

## **‘Extended Home Leave’ information for families**

families  
outside

voicing the needs  
of families affected  
by imprisonment

# What is Extended Home Leave?

Extended Home Leave is a short period of temporary release from prison for up to seven nights per month.

## The purpose of the scheme is to help the prisoner:

- Re-establish and strengthen family relationships;
- Resettle back into the community;
- Prepare for their eventual release by, for example, attending appointments with organisations or professionals who might be able to help them when they get out (e.g. health services).

Extended Home Leave helps families by reducing the stress and costs of prison visits. It also gives the whole family a chance to test out what living together again is like after a period of separation, when many things may have changed.

## Who can get Extended Home Leave?

Most prisoners are eligible.

However, it can be particularly important for prisoners who:

- Are serving a sentence of four years or more and/or
- Will be subject to statutory supervision on release. 'Statutory supervision' means that the prisoner has to follow certain rules whilst in the community or they may be returned to custody. It also means that they have to report to a Social Worker at regular times.

Extended Home Leave is not automatically granted, and every individual is assessed for suitability.

## Who won't get Extended Home Leave?

Some prisoners will not be eligible and include those:

- Who may be appealing against their sentence;
- Who may be subject to extradition;
- Who, in the opinion of a medical officer, may be suffering from a mental disorder; and
- Who, in the opinion of a medical officer, may be considered otherwise unfit.

## How is Extended Home Leave decided?

Assessment for Extended Home Leave starts and ends at the prison and is part of ICM (Integrated Case Management). ICM is a process where other agencies work closely with the prison to give prisoners help and support to deal with any issues they may have. This is to help them be less likely to reoffend when they are released. As part of ICM, an annual case conference is held to review the prisoner's progress and whether he or she can be considered for less secure conditions (including Extended Home Leave) within the next year. Should the prisoner wish, family members can be invited to contribute to the case conference. The case conference also identifies an address the prisoner wishes to use for home leaves.

If your address has been given by the prisoner, you will be visited by a Community Based Social Worker who will compile a Home Leave Report. They will tell you about the process in detail. They will ask you about:

- The suitability of your home (i.e. the physical living space);
- Who else lives at the address;
- Your relationship with the prisoner and whether you are willing and feel able to offer them support; and
- Any worries you may have about Extended Home Leave.

The Social Worker will assess the advantages and disadvantages of Extended Home Leave for the prisoner, for their family and consider any risks to the community. They will then make a recommendation on all of this to the prison.

...so it's really important that you give the Social Worker the information which you feel should be taken into account.

This is an opportunity for you to ask any questions. The Social Worker will also be able to tell you how you can access support, advice and information during (or after) the period of Extended Home Leave.

The final decision about Extended Home Leave rests with the Prison Governor, who will take all the available information into account.

Once the decision has been made to grant or refuse Extended Home Leave, the Prison will notify you, the prisoner, the Social Worker and the Police before the leave takes place.

## What happens next?

If Extended Home Leave is granted, then it is granted conditionally. That means that the prisoner is released on a licence which has certain conditions attached to it. Amongst other things, these require the prisoner to:

- Be of good behaviour;
- Reside at the arranged address;
- Not drink alcohol or take non-prescriptive drugs;
- Not take forbidden goods back into prison.

Other conditions can be added.

If you are concerned that your family member might breach these conditions, you should seek support for them and for yourself from the prison or the Social Worker.

If an incident occurs, or if you are concerned for your own safety, you should contact the police and explain that the prisoner has been released temporarily and is on Extended Home Leave. If you do not feel you can speak to these agencies, please contact the **Families Outside Support and Information Helpline**, an independent charity, on **0500 83 93 83**.

## Other information

### **Can we get financial help?**

Each prisoner will receive a small grant to contribute towards living costs during the home leave period. If you are claiming Income Support, you may be entitled to additional help and should contact the local JobCentrePlus for further details.

### **What if we're having problems in our relationship?**

It's not surprising when people have been apart that difficulties can arise. Relationship counselling can help, and you could contact Relationships Scotland, on 0845 119 6088, to get information about the nearest service to you.

### **My family member is having difficulties in settling back; where can I find support for them?**

If this happens, you can contact the Social Worker who visited you or the prison from which the person was released. You can also contact the Families Outside Support and Information Helpline on 0500 83 93 83. For further information on ICM, see Families Outside Information Sheet No.11 (download from [www.familiesoutside.org.uk](http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk), or we can post this).

## **Families Outside Support and Information Helpline Freephone number 0500 83 93 83**

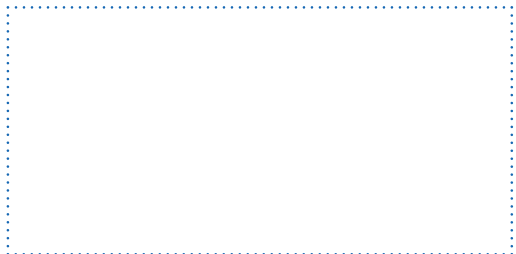
Monday to Friday 1pm–5pm (answerphone outwith these hours)

**[support@familiesoutside.org.uk](mailto:support@familiesoutside.org.uk) [www.familiesoutside.org.uk](http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk)**

A free, confidential Helpline for families affected by imprisonment in Scotland

### **HMP Open Estate**

Call 01382 319 333 and ask for the Duty Custody Manager, or contact your local Social Work Department



If you would like a summary of this leaflet in large print format, audiotape or in your community language, please e-mail, phone or write to us via the contacts below.

Ma tha giorrachadh den leabhran seo a dhìth oirbh anns a' chlà mhòr, air feip-claisneachd no anns a' chànan aghaibh fhèin, cuiribh fòn no sgrìobhaibh thugainn aig na h-àireamhan gu h-ìseal.

Aby otrzymać streszczenie niniejszej ulotki dużym drukiem, kasetę magnetofonową lub wersję w swoim ojczystym języku, prosimy skontaktować się z nami pocztą elektroniczną, telefonicznie lub listownie, korzystając z danych kontaktowych podanych poniżej.

如欲索取本單張摘要的特大字體、錄音帶或中文（廣東話）版本，請發送電郵、致電或來信向我們提出要求，我們的聯絡資料如下。

यदि आपको इस लीफलेट का सारांश बड़े अक्षरों में, ऑडियो टेप या अपनी भाषा में चाहिए, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए संपर्क पर ई-मेल करें, फोन करें या लिखें।

এই তথ্যপত্রের একটি সারাংশ মোটা হরফে, ক্যাসেটে রেকর্ড করে বা আপনার নিজ ভাষায় চাইলে অনুগ্রহ করে নিচের যোগাযোগের বিবরণ ব্যবহার করে আমাদেরকে ইমেইল, ফোন করবেন বা চিঠি লিখবেন।

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على ملخص عن هذه النشرة بأحرف كبيرة أو على شريط سماعي (كاسيت) أو بلغتك الأم فالرجاء الاتصال بنا عن طريق البريد الإلكتروني أو الهاتف أو الكتابة لنا على العنوان الموضح أدناه.

اگر آپ اس لیفلیٹ (کتابچے) کا خلاصہ بڑی طباعت، آڈیو ٹیپ یا اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو براہ مہربانی ہم سے مندرجہ ذیل ای میل، ٹیلیفون یا پتے پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਦਾ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ, ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਟੇਪ ਤੇ ਜਾਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਵਿਰਧਾ ਅਰਵੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਈ-ਮੇਲ ਜਾਂ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਲਿਖੇ ਸੰਪਰਕਾਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਲਿਖੋ।

Families Outside Support and Information Helpline

Freephone number 0500 83 93 83 Email [support@familiesoutside.org.uk](mailto:support@familiesoutside.org.uk)



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