



## New Year 2019: Newsletter #13

Happy New Year to all and welcome to the first Sussex Prisoners' Families newsletter of 2019. We've got some great news to share with you and we're looking forward to connecting with more families through 2019.

### Tampon Tax Community Fund



We are so thrilled to be one of nine local projects working with some of society's most vulnerable women and girls to receive a much-needed funding boost from Sussex

Community Foundation and the Tampon Tax Community Fund. This grant will build on the success of the 'Hidden Voices' pilot of 2017, offering new opportunities for women of all ages to challenge the inequalities they face and provide a platform for their voices through an exciting programme of expressive arts workshops across Sussex throughout 2019 -2020, including digital storytelling, poetry, music, photography and loads more.

Any women of any age who want to be involved can contact Danielle and we can chat through the project and keep you updated about workshops.

e) [danielle@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk](mailto:danielle@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk)

t) 07707 507122 or 01273 458002



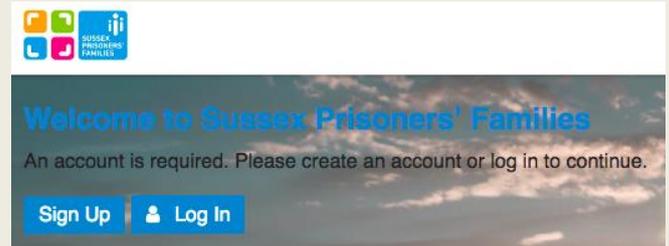
... or get in touch with us through our 'Families Connected' Forum, see below for more news on this.

*The Tampon Tax Community Fund is money generated from the VAT on sanitary products to projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls. The UK Community Foundations have been asked by Government to distribute £3.4 million of fund to local community projects supporting women and girls.*

## Families Connected'

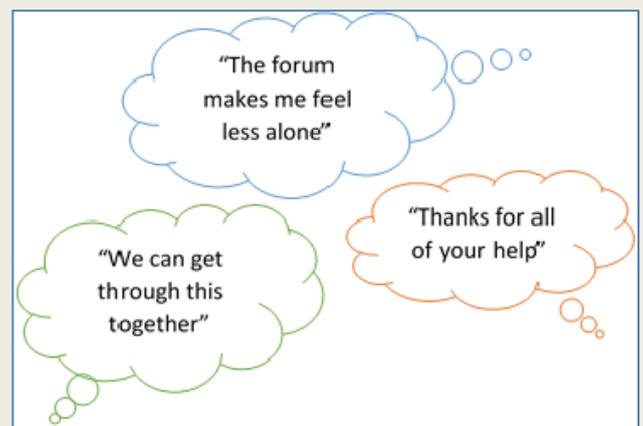
"I'm so glad I've found others going through the same thing."

The Families Connected forum is a new digital platform for prisoners' families to access practical advice about prison visits, alongside peer-to-peer support and emotional reassurance. It is a safe space for families to access information and talk openly and non-judgmentally to other families affected by a partner, friend or family member who has gone to prison.

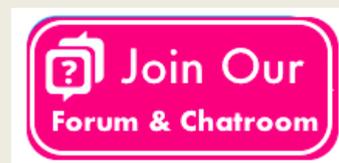


The Forum is self-moderating, so users with high levels of use are 'trusted' and have access to more features in the forum and will help moderate conversations. SPF staff also moderate and keep an eye on things and step in to take action as appropriate.

Allison, a family member says, "We need to reach people who are hidden away or feel embarrassed about having a loved one in prison. We want to show that we're ordinary people out there who are struggling, and we want to eradicate this stigma and get people using the support that is available and to get involved"



Access the forum through our website [www.sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk](http://www.sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk) or email Danielle for a link [danielle@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk](mailto:danielle@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk)



Supported by **nesta**

## Training programme 2019

Highlights of the 2018 workshops included delegates openly confronting the professional and personal challenge faced by understanding and engaging with prisoners' families and opening up their services in new ways to hidden families in their communities. There was some great networking and forging new relationships with other teams and services. Delegates also took away a unique online resource packed with practical information, resources for use with children and families and research highlights.



Lively, interactive workshops providing insights into the issues facing prisoners' families. You will gain new understanding and skills and take away new strategies and practical resources.

**Hidden Sentence:** Workshops are 9.30-4.00:  
**Cost: £40**

21 <sup>st</sup> February	Eastbourne
29 <sup>th</sup> March	St.Leonards
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Newhaven
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Bognor Regis
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Burgess Hill

**Working with Families of Sex Offenders:**  
Workshops are 10.00-1.00. **Cost: £25**

12 <sup>th</sup> April	Bognor Regis
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Newhaven
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Burgess Hill

The workshops get filled up so please ensure you reserve your place by booking quickly. Find out more and register for your place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sussex-prisoners-families-16563475359>

Or contact Denis for more information at,

[denis@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk](mailto:denis@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk)

## 'Families Together'

Thanks to The Peoples Health Trust family members have been coming together and having loads of fun. We went to the pantomimes at Hilton Brighton Metropole and Hastings White Rock Theatre and a comedy night at the Komedia. Families have been sharing their experiences at meals together and family activities at HMP Lewes and HMP Ford.



"It the first time I've been out in two years, what a treat and being able to talk to people who understand what I'm going through is so reassuring"

For families wanting to come along to the free 'Families Together' events please contact: [danielle@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk](mailto:danielle@sussexprisonersfamilies.org.uk) or call Danielle on 07707507122 for a programme. We also reimburse any travel costs for families.

## Quiz Night

What a great evening at the quiz night at the Eagle Pub in Brighton, with 50 people enjoying the challenge we raised over £500 for family events and our volunteers supporting families at the courts and at HMP Lewes. Big thanks to Megan, Colin and Sue for arranging a cracking night. More quiz nights are planned!



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Go to our website to find out more about our work and feedback from families in our Annual Review 2017-2018.



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