

Families Outside

Voicing the needs of families affected by imprisonment in Scotland

Bulletin – April 2011

families
outside

www.familiesoutside.org.uk

FAMILY FRIENDLY PRISON CHALLENGE 2010

Turner Prize Winner and Scotland's Commissioner for Children & Young People join in support for prisoners' children

Susan Philipsz, Turner Prize Winner for 2010, along with Tam Baillie, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, recognised Scottish prisons and voluntary sector partners at an award ceremony for their work to support children with a family member in prison.

Nine prisons took part in the Family Friendly Prison Challenge, hosted by Families Outside. In partnership with the Campaign for Drawing and their initiative, 'The Big Draw', the Challenge encouraged prisons to help prisoners maintain family contact - a crucial element in the reduction of re-offending - by running an event aimed at promoting positive family relationships. With a month long season of drawing events in the prison establishments, the theme for the challenge was 'Family Visits on a Budget', as we are very aware of the financial constraints placed upon prisons.

Each year, more children in Scotland experience a parent's imprisonment than a parent's divorce. The impact of this can be emotional, physical and financial, with children of prisoners facing rejection, stigma and victimisation by peers and neighbours. Quality interaction between children and their family member in prison can make a huge difference to them, easing the pain of separation for the child and motivating prisoners to stay out of trouble on release.

We were delighted with the enthusiastic response to the scheme from each prison and their eagerness to involve the children of prisoners. We encourage all the establishments to get involved in next year's family focused event.



(left to right): John Ewing, Susan Philipsz, Tam Baillie, Nancy Loucks

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/fo>

EASYFUNDRAISING

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/fo>

Support Families Outside for free when shopping online with over 600 retailers including Amazon, Ebay, Tesco, Argos, Next, M&S, John Lewis, Debenhams, HMV, Vodaphone, Play.com, The Body Shop, Interflora, Comet, DELL and many many more...

TWEETING AND THE SOCIAL NETWORK



Like many charities, Families Outside recognises the value of the growing online social networking phenomena, not only in terms of reaching our own client group and funders but also in terms of the potential to engage and share our message with a much wider and varied audience.

As of March 2011 you will now be able to follow the work of Families Outside on Twitter and Facebook.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Families-Outside/185872184769712>

<http://twitter.com/FamiliesOutside>

In addition, our text service launched last quarter has had noted success, with texts already being sent to the Helpline requesting support and information.



DATE FOR DIARY - CONFERENCE 2011

Families Outside will be hosting a conference at the Falkirk Wheel on **Tuesday 1 November 2011**. With the title 'It's Everybody's Business' and chaired by HMCIP Brigadier Hugh Monro, the event will focus on the experiences of families affected by imprisonment while also concentrating on how a wide range of agencies can make a difference.



More information on the conference will be available soon from our website, www.familiesoutside.org.uk

RESEARCH: HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Families Outside will be hosting Dr Liz Brutus part-time for three months during the final stages of her qualification in public health. Liz is a GP currently seconded to SPS who has offered her services to us in order to gain experience for her qualification. Her time with us will focus on conducting health impact assessments of family support work.

MORE STENCILS BEING DISTRIBUTED

As reported last quarter, Families Outside has produced a stencil with details about our Support & Information Helpline. It was launched by Lothian & Borders Police in February at St Leonard's police station in Edinburgh and is now in use by Lothian & Borders Police, Edinburgh Sheriff Court, and HMPs Addiewell and Edinburgh. We have subsequently received orders from Lanarkshire CJA and HMPs Barlinnie and Perth.

We welcome other requests to purchase this innovative tool which can be used on ceilings of prison waiting rooms and police & court holding cells, among other locations.



To purchase a stencil, please telephone 0131 557 9800.



WEBSITE HITS (14/10/10 – 17/01/11)

26,916

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, 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 Lothian & Borders Police as well as awareness-raising as part of the Life/Time project in Lothian & Borders secondary schools. Additional training and awareness-raising this quarter included:

- Family Friendly Prison Challenge 'Big Draw' Celebration;
- Caledonia Youth Positive Outcomes conference;
- Scottish Assembly for Tackling Poverty;
- Scotland's Futures Forum presentation on Women Offenders;
- Mercia Scotland Charities conference;
- Northern Ireland Families and Children of Prisoners Interagency Group;
- West of Scotland Children's Panel Training;
- SPS 'Fit for the Future' Health Care Conference;
- 'Who are you calling dysfunctional? Families and Criminal Justice Explored' SCCJR event.

Participation in conferences has been very busy this quarter, including the Alcohol and Offenders conference; Children 1st 'Voice of the Child' conference; Partnership Development Initiative launch ('Partnerships in Criminal Justice: A framework for the future'); 'Beyond Them and Us' conference; Scottish Government's Early Years launch; Children in Scotland Kinship Care launch; Children in Scotland ENQUIRE event; the National GIRFEC Strategic Network; Police College conference on Domestic Violence.

Requests for input to various reports, consultations, appointments and research have included:

- NHS Inform guidance on *Understanding Carers: Advice for police and prison officers*;
- Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People's Draft Strategic Plan 2011-2015;
- Equal Opportunities Committee feedback;
- Consultation on Independent Monitoring of Prisons;
- UHI Article 12 UN Charter on the Rights of the Child consultation event.

Participation in a number of relevant groups continue:

- Scottish Veterans Prison In-Reach Working Group;
- Chair of the Glasgow CJA Women Offenders group;
- Chair of the Family Outcome Groups for the South West and Lothian & Borders Community Justice Authorities;
- Participation in the Scottish Government's Women Offenders Strategy Group;
- Consultation with Glasgow and Fife & Forth Valley CJAs;
- local SPS Children and Family Development Groups;
- SPS National Suicide Risk Management Group;
- Advisory groups for the Visitors' Centres at Edinburgh and Perth;
- Scottish Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum;
- Scottish Consortium on Crime and Criminal Justice.

BECOME A FRIEND OF FAMILIES OUTSIDE

By becoming a Friend of Families Outside, you can:

- Show support for families affected by imprisonment.
- Your voice can be heard at Families Outside events.
- Receive our annual report and briefings on key issues.
- You will get discounts for Families Outside conferences, events and training.

The costs of becoming a Friend of Families Outside vary according to your ability to pay.

Organisation	£25	Individual (unwaged/student)	£5
Individual (waged)	£10	Prisoners' family members	FREE

If you would like to become a Friend of Families Outside, visit our website at www.familiesoutside.org.uk/getting-involved/

ONE WEDDING AND A BABY!

Kerry Knox, our Family Support Worker based at the Edinburgh Prison Visitors' Centre, has given birth to a baby boy. Harris Scott Knox was born on 18 March and everyone at Families Outside would like to send their best wishes to Kerry, husband Iain and baby Harris.



During Kerry's maternity leave, her post will be covered by Hazel Rendall. Already settling in well, the staff welcome her to the team. And as the title suggests, it's a double celebration as on 16 April Hazel is getting married. Congratulations, Hazel!

BOARD TRUSTEE REQUIRED (UNPAID)

Families Outside is looking for a dynamic, motivated individual, committed to the values and ethics of the organisation and with a passion to promote an excellent service to families affected by imprisonment.

We are looking for someone with sound skills and experience in the following:

- Marketing/Advertising;
- Fundraising;
- Business Management.

Quarterly Board meetings are held in Edinburgh, usually in the morning.

For an application pack, please contact Families Outside at 13 Great King Street, Edinburgh EH3 6QW, by email to admin@familiesoutside.org.uk, or tel. 0131 557 9800.

Closing date: Monday, 16 May 2011.

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

SMS Text Service 60777
Text **Famout** followed by your message