

SAFE GROUND

Invitation to Tender

EVALUATION OF THE REVISED FAMILY MAN PROGRAMME'S IMPACT ON FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, PRISON REGIMES AND REOFFENDING, AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Date: January 2012

SAFE GROUND

SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS

Safe Ground seeks to let a contract to undertake an evaluation of the Safe Ground/MoJ revised Family Man programme with specific reference to:

- ❖ Changes in students' and adult family Supporters' perceptions of their family relationships and themselves
- ❖ Impact on students' behaviour both in custody and the community
- ❖ The cost-effectiveness of the programme

Please note:-

- 1. The successful contractor will be expected to be able to commence work as soon as the contract is awarded.**
- 2. The date for the submission of the final report is to be March 31st 2013.**
- 3. All staff who will be handling prisoner data and / or interviewing prisoners, their family members and prison staff must have Enhanced CRB clearance *prior* to commencing work.**

Safe Ground Mission:

Safe Ground works to reduce the risk of offending based on a continually developing understanding of the origins and impact of crime and a commitment to empowering people to change.

Safe Ground History:

In 1999 the Prison Service commissioned Safe Ground to use their expertise in motivating large groups of resistant learners to create a family relationships and parenting programme bespoke for male offenders. This groundbreaking partnership led to the creation of two pioneering programmes, ***Family Man*** and ***Fathers Inside***, which have been delivered in 40 establishments across England and Wales.

The NOMS / Safe Ground programmes address the complex needs of male offenders;

- **Educational.** Both programmes are mapped to a number of National Open College Network (NOCN) awards, requiring the student to complete a range of written, spoken and group activities in order to achieve accreditation
- **Employability and Personal Development.** Family Man and Fathers Inside provide the vital first step towards improving a students' employability skills by encouraging teamwork, responsibility, listening and confidence building
- **Maintaining Family Relationships.** Evidence suggests that maintaining family ties within prison reduces an offenders' chance of reoffending by 39%. Both programmes tackle the sensitive issues of families and parenting in a safe and constructive way to encourage family ties and contribute towards the rehabilitation agenda.

Family Man History:

Family Man (FM) is an intensive, 7-week family relationship programme bespoke for male offenders. The aim of the programme is to help prevent institutionalisation and re-offending by providing the basic social and life skills to help offenders understand the benefits of being part of a family and a community. It also provides students with the opportunity to credit their capabilities, which have often been unrecognised in a family, school or work situation.

In 2007 the programme was revised in response to the needs of male offenders, their families and the findings of the Social Exclusion Unit Report, which identified the importance of family involvement in an offenders learning process in order to reduce the risk of reoffending. A key component of the revisions was the additional requirement for each student to nominate an adult 'Supporter', usually a partner, relative or close friend but on occasion an Offender Manager or volunteer, to work with them throughout the course. Supporters' participation includes responding to their student's 4 structured letters, a Supporters Only session to assess key areas they would like their student to focus on, and agreeing a joint 'Action Plan' with their student outlining goals for ETE progression and/or resettlement.

To enable this work with family members to be realised, the programme requires a 3rd member of staff to be allocated for the duration of FM, a 'Family Support Worker' (FSW). The FSW is a role that can be utilised for other interventions as a means of safely engaging family members in resettlement work. The FSW is allocated to the programme for approximately 25 days part-time.

Previous Family Man Evaluations:

Safe Ground understands the importance of evaluation and have committed to a rolling programme of independent research over the lifetime of both Family Man and Fathers Inside. Our programmes are constantly being developed and refined in response to this research to ensure that the needs of prisoners and their families are always at the forefront of what we do.

Safe Ground has commissioned a number of independent reviews of the Family Man programme, all of which are available at www.safeground.org.uk. The most recent, Boswell Research Fellows' longitudinal study (2011), aimed to assess the programme's longer-term impact by conducting questionnaires and in-depth interviews with Graduates from seven establishments in England and Wales and their family Supporters. Questionnaires were returned from 54 men who graduated between 2008 and 2010 as well as from 50 Supporters. A further 48 interviews were conducted, both in custody and the community. The study concluded: "There could be little doubt of the enduring impact this programme had made on these men and their families or of its consequent potential to strengthen the social bonds which could contribute to subsequent desistance from crime."

Professor James McGuire (2009) deduced that the programme provides an opportunity for students to undergo a process of cognitive (acquiring and understanding knowledge), affective (developing attitudes towards family) and

psychomotor (learning skills) change. An evaluation assessing the value of the Family Support Worker (Boswell, 2010) concluded “*the presence of a support service such as these FSWs offer was vital in maintaining and strengthening family links and promoting resettlement.*”

2012-13 Family Man Evaluation Scope:

Purpose:

To produce a robust evaluation demonstrating the long-term impact and cost-effectiveness of *Family Man* to policy makers, funders, prisons and practitioners.

The evaluation will assess:

- ❖ Changes in students’ and adult family Supporters’ perceptions of their family relationships and themselves
- ❖ Impact on students’ behaviour both in custody and the community
- ❖ The cost-effectiveness of the programme

It is suggested that the evaluation incorporate, but is not necessarily limited to, the following components:

1. Survey:

- Pre and post-programme surveys to be administered to *all students and Supporters taking the course over the evaluation period* capturing: attitudes towards family and education, quality of family contact, perceptions of themselves in relation to offending behaviour and motivation to change in alignment with Desistance theory
- Pre and post-programme surveys to be administered to participating officers and education staff capturing: changes in staff perceptions of students’ attitudes towards education and prison; and changes in staff perceptions of students’ behaviour both in the classroom and on the wing.

Surveys can be administered by staff delivering Family Man in each establishment.

2. Official data analysis:

- Measure adjudications per month and visits per month before during and after the programme for *all revised FM graduates* to assess impact on family relationships and behaviour. Individual data will be collected by Safe Ground in partnership with NOMS.
- Measure proportion progressing to meaningful activities (ETE) after course completion. These data are compiled by FM tutors at the end of each course.

- Assess long-term rearrest/reconviction rates for subsequently released Graduates using either the Police National Computer database or HMPS P-NOMIS. Safe Ground will provide all graduates names, dates of birth and prison numbers.

3. Cost-benefit analysis:

- Assess potential savings realised through FM in relation to reoffending/adjudications and consider whether improved family relationships can be quantified/assigned monetary value, drawing on existing research
- Calculate real costs of running each FM course, including resources, training and staff time

Deadlines:

Start date – **5th March 2012**

Completion date – **31st March 2013**

Fee:

£25,000 including travel expenses.

Terms and Conditions:

- Contractors must be willing and able to liaise regularly with Safe Ground's Research Manager - progress reports against the timeline for key deliverables will be expected on a monthly basis.
- Contractors must be willing and able to attend meetings of Safe Ground's Research Steering Group on a quarterly basis to monitor progress and address any logistical issues.
- A final internal review of the evaluation contract and any recommendations for further research will be required prior to final stage payments.

Please list all relevant experience in undertaking research on prison education, offenders' families and the wider criminal justice system for each member of staff:

Please list any prior experience of using the Police National Computer database and/or P-NOMIS for research purposes including the research title, type of data accessed, dates and publication details (if applicable):

Please detail any prior experience of conducting cost benefit analyses of programmes, both inside and outside the criminal justice system, including research title, dates and publication details (if applicable):

Section 3: Research Proposal

Please submit an research proposal that includes the following:

- Methodology for assessing the areas listed in the scope
- Timeline including dates for key deliverables
- Breakdown of project expenditure and proposed payment schedule
- Sample pre and post-course questions capturing one (or more) of the following:
 - Students' attitudes to family/education
 - Quality of family contact
 - Students' perceptions of themselves
- Breakdown of personnel undertaking each component of the evaluation
- Ownership/access to final data
- Your policy/procedures relating to issues of confidentiality

The evaluation scope can be used for guidance; however alternative methodological and assessment suggestions are welcome.

Please limit your proposal to a maximum of 8 sides of A4. Research proposals may be submitted as a separate document.

Please submit completed applications by email to adam.moll@safeground.org.uk by **THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2012**.

Interviews will be conducted the week commencing 20th FEBRUARY 2012, with the successful applicant to be notified by MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2012.

If you have any questions please contact Adam Moll by email or on 020 7228 3831.