

Hettys

SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Hettys criminal justice and mediation work aims to improve family relationships in substance using offenders, reduce the impact of their substance abuse and reduce reoffending, specifically in unreported family crime and abuse.

The voluntary organisation Hettys was originally set up in 1996 by a small group of mothers who had experienced the substance abuse of their loved ones and wanted to use their passion and determination to support others in a similar situation.

Hettys criminal justice work involves attending local prisons, including Nottingham HMP, Ranby HMP and Lowdham HMP, to deliver monthly sessions to prisoners to identify the impact substance misuse and offending behaviour has on their family members.

As part of this, they give prisoners the opportunity to accept personal responsibility for the breakdown of their family relationships and functioning and to refer their own family members to Hettys if they feel they would benefit from the support.

Hettys also runs a course in probation to offenders as an extension of the prison project, which over three weeks looks at the impact substance use and offending has on their families and, during the third session, invites a family member, providing group family mediation in the form of restorative justice.

The group also delivers mediation in prisons to all offenders 12 months prior to

their release, particularly focusing on those who are most likely to reoffend. These sessions aim to improve family functioning and relationships and deal with emotional history. Hettys work with families support networks for offenders who can offer housing and help them find employment on their release, which are both contributing factors to reoffending.

The families of offenders who have been supported by Hettys have reported improved feelings of safety in their family homes and a reduction in substance abuse, family abuse and unreported family crime.

Hettys prison and probation work costs £38,000 to deliver and has been funded for the past 10 years. Their mediation work costs £40,000 to deliver and is funded for a 12 month contract.

For further information on Hettys visit www.hettys.org.uk.