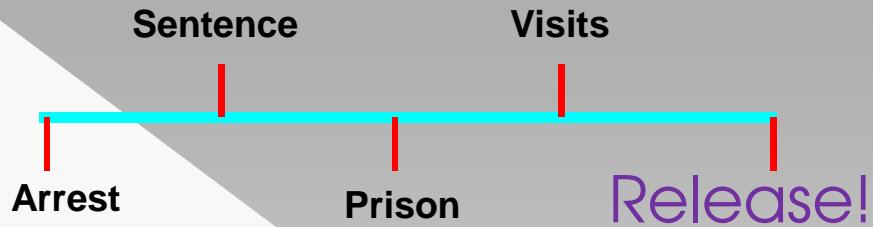




<p>Sian Knott</p>  <p>My name is Sian and I live in the North-West of England. I am 13 years old and in year 9 of high school. I am here on behalf of the COPING Project which is looking into how having a parent in prison effects children and young people.</p>	<p>Raheel Hussain</p>  <p>My name is Raheel and I live in Manchester, England. I am 17 years old and currently studying at college. We are here to inspire changes in the prison system using experiences from other children as well as our own.</p>
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- ◎ Today we will be talking about some of the issues faced when a parent is sent to prison.
- ◎ Although the dialogue may be a personal account of our experiences, research has found that it is representative of many young people.

Arrest

- ◎ I was with my dad when he was arrested. I spent most of my time with him, as we were very close. It was sudden and very unexpected. From his arrest to my first visit was about two months and I found this heartbreaking.
- ◎ Immediately after my dad was arrested he was released on bail for 2 years. This period of time was extremely nerve racking, as I thought he could be taken away at any time. But it was not until he was found guilty by the jury that I felt the effect of him not being around.

Sentence

- ◎ My dad was sentenced in 2010 to 7 years in prison. Due to the rules in the UK my dad will serve three and a half years.
- ◎ My dad was sentenced in 2006 to 19 years in prison. He will actually serve 9 and ½ years. He has been in prison for 5 years now. This is his fifth prison, each with different rules we both have to adapt to.

Prison

When my dad was first sentenced I had thoughts of what prison was like. The idea of a ball and chain came to my mind when I imagined how my dad must be feeling.



Prison Reality

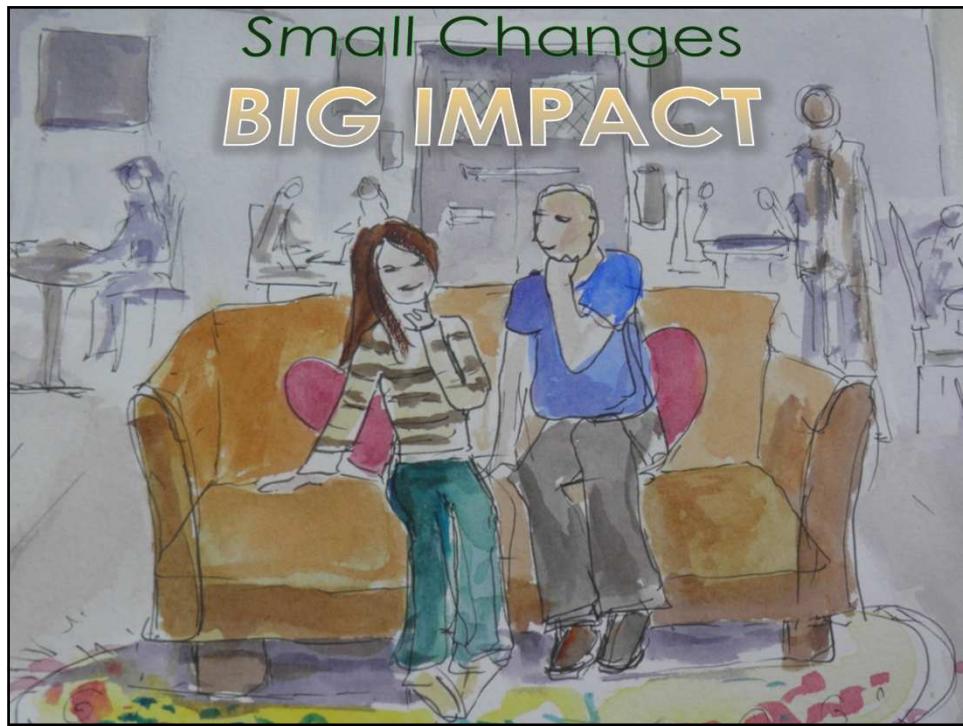
- ⦿ When to my surprise this is what prison in the UK is actually like.....



Visits... The 7 Why's

These are some of the thoughts other young people have about their visits

- Why don't the prison staff treat us like human beings?
- Why can we not have private visits, its difficult to talk when there are others about?
- Why can we not have a support group set up for children who are going through the same thing?All I want is a friend.
- Why is there no help? My mother cannot work and we have no money.
- Why was there nobody I could talk to when my Dad was taken away?
- Why can prison staff not speak to families at the beginning and get to know them?
- Why can I only see my dad once a month? I worry that he will forget me.



The Three I's Survival Guide

- ◎ **Isolation:** Don't feel left out, many people are in the exact same position as you. Get help and offer help.
- ◎ **Information:** There are numerous places you can gain vital information, which will help you cope.
- ◎ **Inspiration:** Inspire a change in the system, let your voice be heard, perhaps through an NGO.



Thank you for listening!

If you have any
questions please
come and speak to us
during the day.