

2016 Special Funding Initiative – Grant Awarded

The [Sir Halley Stewart Trust](#) is delighted to announce an innovative new project being supported through its 2016 Special Funding initiative, in partnership with the [Wates Foundation](#).

From its work in the fields of child welfare and criminal justice, the Sir Halley Stewart Trust became aware of gaps in advice services for prisoners with children in local authority care. In 2016, the Trust had therefore announced a call for applications to ***design and pilot an outreach, independent specialist legal advice and advocacy service for parents in prison***. This was to be targeted at prisoners whose children may be considered for adoption whilst they serve their prison sentences, and to involve a small-scale process evaluation of the implementation and early impact of the pilot service. The aim was for the service to help parents to understand what is involved in statutory care planning for their children, and to help them to contribute to decision making in an informed and meaningful way – with the needs of children being paramount.

There was significant interest in the funding programme. Following several rounds of application assessments, in November 2016 the Trustees were very pleased to award funding for a three-year project to be delivered by [Prisoners' Advice Service](#), working in partnership with [Rights of Women](#) and with an evaluation to be conducted by the [Centre for Child and Family Justice Research at Lancaster University](#). The three-year project is to be developed and piloted in four women's prisons initially and, if successful, the intention is to roll it out across more prisons in due course.

The Trust is very pleased to be supporting this project in partnership with the Wates Foundation – an independent grant-making Family Trust. This is the first partnership between the two funding organisations and we are delighted to be working together to support this pioneering pilot project.

If you would be interested in receiving more information about this project as it progresses, then please contact:

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