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MY CITY

The innocent victims we must hear and see

WHEN someone is sent to prison, there's often a feeling that justice has been served. But it's not that simple.

What of the families left behind in the shadow of negative publicity? Or the children desperate to fit into a community that now views them with suspicion?

Children Heard and Seen, a charity founded by Sarah Burrows in 2014, provides support for children impacted by the incarceration of a parent. They aim to break the stigma attached to the innocent victims of crime, the children and the families of those charged.

Leanne Manning is a Liverpool-based project coordinator for the charity. With a team of volunteers, she supports people during this challenging transition. The charity has worked with more than 200 families and nearly 500 children to date. Through 1-2-1 therapies, mentoring, focus groups, and activity days, they build a solid community to alleviate the isolation and judgment so many feel.

Children of parental imprisonment face ongoing physical and emotional abuse, exclusion and segregation, and the upheaval of forced relocation to new neighbourhoods and schools, at a time already steeped in sadness and grief.

Around 312,000 children each year have a parent in prison, yet there is no database of who these children are. Children with a parent in prison are three times more likely to commit anti-social behaviour. With the prison population steadily increasing, charities like this need our support more than ever.

If you know a family that would like support, please email info@childrenheardandseen.co.uk



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