Hours are flexible & Free training is provided**

We are actively looking for people to volunteer in the following areas:

- 1. Courts Liaison Project**—supporting families from the early stages in court
- 2. Play Areas**—helping playworkers in the prison visits room where we provide facilities for children to enjoy themselves whilst mum and dad are talking
- 3. Blue Pepper Café**—based in our Visitors Centre providing drinks and light refreshments for people who use the centre
- 4. Family Support, Advice & Information**—working with families and visitors of prisoners
- 5. Healthy Living Services and Events**—based in the Visitors Centre and in the community

For further information on volunteering contact Malka Denton on 0113 2032771

Youth provision continues at the Visitors' Centre

Following the success of the initial pilot youth project at the Jigsaw Visitors' Centre, it was decided to continue with another 10 weeks of youth provision for the young people of Armley and New Wortley.

Working again in partnership with Christ Church Youth Project allowed us to build upon the previous work that was carried from the initial pilot project. The focus was helping young people who were normally hard to reach.

We offered a varied programme of activities which included:

- **Weekly planned workshops such as drumming, photography and video, urban dance, community cooking, health education, body art/face painting**
- **Computers with internet access**
- **Chill out/sensory room**

The project ran on a Monday evening from 4.30pm—6.15pm with two youth workers from Christchurch. The 10 weeks covered from 16th November to 1st February.

More youth provision is planned to continue in the future, so if

you know any young person aged between 11—16 who might be interested in attending the youth project then contact Lee at the Visitors' Centre on 0113 2032512 or staff at Christ Church Youth Project on 0113 2796700.



Young people enjoying a body/face painting workshop

Voluntary & Community Sector Co-ordinator at HMP Leeds

The role of the Voluntary Community Sector Co-ordinator (VCS) is to encourage organisations to work alongside the prison, and establish links with the community. Hopefully this would benefit both prisoners and the community, ensuring the transition back in to the community runs smoother.

Part of the role of the Voluntary Community Sector Co-ordinator is to act as the Named contact in H.M.P Leeds, and look at how the Voluntary Sector can influence a reduction in re-offending.



The NOMS (National Offender Management Service) agenda has brought together the Prison Service and Probation to help reduce re-offending by 10% by the year 2010.

NOMS initially devised 7 pathways to reduce re-offending:-

- **Accommodation**
- **Education, training and employment**
- **Mental and physical**

- **health**
- **Drugs and alcohol**
- **Finance, benefit and debt**
- **Children and families of offenders**
- **Attitudes, thinking and behaviour**

However the ROM (Regional Offender Management) of Yorkshire and Humberside, thought two areas were missing and included:-

- **Voluntary sector**

- **Prolific and other priority offenders**

If your voluntary/community organisation carries out work that come under any of the 9 pathways please contact Jean by email at Wilkinson.jean@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk

Quarterly meetings are being organised to share ideas.

Officer Jean Wilkinson
Voluntary Community Sector Co-ordinator

Contact Details

Lee Stephenson Health Information & Development Worker, **Tel:** 0113 2032512
or Email: Lee@jigsawvisitorscentre.org.uk

Write to: Jigsaw Visitors' Centre, c/o HMP Leeds, 2 Gloucester Terrace, Armley, Leeds, LS12 2TJ

Our Vision: "The Visitors' Centre is here to provide friendly and independent support, information and advice and healthy living activities for all communities associated with the Visitors' Centre – families of prisoners, prisoners and ex-prisoners, prison staff and the local community. We aim to empower people and their families to make positive choices about their lives and life style."



The Jigsaw Visitors' Centre is funded by Big Lottery Fund, HMP Leeds, Leeds Primary Care Trusts, Lankelly Foundation, Leeds Health Action Zone, Tudor Trust, Action for Prisoners' Families
A Project of Armley Prison Visitors' Centre, Registered Charity
No:1051052



-Programme of activities-

Weekly sessions in the Visitors' Centre

	Day	Time
Benefits & Rights Advice	Mon & Tues	Appointments only
Family Support	Daily	9.00am — 5.00pm
Health Information Advice & Support	Daily	10.00am — 5.00pm
Blue Pepper Café	Daily	9.00am — 5.00pm
Free Internet Access	Daily	9.00am — 5.00pm
Massage Sessions	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	11.00am — 1.00pm 11.30am — 1.30pm
Community Meeting Room Available	Mon– Fri	9.00am—5.00pm
Sensory Room	Mon-Fri	9.00am—5.00pm

Service Providers and Events

Citizens Advice Bureau (Prisoners/Families/Staff)	Mon — Thurs	10.00am — 4.00pm
Leeds Counselling Service (Staff & Prisoners)	Tues, Thurs & Fri	10.00am — 4.00pm
Special Family Visit (Families & Prisoners)	Tuesday 30th May	2.00pm—4.00pm
Bi-annual Partnership Event 9.30am—1.00pm	Wednesday 26th April	

The Jigsaw Visitors' Centre email contact details have changed to the following:

For the project
info@jigsawvisitorscentre.org.uk

For individual staff:
Rita@jigsawvisitorscentre.org.uk
Lee@jigsawvisitorscentre.org.uk
Malka@jigsawvisitorscentre.org.uk
Debbie@jigsawvisitorscentre.org.uk
Hilary@jigsawvisitorscentre.org.uk
Playworkers@jigsawvisitorscentre.org.uk