

Families Outside

Voicing the needs of families affected by imprisonment in Scotland

Bulletin – July 2011

families
outside

www.familiesoutside.org.uk

FAMILIES OUTSIDE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

It's Everybody's Business: What's your role in supporting families affected by imprisonment?

The Falkirk Wheel - 10.00am to 3.30pm, Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Chaired by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, Brigadier Hugh Monro, this conference is aimed not only at prison staff, police, social workers, Community Justice Authorities, solicitors and court officials, but also teachers, children & families workers, health & mental health care teams, the voluntary sector and faith communities. The purpose is to show how each of these agencies comes into contact with families affected by imprisonment and how their input can make a difference.

Confirmed speakers include Drs Linda Moore and Una Convery from the University of Ulster (presenting European research on children of prisoners); Karyn McCluskey (Co-Director, Scottish Violence Reduction Unit); Gavin Oattes (Tree of Knowledge, as seen on Dragon's Den); and a number of family members who have agreed to share their experiences. The day will include workshops targeted at the various professionals to share examples of practice and explore how they can best support families.

We are trying to make this conference a free event, as we are conscious that the current financial and economic climate has put pressure on many organisations. Confirmation of this will be given on release of the booking form, and we are taking notes of interest at this time. Information and updates on the conference can be found on our website as well as [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

To register your interest in the conference, please email admin@familiesoutside.org.uk or telephone 0131 557 9800.



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

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EUROCHIPS MEMBERSHIP

Families Outside has joined Eurochips (European Network for Children of Imprisoned Parents). This is a very useful link for us, not least because the European framework raises the profile of the issue of families affected by imprisonment, but it also links us into a wide range of materials, models of practice and contacts. More information can be found at <http://www.eurochips.org>



FAMILIES OUTSIDE TAKES ON KIDS VIP SERVICES

In April, Kids VIP merged with the Prison Advice & Care Trust (pact) to deliver their training in England and Wales. As part of this merger, Families Outside will be delivering Kids VIP training under license in Scotland.

This training gives our staff an additional level of expertise to their skills sets and added value to the work Families Outside already delivers. The main change to our work will be coordination of meetings between prison playwork providers in Scotland, which has the added benefit of giving us more awareness of gaps in provision and support.



We are very pleased to take on this role, which has attracted a great deal of interest from our existing and potential funders as well as supporters of Kids VIP.

OPEN ESTATE FAMILIES DAY

HMP Open Estate, in partnership with Phoenix Futures, successfully held a Families Day in Glasgow in July. Families Outside also participated in the event, the purpose of which was to improve dialogue between prisoners, their families, Scottish Prison Service staff and Phoenix Futures.

Imprisonment of a family member has a negative impact on social, emotional, financial and educational development of a family. This leads to disadvantage, exclusion and the risk of cycles of crime and imprisonment being perpetuated. Prisoners are up to six times less likely to reoffend if they maintain family contact during imprisonment, and these improved family links aid in the resettlement of prisoners back into the community. Closer relationships often benefit prisoners' families as well, who tend to be the 'forgotten victims' of incarceration, having distinctive needs of their own.

The event was instigated in acknowledgment of the importance of these links and to assist prisoners in their return to the community following a long sentence.

NEW HELPLINE WORKER

Families Outside is pleased to announce the appointment of a new member of staff. Michelle Martin joined the team at the beginning of May 2011 and will take on the role of Helpline & Information Administrator. Already Michelle is proving to be a valuable addition to team, and we are very grateful to have her. We welcome Michelle to Families Outside and hope she will enjoy her time with us.



WEBSITE HITS (12/04/11 – 18/07/11)

40,601

FAMILIES OUTSIDE PARLIAMENTARY EVENT

Families Outside will be hosting an event at the Scottish Parliament on 20 September from 6.00pm to 7.00pm to inform our attendance at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Day of Discussion. The UN Discussion will take place in Geneva on 30 September – this year focuses on Children of Prisoners.

The purpose of the Parliamentary event, lead by Families Outside, is to gather the voices of children and families of prisoners, key professionals and interest groups in order to feed in to the United Nations' Discussion and inform Scottish policy in turn.

Sponsored by Christine Grahame MSP, we encourage attendance from families in particular, as well as from other relevant parties such as MSPs, the Scottish Commissioner for Children & Young People and those from voluntary and statutory sectors.



Meantime we are taking notes of interest – 0131 557 9800.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Families Outside continues to conduct 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. In addition to these, training and awareness-raising this quarter has included the following:

- Vulnerable Girls and Women in the Criminal Justice System (CJSW Development Centre event, Glasgow)
- Scottish Community Safety Network Practitioners Event
- GIRFEC Lead Professionals Training Event
- BBC 1 'The Big Questions'

This quarter has continued with requests for input to various reports, consultations, appointments and research. This includes the following:

- Submission for the Quaker United Nations Office for the UN Committee on Rights of the Child Day of Discussion on children of incarcerated parents
- Consultation on the Introduction of Financial Contributions in Criminal Legal Aid and Changes to Financial Eligibility
- Detailed comment on drafts of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People's follow-up report to *Not Seen, Not Heard, Not Guilty*
- Consultation on the Draft Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011
- Consultation on the Common Core of Skills, Knowledge & Understanding and Values for the Children's Workforce in Scotland
- Input to CJA Annual Reports and 2011-12 Area Plans for Lanarkshire, Lothian & Borders and South West Scotland
- Commissioning Plan for Advice, Support and Accommodation Services to Prevent Homelessness (Edinburgh City Council, by invitation)

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

THE HIDDEN SENTENCE

South West Scotland Community Justice Authority Family Strategy Group invites you to attend a one-



day event at HMP Kilmarnock on Thursday 1 September 2011. The event will focus on supporting children and families affected by offending. To register for this free event, visit <http://www.swscja.org.uk/the-hidden-sentence.html>

BARLINNIE PLAY AREA & EUROPEAN PRISONERS' CHILDREN WEEK

In June, the newly refurbished play area at HMP Barlinnie was opened by television personality Kaye Adams. Renovation of the play area for the children and families of prisoners was made possible thanks to Children in Need and local charitable organisation, Toybox Lee Avenue.



This event took place during European Prisoners' Children Week, an event led by EUROCHIPS to increase recognition of the needs and challenges that children of prisoners face every day. In conjunction with this European-wide initiative, Families Outside also embarked upon a short awareness-raising campaign of the rights of these children via e-mail, Facebook and Twitter.

SCCYP REPORT - HIGHLIGHT POINTS

In June, Families Outside took part in the launch of the follow-up of the *Not Seen. Not Heard. Not Guilty* report. The review was set up to look at the progress which had been made on improving the rights and status of the children of prisoners in Scotland since the release of the original report in February 2008.



A copy of this review is available on the SCCYP website at <http://www.sccyp.org.uk/publications/adults>

Families Outside
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