

To Claire

I am the senior manager for the Invisible Walls Family Service working from HMP YOI Parc and in the South Wales community. The service provides support to prisoners, their families and significant others before and after release. It aims to maintain positive family engagement through the medium of visits, targeted interventions and specialist family support. In addition we have a team of mentors/resettlement workers who support prisoners and their families for up to a year prior and post release.

Awen's objectives support our family agenda by tackling social isolation, which improves wellbeing by using culture to connect with people who are otherwise disconnected from their local communities. This is a key aim of the Invisible Walls Family service, to reduce barriers to participation in the local community. The additional opportunity to connect our families with arts is exciting and currently uncharted territory for us.

We would be very happy to support Awen's bid for an ACW grant. Their ongoing strategy is one that aligns with our Invisible Walls Families and Significant Other strategy.

We are currently working with Awen to develop an interactive book that prisoners can use with their children. This project, although in development, is very exciting. Awen's vision is such that as this develops I have no doubt there will be other avenues and projects we can explore and collaborate on.

In addition I was asked to speak at the "Between the Trees Festival" last summer. It was incredible to see what had been achieved and how it brought the community together. The enthusiasm demonstrated by Andreas and his colleagues was infectious and it was clear to see on the faces of people attending the event how much they were enjoying the sense of community it produced.

Vanessa Wrather

Invisible Walls Families Senior Manager: HMP & YOI Parc and CaRS



Strengthening families, building futures.