

# TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Children Heard and Seen
Name of the project TFN funded:	Specialised Support for Children with a Mother in Prison
Date Funded by TFN:	24/05/2021
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
If no, please outline how the project has changed.	
<p><b>Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?</b></p>	<p>Funds raised through the TFN were used as leverage to apply to other funders who would support the project. In the days that followed the pitch, we contacted several smaller trusts requesting they bridge the funding gap so the essential work could begin. As we had already secured much of the required funding, the trusts were more willing to support us, and our remaining shortfall was filled within one week of the TFN pitch. This allowed us to begin the project almost immediately, with the staff member in question assuming their new role on June 24th 2021. We are currently working with 13 families impacted by maternal imprisonment, with a total of 21 children.</p> <p>At the beginning of the project, we produced a snapshot report of the current experiences of the children currently being supported who had a mother in prison. The paper will provide a baseline that we may refer back to at the end of the project's first year.</p> <p>Children Heard and Seen recently contributed 23 anonymised case studies of maternal imprisonment, alongside 2 practitioner interviews to Crest Advisory's new study, published in October 2021. The report, Counting the Cost of Maternal Imprisonment, examines the cost of female imprisonment for two particularly vulnerable groups; mothers who are imprisoned and their children.</p> <p>In practice, the Mother in Prison post will provide intensive weekly one-to-one support for children with a mother in prison. Sessions provide an opportunity to talk about fears relating to having a mother in prison and help children to understand the process of imprisonment by covering each stage of the custodial sentence. The sessions end by looking to the future and encouraging children to think about what they want to achieve and where they want to be in 10 years. This is designed to instil</p>

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The worker has also provided group support and group work for children with a mother in prison. These group sessions combat feelings of shame by showing children they are not alone. By speaking with other young people in a similar situation, the children are able to learn and share coping strategies and manage complex emotions surrounding their parent's imprisonment. This improves the emotional wellbeing of children who attend, allowing them to maximise their potential in other areas.

We also worked with families impacted by maternal imprisonment to produce blog posts and shine a light on their experiences. These posts can be accessed below:

<https://childrenheardandseen.co.uk/2021/12/30/a-parents-story-9-william/>

<https://childrenheardandseen.co.uk/2022/01/15/a-parents-story-11-adrian/>

<https://childrenheardandseen.co.uk/2022/01/28/a-parents-story-12-fred/>

We were were also invited by Bev Stephens, the Women's Policy Custodial Lead at HMP Peterborough to speak at the Mothers in the Criminal Justice Conference. this was an excellent opportunity to shine a light on the experiences of children who have mothers in prison and allowed us to share these

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	experiences with a range of prison governors. As a result of this, we have now been able to submit proposals to two women's prisons about the prospect of introducing a specialised worker to support children in their communities who have a mother serving sentence at their prison.
<b>What portion of the project did TFN fund?</b>	5%
<b>How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</b>	40
<b>How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</b>	100
<b>Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?</b>	Yes
<b>If yes, how much were you able to raise?</b>	£8k from the Sisters Trust £18k from the Mazars Charitable Trust Additional funding meant that we were also able to employ an additional part time worker to deliver support to families impacted by maternal imprisonment. Going beyond the one full time worker laid out in the project proposal.
<b>Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?</b>	No
<b>If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?</b>	
<b>Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in pitching your organisation to potential funders?</b>	Yes
<b>Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?</b>	Yes
<b>How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?</b>	We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding

<p><b>Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?</b></p>	<p>We are seeking to expand our specialised support offerings to begin offering specialised support to children impacted by parental imprisonment whose experiences have also been shaped by domestic violence.</p> <p>There are currently no statutory provisions to support or identify children with a parent in prison. We have partnered with TVP, Thames Valley VRU and Oxfordshire County Council to launch a pilot initiative helping to deliver a rapid support to children with a parent in prison. For the first time, the VRU will use Ministry of Justice data to identify children of individuals sent to prison. When a child is identified, the family is contacted and offered a referral to support provided by Children Heard and Seen. We hope the pilot will mark the first step towards a national framework of identification and support for children with a parent in prison. We are currently in the process of securing additional funding to set up similar identification and support offerings in Cornwall and Birmingham, working with the local VRUs in these areas.</p>
<p><b>Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?</b></p>	<p>Thank you so much for all of your support, it's been a fantastic experience and has made a huge difference for us.</p>
<p><b>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</b></p>	<p>Case Study provided by worker in post:</p> <p>In our initial meeting, I spoke with Anna about what goals she wanted to set for our sessions and what she wanted to gain from our support. For Anna, her early goals focused on wanting to build confidence and self-esteem. When we first started, Anna was extremely anxious and found it difficult speaking about herself. We spent a large amount of time creating a secure environment where Anna felt safe enough to explore the topic of self-image. Since starting the intervention, Anna has joined the school netball team, something she said she wouldn't have been able to do a few months ago. Anna also helped me one week with running the mental health and emotional wellbeing group for 8-12 year olds, where Anna helped me plan the session and gave encouragement to others in the group. Anna said that being a co-facilitator of the group helped build confidence in leadership and helped identify personal strengths that she possesses when looking at supporting others. Anna has also joined in on other online children's group that we hold every week and has been a massive asset in the groups with her contribution and support to others.</p>

Anna's confidence and self-esteem has grown throughout the intervention. To begin with, Anna found it difficult communicating her strengths, whereas now every week she speaks confidently about what her strengths are and how she uses them. Anna and I have recently set some new goals, where Anna has expressed that she wants a safe space to talk about family and receive emotional support around her mum being in prison. Since starting this new piece of work, Anna has been able to open-up, and said she finds it helpful having this space every week to talk about her mum with someone, something which she has felt afraid to do with anyone before.

### Jamie's Story

Jamie (aged 16) was referred to Children Heard and Seen by the police, after a neighbour became aware that Jamie had been home alone for some time. It later came to light that he had been living alone for 5 months prior to this following the arrest of his mother. Jamie had been using his mother's bank card with her permission in order to buy food and essentials. Unbeknownst to him, the mortgage and household bills had not been paid, resulting in multiple unopened notices and eventually people coming to the door to evict him from the property. Children Heard and Seen met with Jamie and the social worker assigned to this case, who said that he would have to vacate the property, become a looked after child, and live in semi-supported accommodation. Children Heard and Seen have worked alongside social services, prison engagement officers, and college staff in order to support the child. Importantly, this has involved the facilitation of contact between Jamie and his mother. Despite Jamie and his mother having regular telephone contact, the prison would not allow them to have video calls, or in person visits, due to the child being under 18. Jamie did not have any other family or adults in his life who could supervise this. Eight months after the mother's initial arrest, a staff member from Children Heard and Seen was able to facilitate a video call between the child and his mother. Both Jamie and his mother were extremely grateful to Children Heard and Seen for enabling this to happen. They were both overjoyed to see each other's faces after so long.