

# Breaking Barriers: Inspiring change in how we support children & families affected by imprisonment



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Families**  
Brighter futures

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## 26 February 2025

1pm - 4.30pm

The Hold, Ipswich

**£40 general admission**

**£25 VCSE/education**

**Overcrowding, violence, drugs – the crisis in prisons is big news.**

But while debate centres on victims, prisoners and prison staff, the families of someone sent to prison often remain forgotten.

Ormiston Families brings together experts including ex-prisoners, private sector innovators, and academics to share expertise and find solutions to an endemic issue.

This is a must attend event for those in contact with parents or children in the East of England. Whether you are an employer, educator, influence social policy, or provide support directly to families or prisoners – you have a role to play in improving outcomes for those affected by the justice system.

*This event is part of our Winter Appeal – ticket revenue will contribute to supporting children and young people with a loved one in prison to feel happier, stronger and understood.*

**To book your spot, visit:  
[www.ormiston.org/events](http://www.ormiston.org/events)**



**Paul Cowley MBE**

Director of Rehabilitation  
Iceland Foods Charitable Foundation



**David Breakspear**

Prison reform campaigner

**Buy tickets:**



Hosted by Saeed Atcha MBE DL

# What to expect



## Discussions will include:

- The difference support makes for children and families
- Understanding the impact of parental imprisonment on children in schools
- How business can help prisoners back into work – and support families in the process
- What the latest research tells us
- What it's really like to work with families affected by imprisonment
- What can we all do differently to provide holistic support for families?

### **Paul Cowley MBE (Director of Rehabilitation, Iceland Foods)**

**“Our prisons are at bursting point, the care system is saturated and broken families are everywhere. We need patience, wisdom, tolerance, empathy and a lot of perseverance.”**

Paul Cowley runs Iceland Foods' Prison Rehabilitation Programme, tapping into prisoners' locked up potential, giving them a chance of employment on release, and mitigating the cumulative effect upon their families, dependents and mental health. This work offers offenders not only the hope of a job, but the hope of a new life.

### **David Breakspear (Prison reform campaigner)**

**“I've witnessed and experienced the difference Ormiston Families makes in the lives of the families of people in prison. I couldn't say yes quick enough when asked to speak at the conference.”**

David shares his journey of imprisonment and its profound impact on his family. He explores the emotional, social, and financial challenges faced by families of people in prison.

He sheds light on the silent struggles of children, the stigma families endure, and the crucial role support networks play. Through his story, David aims to raise awareness and inspire change in how we view and support the families left behind.

### **Isabella Boyce PhD (Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Suffolk)**

Isabella will explore the academic and policy research that has examined rehabilitation and desistance from crime to see what works in relation to the importance of family ties and community connections, as well as the challenges of implementing recommendations that we know work in the custodial setting and through the gate.

Buy tickets:

