

Children with a sibling in prison

"Siblings are vulnerable, adults need to help and not be afraid"

- Sister

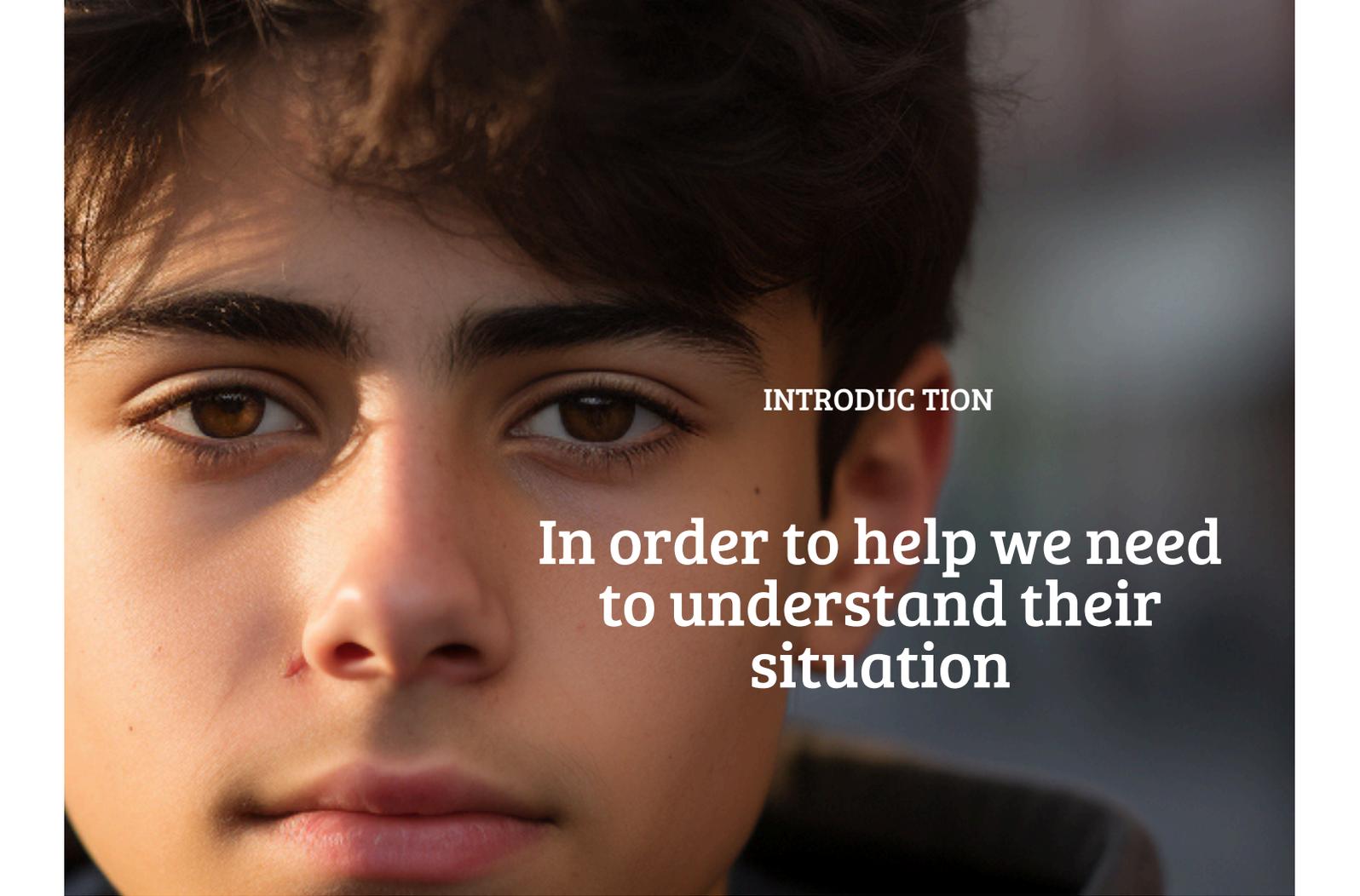


Bufff

Table of contents

Introduction	3
Background	4
Purpose	5
About Bufff	6
Target group	7
What happens in the family?	9
Sibling relationships	10
The detained siblings	11
The impact of media and social media	12
Risk factors	14
Emotional level	14
Cognitive level	15
Social level	15
Protective factors and needs	16
How siblings are affected, in brief	17
For those working within the SOCIAL SERVICES	18
For those working within SCHOOLS	20
For those who work within the POLICE	22
For those working within PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICES	24
Tips	25
Research and development	25

Children with a sibling in prison. The handbook is produced and published by Bufff Sweden, 2024 Text
Frida Asperö, Viktoria Unnis, Mimmi Petreas Krantz and Johanna Wallin
Graphic production: Eternity Group, PÅ Media



INTRODUCTION

In order to help we need to understand their situation

This handbook is written for you who in different ways meet children and young people in your work. You who in your workplace may meet children and young people who have or have had siblings in custody, prison or on probation.

When a sibling is incarcerated, younger siblings and the family as a whole are affected in one way or another. Reactions and the need of support or help vary, but in many cases incarceration has emotional, social and economic consequences. In this handbook, we describe how we can support and guide children with an incarcerated sibling.

All information and knowledge in this handbook is based on interviews and conversations with children that have an incarcerated sibling. We also included voices from different authorities and other professions that in some ways may meet and interact with the target group through reference groups. Lastly, interviews with the incarcerated sibling were made to include their perspective.

Bufff has many years of experience working with and for children with an incarcerated parent or family member. In this handbook, we focus only on the target group of children with an incarcerated sibling. The chapters appointed to professions and authorities, such as Police, Social Services or Prison and Probation Services, were written in cooperation with colleagues of the field.



BACKGROUND

A forgotten group of children

Children with an incarcerated sibling are often forgotten by the society. During Bufff's project "Close to you - a right", 2016- 2019, which was funded by the Swedish Inheritance Fund, it emerged that awareness and research about this group of children was very limited, almost non-existing.

The project "Close to you - a right" conducted interviews with incarcerated young people. The interviews revealed that the incarcerated sibling felt a concern for their younger siblings. They informed that they were important role models for their them and that their actions may have influenced them. The interviews also revealed that many had themselves had older siblings with a criminal lifestyle.

Bufff wanted to increase the knowledge about children with incarcerated siblings in order to hear and meet their needs. Therefore, we applied for a new project at the National Heritage Fund, a project that focus solely on these children. The project was approved in 2021 and we are now on our 3rd and last year. It is within this project, "Breaking patterns", that this handbook is made.

Children with an incarcerated siblings have been involved in the process of creating and developing this guide through providing feedback, sharing their experiences, feelings and thoughts. The involvement and influence of these children has been crucial in the development of this guide.



Purpose

Together we can change the future

With this handbook, we want to share the knowledge we have gained during this project, mostly through all our meetings with children with incarcerated siblings. In the interviews, it became clear that the children experience a great lack of support and communication from the adult world regarding their situation.

The handbook is a result of professionals' demand for more information and knowledge to support siblings in different ways. Available research on the subject is very limited at present. Workers in schools, within the social services and youth recreation centers report that they meet these children or they have meet their incarcerated sibling. They also express an uncertainty in how they should approach these children, since they lack the knowledge of how they are affected. This has also been confirmed by the target group and their incarcerated siblings.

About Bufff

Bufff (Barn och Ungdom med Förälder, Familjemedlem i Fängelse) is a national children's rights organisation that offers support to children and young people with a parent or family member in custody/prison/probation. This may be a un uncle, sibling, grandparent, bonus parent or any other important person to the child.

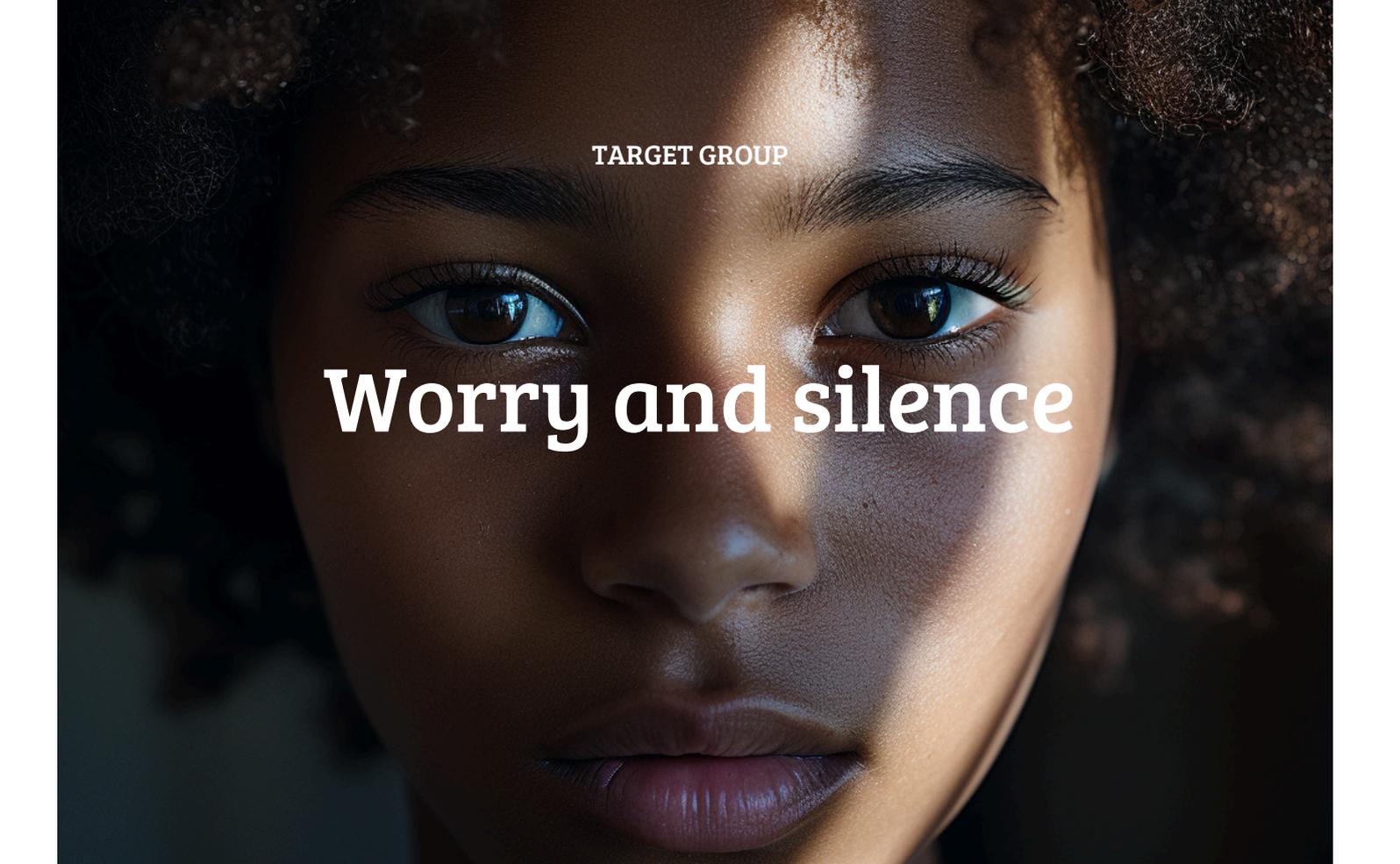
At Bufff we work with the whole family. That's why we conduct outreach work within the Swedish Probation and Prison Services to offer child-centred talks with incarcerated family members.

Our 14 local offices in different parts of the country offer different types of support to the children and their caregiver. What all local offices have in common is that family members can receive support by phone, email or in person. Everything is free and the support is tailored to the specific and varying needs of the child.

Contact us via our helpline and chat, or email:

Telephone no: **020-200 330** or **www.bufff.se**

info@bufff.se



TARGET GROUP

Worry and silence

**“What if my brother dies
when he gets out?”**

- Sister, 13 years old

Children with incarcerated siblings are not a homogenous group. Some may have experienced violence, abuse and mental illness, while other siblings may have lived a "sheltered" life until the incarceration. Despite the differences, there are elements that the majority of siblings have in common.

Adults need to work on making these children and their needs visible. Adults rarely tell them what is happening or talk about their experience and their feelings. Children with incarcerated siblings, usually, don't tell anyone of the incarceration due to shame, culture of honor, family secrecy, fear, culture of silence or lack of trust. Silence has been found to be a common denominator amongst the children. This has shown to increase anxiety due to the child feeling forgotten and/or cut off.

These children often have a lot of concern about their incarcerated sibling. They need honest and age appropriate information as well as answers to their questions. This does not mean that they need to know all the details of the offence. Some example of important questions for these children are “Where is my sibling? How is my sibling doing? What will happen now and in the future?” If you don't have all the answers, that needs to be communicated to the child.

Children with incarcerated siblings may also be victims of crime without them realising it themselves. Some of them have been subjected to threats, psychological or physical violence by the incarcerated sibling's enemies, both inside and outside the home. In some cases, the child or family may have been forced to take over debts owed by the incarcerated sibling. This affects the children both emotionally and socially, and can cause more mental health problems or in some cases leads to their own criminal behavior.

The children might also be restricted socially and physically. This is tied to which friends they can and cannot socialize with, not knowing who they can trust, and where or what area (“territories”) they can be seen in. This results in several difficulties and limitations of the siblings' social context.

In half of our interviews with the children, it emerged that their siblings incarceration was not the first time separating. The now incarcerated sibling had been involved with the social services, being placed within homes for care or residence and/or within the National Board of Institutional Care.

The children told us that the first time they were separated, the relationships in the home changed as a result. In some cases, the incarcerated sibling had been very important. They may have been the child's best friend, a caregiver in the home, a role model and a source of security.

Further, many children of incarcerated siblings report feeling judged by school staff, the police or the public at large for having an incarcerated sibling. It is important for their self-esteem and mental health that we treat them as individuals and do not judge their incarcerated siblings.

THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Article 12

Children should be assured the right to express their views and express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

Article 3

In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE FAMILY?

Everyone in the family is affected

"When you have a child who lives a life of crime, there are so many people who dislike him and what he does. It means that the mum has to love that child more and I as a sibling am forgotten."

Sister, 17 years old

When a sibling is incarcerated, everyone in the family is affected, especially during the period of detention. This is regardless of whether or not there may have already been problems or they lived a "sheltered"-life prior to the incarceration. In interviews with the incarcerated sibling, they believe that their younger siblings (target group) is supported and gets help by their caregivers. However, in our experience, these children, more often than not, are the ones supporting and helping their caregiver.

Children of incarcerated siblings has expressed that they are not able to show how sad, disappointed and angry they really are, since they don't want to burden their caregivers even more. They explain that "mums are always more sad, grieve more and have it harder". In our interviews we found that fathers were rarely present and in cases where they are part of the family, they are perceived as angry and disappointed. Further, we found that teenage siblings within the family knew about their siblings incarceration, while the younger did not, which furthers all the negative affects of secrecy.

"When my brother was arrested, it became emotional in the family and we fought more. It became like an invisible wall between us. I pretended to be fine. I had to carry myself and my parents emotionally."

- Sister, 18 years old

SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS

An incarceration can affect the relationship between siblings in different ways. For example, the everyday contact changes and the siblings can no longer stay in touch the way they used to. Contact is often very limited and in some cases only permitted through letters, as calls are not always approved by the Prison and Probation Services. A feeling of powerlessness often affects both the incarcerated sibling and the sibling on the outside.

The limited contact can lead to misunderstandings between the siblings and an insecurity can develop in the relationship. An insecurity rooted in a feeling that the incarcerated sibling is distancing themselves or not wanting contact, but which may actually be due to restrictions imposed by the Prison and Probation Services, assuming that contact between siblings is not necessary or good.

When the children are permitted to visit their sibling, it is often done with a caregiver present and monitored by prison staff. They explain that they cannot have the same type of conversations as they are used to. They cannot talk freely and honestly with their caregivers and monitoring prison staff present. This also have a significant affect on their sibling-relationship. Further, the children report that seeing their incarcerated sibling evokes difficult feelings due to factors such as the sibling losing weight or becoming less emotionally available during the visit.

Incarceration can have consequences for their relationship even after release, as there has been a period of limited contact and both siblings have developed and changed. Sometimes the relationship cannot be repaired or takes a very long time to rebuild. Research shows that a healthy and functioning sibling relationship helps people cope better with adversity in life. It is therefore important that siblings are allowed to maintain regular contact during incarceration, if it is in their best interests.



THE DETAINED SIBLINGS

"What if they retaliate on my younger brother."

- Detained siblings

Through our interviews with the incarcerated siblings, we have seen that there is a great deal of concern for their younger siblings, in different kind of ways.

- Those with brothers older than 13 years were mostly concerned about their sibling adopting a criminal lifestyle.
- Those with younger sisters were particularly concerned about their well-being. This was also the case for those with brothers younger than 13 years.
- In cases where the age difference was three years or less, there was concern that the sibling would be threatened or that enemies would attack the sibling.
- The vast majority felt that they had a close relationship with their siblings. Involvement with the social services, being placed within homes for care or residence and/or within the National Board of Institutional Care resulted in a poorer relationship between siblings.
- The incarcerated siblings often felt that their sibling received support from home.
- Those from small towns felt that support at home was sufficient for their siblings, while those from big cities felt that more support was needed.
- Those living in big cities had much higher concerns about their siblings being socialized into criminal behavior themselves.
- Those living in rural areas all said that their siblings were treated differently and that they felt concerned about their well-being.
- The shame and guilt of being incarcerated can, in some cases, prevent the incarcerated sibling from having contact with their siblings.



THE IMPACT OF MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Siblings hear and see more than they should

"People sent me pictures on Snapchat when my brother was arrested."

- Sister, 15 years old

Many children search for information about their incarcerated sibling on the internet. This can be problematic and can raise concern as well as they may be misinformed. Through online forums, they can access pre-trial investigation reports and other information related to the offense. The children often want to know and understand as much as possible about the situation they are in. Being informed, updated and involved in everything that happens can create a sense of being closer to the incarcerated sibling.

When a the incarcerated sibling belongs to a criminal network/gang, the children want information in order to know who they can trust and if there are areas and people they should stay away from. The children may also be recognized and contacted on social media by people who are in some way connected to their incarcerated sibling. This can cause anger, stress and anxiety.

"They released my brother's preliminary investigation report on TikTok and people tagged me in the comments. I was embarrassed and it felt like everyone knew it was my brother."

- Sister, 13 years old

"I had a panic attack after listening to the trial, they said our address and I was afraid we in the family would be harmed."

- Sister, 13 years old

Children may receive information without having asked for it. They may be tagged in various posts relating to their incarcerated siblings. They are exposed to information that is "thrown" at them without them being prepared for it. It can be very serious and frightening scenes that someone has filmed; a police raid, a shooting, threats, etc.

Further, even if the children are not present during the trial of the incarcerated sibling, they can listen to the trials published on various forums. When this happens without an adults present that can explain things the children do not understand, or provide comfort and support, the children are left to deal with all the emotions that arises alone.

Many times the media portrays the incarcerated sibling as a dangerous person. This can create a fear of judging them, their sibling and family. For the child, the incarcerated sibling is not the same person as the one the media portrays. Quite the contrary. It is often an important, close person that they love and miss.

"They published an article where they twisted the story to the worse, and it wasn't true, to get more readers. I'm angry with the media, that they always have to twist the truth.

The media made the incident even worse. When they posted blurred pictures, if you know my brother you can see that it's him. It's hard when you don't want people to see him like that."

- Sister, 18 years old



RISK FACTORS

Siblings are particularly vulnerable

"If I feel bad about my brother, my mum always feels worse emotionally, because she is a mum."

- Sister, 17 years old

EMOTIONAL LEVEL:

Children with incarcerated siblings report anger, sadness and a sense of injustice, as well as concern about how their siblings are doing.

Children we have spoken to say that they have been alone in their feelings regarding their incarcerated sibling. A few of the children have had someone to talk to. In addition, the children tell us that they have needed to see their caregivers in grief and worry, and have needed to emotionally support their caregivers. The children say that the incarceration has contributed to conflicts within family, that they have had to pretend to be okay and bear their feelings in silence.

In terms of views on, for example, the police and school staff, there is sometimes anger as the children feel wronged and unfairly treated because of the situation of their incarcerated sibling.

**"Sometimes I disappear into my own world
and can't hear the teacher talking to me."**

- Sister, 13 years old

COGNITIVE LEVEL:

It can be difficult for children to come to terms with the fact that a sibling has committed a crime, that they have disappeared from the family and to process this. It is common for many different emotions to be triggered when a sibling is incarcerated. Stress, worry and anxiety are common, which in turn can affect the children's behavior and habits. All these emotions might also cause poor sleep, emotional outbursts, conflicts, poor school performance, concentration and attendance issues.

SOCIAL LEVEL:

Many children remain in the same environments that the incarcerated sibling was in before, which can lead to a greater risk of being socialized into a criminal behavior and environment themselves. This is not always a choice the child make themselves, they can be forced into crime, forced to take on the role of the incarcerated sibling and forced to commit criminal acts. When support for the children is limited, the risk of their own criminality increases even more.

Children of incarcerated siblings do not automatically become criminals, but run a higher risk of being introduced into a criminal world.

Protective factors and needs

In the project, we have identified protective factors that can help siblings to choose a different path and gain tools to process and understand their situation, as well as to gain a sense of meaning in life.

Children need a safe adult/role model/mentor to talk to about their situation. A person they can talk to without feeling responsible for that person's wellbeing. This person can also be the one to guide and help sort through all the feelings and questions.

The incarcerated sibling is often a role model who has been very present in the child's upbringing and everyday life. The incarcerated sibling may have been a person who had the caregiver role in the home. Contact with the incarcerated sibling is therefore important. This contact can motivate and help the child to see themselves as a separate individual with their own ability to choose a different path. But contact should be based on the child's wishes and best interests.

Receiving information and knowledge gives the child tools to better manage their everyday life and the situation they are in. It also results in the child not having to seek the information themselves, which can lead to disinformation and difficult emotions. Being informed about what is happening also contributes to a sense of inclusion and comprehensibility.

Children and their incarcerated siblings testify that the need for support given to their caregivers is big. It is often the child who have to support the caregiver or as they themselves say "I have to be strong". Caregivers therefore need their own support based on the situation the family is in, but also awareness that and how all children in the family are affected. Even if the child is perceived to be okay, they are affected in one way or another.

If family and professionals see and show concern for the children and their situation, it can help them feel less alone, forgotten and shows them that their feelings and thoughts are important. This in turn can help them find trust in adults more, help them feeling less judged and help daring to talk about their situation.

Children want the authorities to understand the problems of having an incarcerated sibling and how it affects them. They do not want to have to tell or explain it to them. They also need the authorities to speak in a language they understand, to use less complicated words when talking to them. It is important to support children in understanding and coping with change, which is a fundamental part of their needs.

How are siblings affected?

- They feel a great sense of separation and loss.
- ◇ They lack knowledge and information about what happened and how their incarcerated sibling is doing.
- They feel anxious about their incarcerated siblings release.
- ◇ They rarely have anyone to talk to about their situation.
- They lack trust in friends, adults and authorities.
- ◇ They carry a lot of anger and sadness.
- The children often have a close relationship with their incarcerated sibling, whom also is/was a source of security.
- ◇ They are often forgotten in the family and by society.
- There is not enough support from home.
- ◇ They are socially and physically restricted.
- They find it more difficult than children of incarcerated parents to establish contact with their incarcerated sibling.
- ◇ Many children seek their own information, which can lead to disinformation.
- Many carry trauma from events linked to their incarcerated sibling that have created anxiety, stress and fear.
- ◇ Siblings need support at an early stage.
- They may feel a sense of relief when they are incarcerated, as their siblings are in a place where they can rest and no one can harm them.

For those who work within the Social Services

When there are concerns that a child or young person is engaging in criminal behavior, the social services steps in with interventions towards that particular child and their caregivers. The other children in the family, siblings, are forgotten and overlooked. The children tell us that their incarcerated sibling have had many meetings with the social services during their childhood. However, the children themselves were never included in meetings or interventions.

In cases where there are interventions for a child or young person engaged in criminal behavior, it is essential for the social service to include the whole family and not exclude minor siblings. The siblings' need for support has to be taken into account. The incarcerated siblings may have grown up under difficult circumstances and often with elements of violence. We need to be aware that the other children, younger siblings, living in the same environment might grow up during and partly during the same circumstances. That puts them in a higher risk of being socialized into the same criminal path. It is important that children are given the right conditions to grow up in and a safe environment that favors their development.

"Social services need to understand that we feel bad even if we say we are okay. Ask more. Check if I have someone to talk to? Ask about how things are going at school? They need to make sure there is someone."

- Sister, 13 years old

The children often feel all alone in their situation and, more often than not, they have never talked to anyone about how having or having had an incarcerated sibling has affected them. It is important to inform and motivate families to receive support.

"My brothers have had a lot to do with the social services, but they have never talked to me."

- Sister, 15 years

The children need safe adults who can provide support. This support doesn't need to be by the social services, it can be any adult safe person that is not a family member. Someone that the children trust with talking about these sensitiv subject.

Caregivers need knowledge and information about how the rest of the children in the family are affected when a sibling is incarcerated. Talking to the caregivers during the project, they stress the importance of good contact and communication between the family and the social services. They explain that good contact with the social worker is a reassuring factor for the whole family. Having informed caregivers as well as them receiving support, is a factor of protection for the children.

Tips:

When encountering children with incarcerated siblings:

- Figure out if the child has an adult they trust that is not a family member within their network. If the child consents, facilitate that contact. Inform this person about the situation and its affect on the child.
- ◇ Offer the children one-to-one meetings to talk about their situation and how it have affected them.
- Contact Bufff for consultation. We can offer a safe space for the children, the caregiver and the social services in order to navigating sensitive topics.
- Do not overlook the rest of the children in the family when offering the caregivers and the incarcerated sibling social interventions.
- ◇ Talk to the child on their level, for example use simpler word in meetings. Also, most importantly, do not judge - just listen.

For those who work at Schools

"There is a difference between feeling different and feeling seen."

- Sister, 14 years old

In interviews with the children we often heard that schooling was affected. They had difficulty with concentration, anxiety and less motivation, due to so much going on around them. They also felt worried about their incarcerated sibling.

At times, the anxiety was also based on the fear of threats or harm from rival criminal gangs to the incarcerated sibling. The incarceration can mean that the security of the family is lost and all the family roles change.

"My brother being arrested affected me at school. I have been absent both physically and mentally. I had to contact a lawyer and attend hearings. I had to understand how everything worked, how to send letters, books, etc. I was the one in the family who had to take all responsibility because I'm the one who knows the Swedish language."

Sister, 18 years old

School is a big factor of protection for children, staff of the school can play a big part in helping. If encountering a child with an incarcerated sibling, inform the staff about the child's situation and be more aware of the child's behavior. You can make school a safe environment. When there is awareness among school staff, it contributes to a better understanding of the needs of the child and also in what you as school staff can do.

"In the school I used to go to, the teachers didn't believe me because my brothers were criminals, they thought I would be the same."

- Sister, 15 years old

In interviews, majority of the children wanted support from adults they already know and trust. Preferably a relationship that has existed for a long time, where the adult has stood by and been persistent in other situations.

They also want the adult to ask questions. More often than not, they felt difficulty starting the conversations and put into words how they feel or what they are going through. Remember, it is important to focus on how the incarceration has affected the child's situation and not on the incarcerated sibling.

The children also report higher absence from school due to custody hearings or trials; they may be the one in the family who has contact with the lawyer and/or other authorities. Absence may also be due to reduced motivation, difficulty with concentration, worry, anxiety and more. All children are affected in different ways, be aware of the child's behavior.

Tips:

When encountering children with incarcerated siblings:

- ◇ Is there an adult at school with whom the child feels safe? A person that can open up the conversation and ask how the child is doing and how everything affects them? They want someone to ask, but not because they are curious, but because they care.
- Talk to the caregivers. Make them aware that the child is affected and may need support.
- ◇ Consult Bufff and inform the child and the family about our support.
- You can call Bufff for advice and support.
- ◇ The children often wishes to talk in a private room, without other around.

For those who work as

Police

"Every time there's a knock on the door, I think it's the police, and they're going to tell me that one of my brothers died."

- Sister, 15 years old

If criminality is suspected in a teenager or young adult, also identify if there are underage siblings in the family. Having a sibling with a criminal behavior and lifestyle is a risk factor, especially if they are brothers and even more so if they are close in age. The children might also be victims of crime, as they face retaliation for their incarcerated sibling being within a criminal network. This makes the children important in preventive efforts.

The police play an important role in the life of these children. Witnessing a sibling get arrested, searched or detained creates trauma. These situations can be frightening and cause a lot of stress. The children describe them as unpleasant situations that create uncertainty and raise many unanswered questions. Taking the time to talk to the child can make a big difference to the whole experience of the situation. Children repeatedly told us that if the officer took them aside and asked thoughtful questions, it was much appreciated. The children have also expressed a desire for the police to understand that they love their sibling, that the situation creates fear, worry and sadness for them.

"It was really scary when the police came at night and went into my room. I wish they could talk and explain what's happening so I did not have to worry."

- Brother, 10 years old

"Let me be angry and let me protect my sibling. I don't want to have to show him where his room is."

- Sister, 17 years old

The incarcerated sibling may have had an important role in the family. A caring role in the home and be the child's emotional support. Children often see the incarcerated siblings as the strong one, but who becomes small and powerless when arrested.

Police intervention can affect children in different ways. It can be anxiety, fear, confusion and anger. In interviews, the children tell us they feel judge by the officers due to their sibling. They want to be treated as individuals. Also, the children experience officers wanting to get information about their detained sibling, putting them in a difficult situation since they want to protect the sibling.

Tips:

When encountering children with incarcerated siblings:

- Inform the family that Bufff is there to provide information, advice and support when someone is detained or incarcerated.
- ◇ In the event of an arrest or information about an arrest, it can be difficult for families to take in the information. Please leave a note or business card about Bufff and phone number if possible.
- In the event of an arrest or search, children may be in shock, panic or fear. Feel free to stop and ask them how they feel. Providing children with answers to their basic questions will reduce stress, anxiety and the risk of future contempt of authority. Even if you can't answer all the questions, that is okay.
- ◇ Investigator: inform the family that Bufff exists and they can contact Bufff for support in their situation. We know that the more support and information the family receives, the better they feel.

For those who work within Prison and Probation Services

Many of the children we have spoken to say that they have a close relationship with their incarcerated siblings. Therefore, it is important that they are allowed to maintain some kind of contact, of course if it is in the best interests of the child. The incarcerated siblings often feels worried about their younger siblings. These concerns are linked to how they are doing school or to their own criminality.

When children visit the incarcerated sibling with caregivers, they express that they feel limited in the interaction with the sibling. Also, it is not uncommon for the children to withhold how they are really feeling and how they are actually doing. They don't want to risk making things worse for family members.

Tips:

When encountering the incarcerated siblings:

- ◇ At enrolment: rephrase the question "Do you have children?" to: "Do you have children or minor siblings in your neighbourhood?" To better capture if there are siblings in the family who are affected.
- Inform incarcerated siblings that Buff exists.
- ◇ Talk to them about motivating their younger siblings to contact Buff (or another adult) for support in their situation.
- Inform and motivate incarcerated siblings to meet Buff at the next visit.
- ◇ Motivate those who have younger siblings to be good role models.
- Talk about child's right to their own information and the importance of getting it directly from their sibling or caregiver and not from social media or similar sources.
- Encourage visits by siblings in the company of an adult other than the caregiver if this is more comfortable.
- Explain the importance of letting the sibling know that it is okay to feel sadness and anger towards the incarcerated sibling.

Tips

What children want most is information and knowledge, about what is happening and how the prison system works. They need to understand different processes in order to cope with their situation and to better manage their emotions.

The children we talked to wanted more understanding of how the “legal chain” works, step by step, with an explanation of difficult words they encounter.

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service has a website for kids and young people called Insidan. It shows how the prison or remand center looks like on the inside and explain the rules as well as routines. It is very good to use when talking to children.

RESEARCH

During the project, we have searched for research made on children with incarcerated siblings. Research is very limited while there is a great need for more. Amongst the limited research, we found a small study by Kirsty Deacon's from Scotland "Never mind, we can't help you": young people's experiences of the imprisonment of a sibling.

¹ Deacon, K. (2022) "Never mind, we can't help you": Young people's experiences of the imprisonment of a sibling. Families, Relationships and Societies (published online ahead of print 2022).

Need more information and advice?

Contact us:

Mejl: info@bufff.se

Helpline: 020-200 330

Chat: www.bufff.se

 BUFFF

 BUFFF.Sverige

 BUFFF Sverige



Bufff

Barn och ungdom med
förälder/familjemedlem
i fängelse

The organisation provides support and a voice to children and young people with a parent/family member in prison, custody or probation.



MED
STÖD
FRÅN

ALLMÄNNA
ARVSFONDEN