

FAMILY VALUES - TRAINING SEMINAR

Improving public safety and well-being through a family-focused approach

Carol Shapiro, Founder of Family Justice (USA)

10.00am – 4.00pm Friday, 21 May 2010, Norton House Hotel (Ingliston, Edinburgh, EH28 8LX)

We are delighted to announce that Carol Shapiro, founder of Family Justice (USA), is coming back to Scotland by popular demand following the Families Outside conference in November 2009.

Carol has agreed to run a one-day training seminar which will focus on methods of improving public safety and family well-being by integrating a strength-based, family-focused approach in fields such as law enforcement, addiction, mental health, domestic violence, and housing.

Specifically, Carol will offer participants a hands-on experience designed to enhance current practice and build on participant family engagement expertise. During the day, there will be opportunities to use mapping tools, identify cost-effective collaborative strategies, and draft a plan to integrate a family, strength-based practice into your everyday work. Funding and measurement from this perspective will also be explored.

We strongly encourage anyone who is interested in harnessing and measuring the impact of social capital, the value of engagement with families, and alternative approaches to prevention of offending to attend this important one-off event.

Book online at www.familiesoutside.org.uk or telephone 0131 557 9800. We look forward to seeing you there!



FAMILY SUPPORT WORK – DIRECT PROVISION

In October 2008, Families Outside appointed two Family Support Workers to provide direct support to families affected by imprisonment. Tracey Burns was appointed through the *Routes Out Of Prison (RooP)* project. Based at The Wise Group offices in Glasgow, she provides support to families of prisoners involved with RooP in the Southwest, Glasgow, North Strathclyde, and Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority (CJA) areas. Kerry Henderson, based at the Edinburgh Prison Visitors' Centre, is responsible for supporting families in the Lothian & Borders CJA.

Since starting, these Families Outside workers have gone from strength to strength, becoming recognisable and invaluable sources of support to many families who have someone in prison. Clear evidence of their need can be seen by the support they have provided to 269 families in their first 18 months, well in excess of the targets set at the inception of both posts. Reports by Tracey and Kerry, summarising the issues raised and addressed in their first years have been written. Kerry's can be found on our website with Tracey's to follow soon.

This direct support work has become a key element of our service, helping families and professionals with highly complex issues (e.g. child protection, addiction, housing) and strengthening our direct links with families. In the longer term, we would like to ensure such support is available to families throughout Scotland.

WE'RE 'POOLING' TOGETHER

Families Outside recently hosted a meeting with other family support organisations following the growth in direct support for families of offenders. The meeting shared best practice and identified gaps to ensure coordinated support was available to families. Organisations learned about each others' areas of expertise, geographical coverage and service provision in order to explore opportunities for cross-referral. Such was the success of this meeting that plans are now in place to conduct these gatherings on a more regular basis.

BUTLER TRUST AWARD 2009/10

Our Family Support Worker, Kerry Knox, along with the staff at the Edinburgh Prison Visitors' Centre, recently received a Butler Trust Award for their work in supporting children and families of offenders in prison.

The Butler Trust is an independent charity which recognises outstanding dedication, skill and creativity on the part of those working in the UK correctional setting.

Kerry contributed by working with families in the prison setting as well as with those in the wider community.

A fifth edition of *In Brief* has been published, focusing on the role of prison visitors' centres. Its release is particularly timely in view of the report by the Scottish Government's Equal Opportunities Committee on female offenders and the recommendation by the Chief Inspector of Prisons to have a visitors' centre at Cornton Vale.

Congratulations to Kerry and all the team at the Edinburgh Prison Visitors' Centre!



WEBSITE HITS (22/02/10 – 05/04/10)

9,623

GIVING FAMILIES A VOICE

We are always looking for people who are willing to share their experiences of having a family member caught up in the criminal justice system. If this is of interest to you, please let us know - we are always ready to hear your story.

Tel 0131 557 9800 Email admin@familiesoutside.org.uk

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Families Outside conducts training for new recruits at the Scottish Prison Service and awareness-raising as part of the Life/Time project in Lothian & Borders secondary schools. We also addressed new audiences through:

- workshops at a conference hosted by Circle and the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Research on Families and Relationships;
- a workshop on engagement of prisoners and families through learning;
- a paper at a Joint Faiths seminar hosted by the SPS.

In addition, a number of important new opportunities have arisen that we look forward to developing:

- Delivery of sessions about families as part of the refresher training/continued professional development for Sheriffs in Scotland is being arranged through the Judicial Studies Committee. This is an incredibly important opportunity for us, likely to begin in 2011/12.
- The ACPOS (Association of Chief Police Officers for Scotland) Community Safety Sub-Group has invited us to address their quarterly meeting later in the spring. This is the first step to access to police divisions throughout Scotland as well as a necessary step prior to delivery of training at the Police College.
- Dr Richard Simpson (MSP and Shadow Secretary for Health) approached Families Outside to arrange a meeting with the Labour Justice Committee. He was particularly interested in our input about prison visitors' centres, namely one at Cornton Vale.
- The Scottish Consortium on Crime and Criminal Justice (of which we are a member) published its annual review in February. This year's report includes a section on the impact of imprisonment on families, which we submitted for inclusion.
- The Royal Society for the Arts is keen to host a lecture from us as part of their annual Scottish lecture series.
- MSP Aileen Campbell took forward an amendment to the Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill that would require judges to take the impact on children and other dependents into account when sentencing offenders. The amendment was not successful at this stage, though we have scope to develop this further at a later stage.
- We are drafting input to the Scottish Government's GIRFEC website as well as to an online 'toolkit' devoted to encouraging the emotional well-being of children and young people www.handsonscotland.co.uk
- Discussions have begun with Skills for Justice to explore options for getting our training accredited.
- Health in Scotland has added our training to their training database, accessed by health professionals and Health Boards throughout Scotland.

PLAYWORK IN PRISONS

NHS Lothian is now funding Barnardo's to deliver playwork in HMP Edinburgh and prison Visitors' Centre. We have been involved in this process from the beginning, coordinated by Yvonne Dalziel from the NHS, and will continue to support the work through participation in training for Barnardo's staff and in the project's Advisory Group.

FAMILIES OUTSIDE WEBSITE CHILDREN'S SECTION

The children's section of the website is nearing completion. The section will include two different areas:



Children 11 & under This section will have a variety of child friendly material with a picture gallery, colouring and more! The children's booklet, 'Honest: Emma's Story', will be available, with information about imprisonment that is both useful and understandable to children 11 years and under.

Young people 12+ Here information more suited to young people will be offered, including the booklet, 'What's the Story? Jenny's Journey'. There will be a quiz giving useful facts about imprisonment, a section on terminology young people may find confusing, as well as links for who they can contact for support or advice.



The Families Outside Support & Information Helpline will be available via email, text, phone and post.

This section of the website should be live in spring 2010.

FAMILY MATTERS

Maximising the key role of families in the justice system



Families Outside and the Lothian & Borders Community Justice Authority jointly hosted a one-day workshop and networking event. The three workshops were designed to:

- Develop a shared understanding of need;
- Identify support and where there are gaps;
- Establish what needs to be done within and between organisations.

With input from CJA members, Criminal Justice and Children & Families social workers, prison staff, voluntary sector workers and many more, this seminar helped inform an Action Plan which will be taken forward by the Family Strategy Group members for Lothian & Borders.

Families Outside
Support & Information Helpline
Freephone 0500 83 93 83
support@familiesoutside.org.uk
answerphone if not available