



SINGAPORE PRISON SERVICE

Strengthening Families Impacted by Incarceration

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OVERVIEW OF SINGAPORE PRISON SERVICE

Shared Values in Corrections

S	V	I	C
Synergy Complementing differences through collaboration	Vigilance Alert and always keeping a lookout for one another	Integrity Doing the right things always	Care Respect and care for one another

Vision

As Captains of Lives, we inspire everyone, at every chance, towards a society without re-offending

Mission

As a correctional agency, we enforce secure custody of offenders and rehabilitate them, for a safe Singapore



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Our Rehabilitation and Reintegration Approach

SPS'S THROUGH-CARE APPROACH

Singapore has established its rehabilitation system based on the concept of **throughcare**



Incare

- Psychology-based Correctional Programmes
- Work programmes
- Education
- Religious services
- **Family focused programmes**
- Arts & personal development

Pre-Release

- Employment Preparation Programmes
- **Re-integration Programmes**

Aftercare & Reintegration

- **Community-Based Programmes (CBP)**
- **Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS)**

Continuous and coordinated efforts from incare to aftercare, addressing offenders' needs and building their social, economic and community capital

LOW AND STABLE RECIDIVISM RATES

2-year recidivism rate has remained low and stable at **22.0%**

5-year recidivism has decreased to **36.8%**.

Having a **robust ecosystem of support** is necessary to further reduce the 5-year recidivism and increase inmates' **desistance potential**.



Make **available opportunities in the community** for ex-offenders to **overcome stigma** and work towards upward mobility

Strengthen the **individual's pro-social social bonds** and social structures, and weaken social bonds to antisocial networks

Build inmates' **knowledge and skills to improve their employability**

CORRECTIONS 2030

Strategy #2: Uplifting Lives and Strengthening Families

Focuses on **uplifting and strengthening inmates' families**, to **build up the inmates' social capital** and **break the cycle of re-offending and intergenerational offending**

- Throughcare support for inmates to establish prosocial living
- Partnering families in rehabilitation
- Support inmates in establish purposeful connections with society

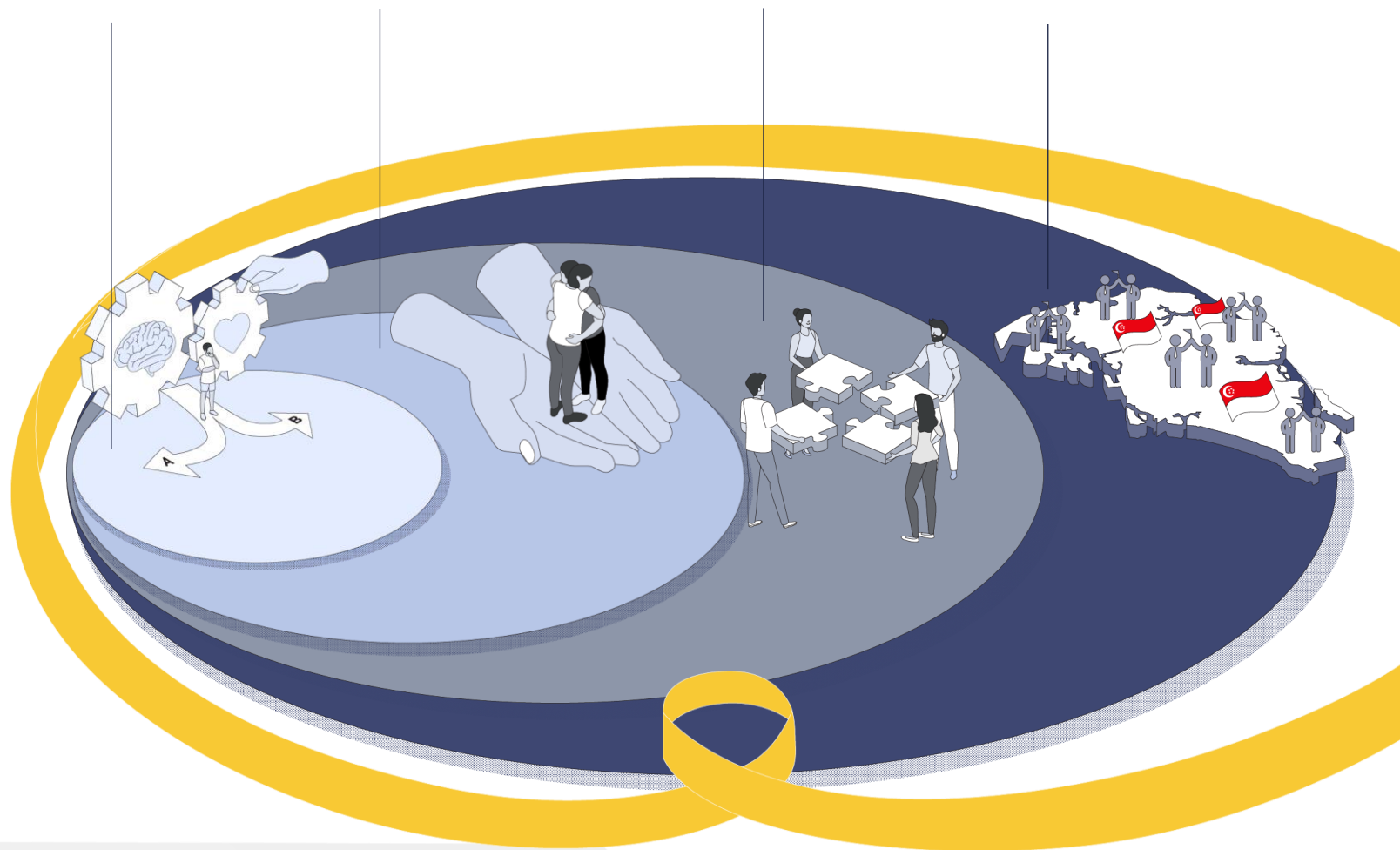
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Involving Families in the Rehabilitation Journey

REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION APPROACH

Successful rehabilitation and reintegration requires the collective efforts of various agents of change and effective programmes, projects and policies targeting the four levels/systems

INDIVIDUAL INTERPERSONAL COMMUNITY SOCIETAL



Pillars of Support:

- Inmate
- Captains of Lives
- Family Members
- Employers
- Volunteers
- Community Partners
- Desistors

RESEARCH ON FAMILY AND DESISTANCE FROM CRIME

Importance of Social Support

- ❑ Social factors were almost as important as changing attitudes (Andrews & Bonta, 2010)
 - Attitudes ($r = .39$)
 - **Family and peers ($r = .37$)**
- ❑ Ex-offenders report contentment when meaning is derived from association with social support structures (Kok, Yeo, Jiang, Lin, 2020)
- ❑ Ex-offenders drew more social support from family and prosocial others than those who re-offended (SPS, 2022).
- ❑ Reinforcement of positive identity and reminders about their goals for family and work beyond prison for inmates (SPS, 2021).

“Family encouraged me to finish up Mandatory Aftercare Supervision, tagging and urine test.”
- Desistor A

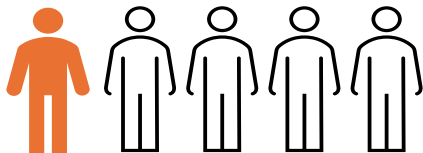
RESEARCH ON INTERGENERATIONAL OFFENDING

SPS conducted a study* in 2020 to investigate the phenomenon of **intergenerational offending** within our local population.



Key Findings

1 in 5 offenders who are parents will see their children come into the criminal justice system



Having a mother with history of incarceration **increases likelihood of the child offending**

Protective factors are crucial in buffering the risk for second-generation offending

Intergenerational offending likely to occur between **11-14 years old**

- **Intervention should be provided earlier**

*Findings from Research Study : Loh, E. H., Chng, W. L., & Cheng, X. L. (2020). *The Intergenerational Transmission of Offending from Drug-Abusing Parents: Understanding the Impact of Parental Drug Abuse and Incarceration on Children's Offending Behaviour in Singapore*. Home Team Journal Special Issue – Spotlight on Drugs, 39-51.

Family Support



When families are supported, they can better support the offender's rehabilitation journey, and the risk of intergenerational offending can be mitigated.



Interventions and family engagements strengthen the offenders' capacity and motivation to desist so that they can return as responsible members of their families.



Whole-of-community efforts are needed to support families and inmates through and beyond incarceration.

EARLY TRIAGING PROCESS

Early Triaging Process (ETP)



Identify families with vulnerable dependents¹ and link them to support systems in the community



Provides emotional support and assistance to the families

¹ Children below 21 years old and elderly parents above 60 years old

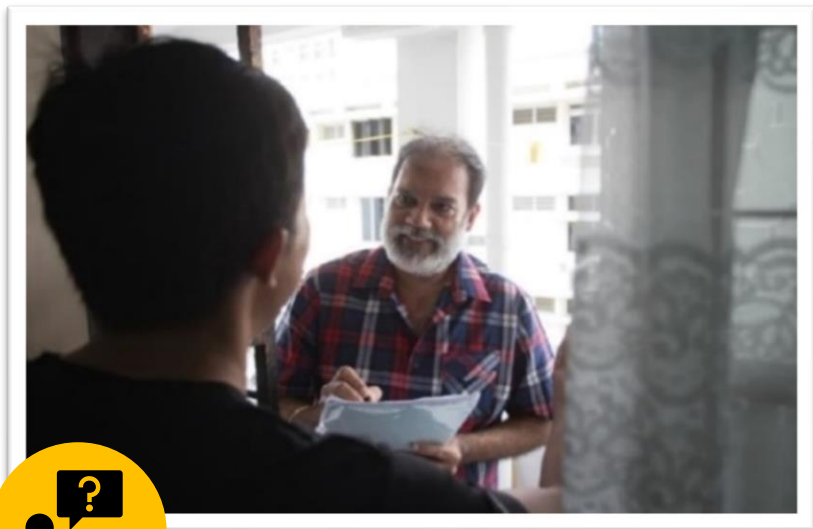
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES (FRCS)

- The **SPS Family Resource Centre (FRC)** is located within the Changi Prison Link Centre to address the interim needs of inmates and their families.
- Services provided by FRCs
 - Information & Referral Services
 - Triaging and assessing family needs for ETP
- **Assistance is available anytime during inmate's incarceration via the FRCs.**
 - Inmates can seek assistance for their families through SPS staff who will put up a referral to FRCs.
 - Families can walk in to FRCs located in Changi Prison Link Centre.
- **Close to 2000 inmates** are provided with support each year.



YELLOW RIBBON COMMUNITY PROJECT

Yellow Ribbon Community Project (YRCP)



Volunteers conduct home visits, befriend and link them to community resources for support



Volunteers continue to support family in the community for offender's reintegration journey



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YRCP

CAPTAINS OF LIVES
REHAB • RENEW • RESTART

VOLUNTEERS AS OUR KEY PARTNERS



No. of participants attended developmental trainings and courses



Strengthening Volunteer Capabilities

- SPS provides basic training and relevant developmental courses for partners and volunteers
- Equips volunteers with **capabilities required to work with inmates/ex-offenders and their families**
 - YRCP volunteers will be trained in family befriending skills
- Volunteers will also have access to **self-care courses**
- Between 2021 to 2024, **SPS increased the number of training spaces from 163 to 3400**
 - Includes webinars, e-learnings and classroom sessions

FAMILY-FOCUSED PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES



Social Skills Training Programme (SSTP)

Equips inmates with skills to manage and cope with family dynamics and social relationships



Family Reintegration Programmes (FRP)

Maintains and strengthens familial bonds



Facilitated Family Joint Sessions (FJS)

FJS allows families to interact without physical barriers, strengthening familial bonds



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FJS

CAPTAINS OF LIVES
REHAB • RENEW • RESTART

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Mobilising Community Support

WHOLE OF COMMUNITY EFFORTS

Developmental

Community support is essential at every phase of the incarceration journey

Admission

Early identification and referral to provide early intervention and support for families



- ❖ Initiative for incarcerated mother and children (IIMAC)
- ❖ Yellow Ribbon Community Project
- ❖ Family Resource Centre (support the early triaging process)
- ❖ Family Service Centre (FSC)
- ❖ Social Service Office (SSO)

Family-focused Programmes for inmates and families to learn skills to build their relationships with their family members

- ❖ Social Skills Training Programme
- ❖ Family Reintegration Programme
- ❖ Case Management Services

Assistance and support available to families



- ❖ NeuGen Model to support children
- ❖ Family Engagement Session
- ❖ Friends of Children and Youth
- ❖ Youth Edge for MM Youth
- ❖ YRCP-M3 collaboration for MM families referred through YRCP
- ❖ Family Care Club
- ❖ Inmates' Families Support Fund
- ❖ Singapore Aftercare Association Family Befriending

Other Family-focused Programmes and activities for eligible inmates and families to connect and rebuild their relationship

- ❖ Fathering Journey Programme
- ❖ ICAN Change
- ❖ Family Strengthening Programme
- ❖ Kids-in-Play
- ❖ Project Rekindle
- ❖ Project Restart

Aftercare



Halfway Houses provide step-down care for inmates to transit and eventually return to their families



Families are provided sustained support throughout and beyond inmate's time in prison

COLLABORATION WITH FAMILY-FOCUSED PARTNERS

More support for children of offenders from charity fund

Revamped fund will reach out to more children and offer more programmes

Malavika Menon

Children of offenders will get more support from a revamped charity fund which will now offer more programmes including free tuition, mentoring, art therapy as well as family bonding sessions.

NeuGen Fund, which used to be called Inco Gen Fund, is the charity arm of the Industrial & Services Co-operative Society (Iscos), which helps offenders and their families.

The charity announced its new name and initiatives at a launch event at VivoCity yesterday attended by volunteers, sponsors and beneficiaries.

With the revamp, it now plans to reach out to more children in need through existing programmes like after-school activities as well as new initiatives such as counselling.

The revamp comes on the back of a strategic review conducted by the charity last year to tackle emerging challenges in a post-pandemic world.

A study by the Ministry of Social and Family Development and Na-



Minister for National Development Desmond Lee speaking at the launch event of NeuGen Fund yesterday. He said former offenders and their families often face multiple stressors and challenges, and no one organisation serving just one specific need can address all these challenges holistically. PHOTO: NEUGEN FUND

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Interventions and programmes targeted at uplifting children



Volunteer-run family programmes complement SPS efforts to support inmate's families and children

DEDICATED CHARITABLE FUNDS



First national charitable fund devoted to the development and implementation of **rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for inmates, ex-offenders and families**

Funds programmes and services to support and reconnect ex-offenders and their families by supporting children of incarcerated parents. Examples (non-exhaustive):

- a. Kids-In-Play Programme (The Salvation Army)
 - **Aims to promote a positive parent-child relationship between children and their incarcerated parent(s).** The programme provides casework and counselling for the children, support groups for the caregivers and family bonding activities where children can interact with their incarcerated parents and caregivers without physical barriers.
- b. Family Strengthening Programme (New Life Stories)
 - Supports incarcerated parents and their children during incarceration and reintegration into society. Children are provided with **befriending support**, while parents are equipped with **communication and parenting skills**.

In 2023, YRF disbursed over \$430K for family services

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR THE REHABILITATION OF EX-OFFENDERS (CARE) NETWORK



- **Alliance** of government & non-government agencies comprising 10 core members
- **Mobilises the community, coordinates aftercare efforts and enhances service delivery** for ex-offenders and their families
- Expanded to comprise over 100 community partners



CARE NETWORK (CN) CONNECT



140 community partners from over 50 agencies



- Presentation on Caregiver Stress, burnout and symptoms
- Highlighted importance of self care



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Thank you