

Example of a grant awarded from Funds set up with Essex Community Foundation (ECF) and matched funding from the Proceeds of Crime Scheme:

Ormiston Families work across Essex supporting those affected by the imprisonment of a family member.

They received £4,000 from the Leeze Charitable Fund, managed by ECF, and which received support from the Proceeds of Crime Matched Funding Scheme that Essex Police set up with ECF in 2014.

The funding was to help with the staff costs associated with their prison outreach service called Breaking Barriers.

Through the Breaking Barriers programme, Ormiston Families provides free and non-judgemental support to children throughout Essex with a family member in prison. It is an early intervention initiative, designed around the principle of working “with families” rather than “for families”.

To create lasting change in the lives of the children they help, Ormiston Families prioritise building trust with the children, sharing access to crucial services, and supporting parents on their journey. Through this, not only do the children experience greater mental wellbeing, but they are guided away from the cycle of intergenerational offending, and to achieving their own goals.

Thanks to the group’s efforts, children like Archie learn that the actions of their parent do not define their future. When his dad was placed in prison, Archie displayed troublesome behaviour at school and began isolating in his room. His Breaking Barriers practitioner was able to explore with him how he felt, how to use coping mechanisms and how to communicate this at school so that he could receive additional day-to-day support.

In Archie’s own words, “It was good to have someone to talk to, to help me not misbehave”. His new school have noticed an incredible change in Archie which would not have been possible without the help of Ormiston Families.

Ormiston Families work hard to amend the second-hand effects of a parent in prison:

- administering more than 24,000 support sessions,
- bringing more than 59,000 visitors to their loved ones in prison, and
- helping more than 80% of their clients to feel safer, healthier and better able to cope with their situation.



Staff at Ormiston Families introduce Dylan, an animated character, who helps to explain prison visits to children.



Fundraising by Ormiston Families staff at The Whole Hog event.