

## Additional Case Studies

### 1. Turning Lives Around

In Hollesley Bay, Carlford Young Offenders Institution a young male inmate, who had committed a very serious offence, decided to come to the weekly evening sessions organised by the Mothers Union' and the chaplaincy team.

The evenings consist of videos, stories, craftwork, debates, social time - with drinks and biscuits and are followed by a short time of prayer and reflection.

The young man spent a lot of time talking to MU worker Pauline on a one-to-one basis and gradually became an invaluable member of the group. He helped to make newcomers welcome, became respectful, and finally decided he wanted himself and his young daughter to be christened.

All his family came to the prison chapel to witness his christening. He became committed to ensuring that his daughter did not follow his pattern in life and vowed to do all he could for her after his release. He developed into a responsible young man and became a regular attendee at Sunday worship. There is no doubt that the MU prison project helped this young man change his attitude and behaviour and cement his desire to turn his life around.

### 2. Supporting Families in HMP Littlehey

The Mothers' Union in Ely offers support, advice and a comforting ear at the visitors centre at HMP Littlehey, Cambridgeshire. By helping to preserve, rebuild and affirm families when visiting loved ones in prison the Mothers' Union is acknowledging the important role that families play in helping to achieve effective prisoner reintegration into the wider community on release and moreover, supporting families through an extremely difficult time.

One visitor to the prison was finding the experience extremely upsetting and emotional. Her contact with the MU workers in the visitors centre gave her a chance to talk openly with someone about her feelings and really made a huge difference to her prison visit. As she later wrote,

“Thank you for helping to make a horrible experience into something just bearable. We are all put into certain positions in our life but without your care and help it would have been more difficult... You are all lovely and caring people and we wish you all well – keep up the good work.”