



About Families Outside

Families Outside is the only national organisation that works exclusively on behalf of families affected by imprisonment in Scotland. The imprisonment of a relative has an impact on the social, emotional, financial and, especially for children and young people, educational development of the remaining family members. It is a traumatic experience for families, and its impact is often significant and enduring. Families Outside works to mitigate the effects of imprisonment on children and families - and consequently to reduce the likelihood of reoffending - through support and information for families and for the people who work with them.

About the Training

Families Outside delivers bespoke training and awareness-raising regarding issues for families who have a relative or friend involved in the criminal justice system. Communication, handling of difficult situations, and working with a diverse range of individuals can all be problematic. Tailored information looks at the issues for family members affected by imprisonment, how support can be delivered to this group of people in their own right and, in turn, how families and the services available to them can support a relative or friend in prison and on release.

Sessions can run from a 20-minute presentation to a full-day workshop involving a range of materials including audio, DVD, quizzes, group discussions, role play and case studies.

Learning Aims

By the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Have an understanding of the impact of arrest and imprisonment on family members and on relationships between someone in prison and their family member or friend
- Recognise the key role families can play in risk assessment, case management, recovery from substance misuse, crime prevention, child protection, and resettlement
- Understand the role and function of the Families Outside Support & Information Helpline, and the back-up and resources it provides to family members and to the professionals who work with them
- Understand issues specific to children and young people with a parent or relative in prison
- Understand that families need support in their own right
- Have an awareness of existing resources available for families (locally and nationally)
- Understand the importance of links between prison and support agencies/facilities
- Understand the role that Family Contact Officers, prison Visitors' Centres and good quality family contact can play in a prisoner's sentence management.

Learning Outcomes

- Key agencies will recognise the relevance and needs of families affected by imprisonment as part of their own remit.
- Contact between individuals held in custody and their families will be improved, and supported.
- Effective links and working relationships with relevant agencies will be identified, developed and maintained.

Behavioural Competencies

- Effective communication
- Respect for diversity
- Personal awareness

Who is the training for?

Training has been delivered to prison officer recruits and senior managers in both the public and private sector, Children's Panel members, social work and forensic psychology students, housing staff, addiction and childcare agencies, statutory and voluntary agencies, including health visitors and health promotion workers throughout Scotland. Training can be tailored according to participants' needs and interests.

Finally...

Professional tools

With kind permission of Family Justice (USA), Families Outside has adapted a number of support tools which help develop more positive engagement between professionals and the families they work with.

- Ecomapping
- Genogram
- Relational Enquiry Tool

These are all available at our website www.familiesoutside.org.uk along with a video of the 'La Bodega La Familia' project which was run by Family Justice (USA). The film offers some useful background to support the tools we have provided.

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