

Press release: Strengthening prisoners' family ties: the 'golden thread' to reducing reoffending

Strengthening family ties can play a crucial role in helping offenders to turn their lives around beyond the prison gates, Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns said today following a visit to HM Prison and YOI Parc in Bridgend.

The visit to HMP Parc – which is the only privately-run prison in Wales – comes in the year following the publication of a UK Government-commissioned report, which identified family relationships as the “golden thread” running through the reforms across the prison estate.

Mr Cairns met with Parc prison director, Janet Wallsgrove and prison staff to see first-hand how incorporating family members into the prison's innovative rehabilitation schemes is having a significant impact on preventing prisoners from reoffending after release.

In September 2016, [Lord Michael Farmer](#), in partnership with the membership charity Clinks, was commissioned by the UK Government to investigate how connecting prisoners with their families can improve offender wellbeing, assist in keeping the public safe and reduce reoffending.

During the visit to HMP Parc, the Secretary of State met Corin Morgan-Armstrong, head of family interventions for G4S Central Government Services in the UK, who highlighted how the success of the prison's 'Invisible Walls Wales' project has helped to inform the Farmer Review, and outlined the tangible results the scheme is having on the rehabilitation of offenders.

Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns said:

Safe and secure prison environments are just the foundation for successful rehabilitation. But as Lord Farmer's review outlined last year, building and nurturing family relationships is also fundamentally important if people are to change.

It has been inspiring to meet the passionate staff at HMP Parc and to experience how they are pursuing trailblazing initiatives like 'Invisible Walls Wales'. It's also been an experience to listen to prisoners who have taken up the opportunities available, using their own drive and determination to change as they look towards life beyond the prison gates.

Backed by Big Lottery Fund investment and working in partnership with Barnardo's Cymru, the Invisible Walls Wales scheme helps prisoners to strengthen family ties and maintain healthy family relationships as well as

providing them with advice on issues such as debt, housing, training and moving towards employment.

Janet Wallsgrove, Director of HMP & YOI Parc said:

Initiatives such as Invisible Walls Wales, and the wide range of educational and training programmes which are offered at HMP Parc, all play a key part in supporting prisoner rehabilitation. Our aim is to reduce reoffending after release by providing prisoners with the right skills and support during their sentence, and by strengthening their ties with the community.

Today's visit was a great success, and we'd like to thank the Secretary of State for taking the time to meet our staff, and allowing them to demonstrate how outstanding results can be achieved through innovation, service excellence and teamwork.

Notes to editors

- For further information about HMP Parc contact the G4S media team on 020 7963 3333.
- For information on the prison estate and reforms, contact the Ministry of Justice newsdesk on 020 3334 3536.
- HMP Parc is a category B men's prison and young offenders institution near Bridgend, and is the only privately-run prison in Wales. It is managed by G4S and is one of the largest prisons in the UK, with over 1,700 prisoners and 800 members of staff.
- To read Lord Farmer's review on the 'Importance of strengthening prisoners' family ties to prevent reoffending and reduce intergenerational crime' click [here](#)

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[News story: Chair of the Civil Aviation Authority reappointed for extended term](#)



The government has extended the appointment of Dame Deirdre Hutton as Chair to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to serve for an additional 12 months from August 2019 when her current appointment expires.

During her time as CAA Chair, Dame Deirdre has overseen a huge amount of organisational change within the CAA. Over the next year she will continue to steer the CAA's modernisation and change programmes.

Dame Deirdre became Chair of the CAA in August 2009 and previously served as Chair of the Food Standards Agency, Chair of the National Consumer Council

and as a member of the Board of HM Treasury.

She has served on a number of other public bodies, including the Better Regulation Taskforce, and has extensive experience of corporate governance, risk-based regulation and consumer policy.

She is honorary Vice-President of the Trading Standards Institute and sits as a Non-Executive on the board of Thames Water Utilities Ltd and Castle Trust and is also Pro-Chancellor of Cranfield University.

The process of identifying the next Chair of the CAA is expected to commence in the autumn of 2019.

Published 25 October 2018

Press release: Prime Minister appoints Lord Evans of Weardale as Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life

The Prime Minister has today appointed Lord Evans of Weardale as Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public life, following pre-appointment scrutiny by the [House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee](#).

The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in the UK. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders.

Lord Evans has been appointed for a five-year term following open competition under the [Cabinet Office Governance code](#). He replaces Lord (Paul) Bew, who has chaired the Committee since August 2013.

Jonathan Evans of Weardale spent 33 years in the UK Security Service, six as Director General. During his career he has worked on counter-espionage and counter-terrorism, both international and domestic, including initiatives against cyber threats. He retired from the Security Service in April 2013. He was appointed as a crossbench peer for his contribution to public service by the Prime Minister in 2014 and was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in the 2013 New Year Honours List.

He is a non-executive Director of HSBC Holdings plc, a Director of Ark Data Centres Ltd and a member of the Public Interest Committee of KPMG UK. He advises a number of private sector boards involved in cyber security and

technology. Lord Evans is also a school governor of a state secondary school, Chair of the Kent Search and Rescue charity and is a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent.

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