

## CONFERENCE &amp; FIRESIDE CHAT

**Families Outside 20th Anniversary Conference**

**Families Outside hosted its biennial conference in November 2011 at the Falkirk Wheel.** The conference, entitled "It's Everybody's Business: What is your Role in Supporting Families affected by Imprisonment?", also marked the 20th anniversary of Families Outside.

The event, attended by 230 delegates, was facilitated by Brigadier Hugh Monro CBE, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland. The programme included a range of speakers and six interactive workshops which set practitioners the task of assessing their role in relation to families affected by imprisonment. A number of families spoke about their personal experiences, followed by a panel discussion.

Many thanks to our sponsors for the conference: The Big Lottery, Sodexo Justice Services, and The Robertson Trust.

**"Wasn't quite sure what to expect but has helped me look at things a lot differently now."**

**Fireside Chat – Inspectors on Families**

**This special event, held in February 2012 at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, marked the 21st birthday 'coming of age' of Families Outside.**

For the first time, the current and three previous Chief Inspectors of Prisons came together for a retrospective discussion of their views and experiences. Alan Bishop CB, Clive Fairweather CBE, the Very Reverend Dr Andrew McLellan CBE, and Brigadier Hugh Monro CBE focused their discussions on families affected by imprisonment. The event was well attended, in fact much oversubscribed, by a specially invited audience of people who have supported Families Outside since its inception. Discussion topics included a timeline of the developments and changes that have taken place in the last 21 years, the issues for prisoners families, and what more could be done to consolidate family support work in a prison setting. A webcast of the event is available via the Families Outside website.

## TRAINING

Families Outside continues to develop and deliver training packages for a range of professionals and interest groups on the impact of imprisonment on a family member, with about 2,000 people reached each year. Our work in this area continues to grow, with bespoke sessions delivered to new recruits to the Scottish Prison Service, existing prison staff, Children's Panel members, police and court personnel, social workers, voluntary organisations and a range of students – from the LifeTime project in Lothian & Borders schools in partnership with a number of other criminal justice partners, to social work and psychology students at various universities.

In July 2011, Kids VIP merged with the Prison Advice and Care Trust (pact), handing on its work in Scotland to Families Outside. Through this work, Families Outside now advises prisons on child-friendly facilities and offers accredited training on the impact of imprisonment on children and Safeguarding Children in the Prison Environment. This continues apace, and feedback has been very positive.

Our involvement with Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) and their support for our work has developed in a number of ways:

- Lothian & Borders and South West Scotland CJAs have Family Strategy Groups chaired by Families Outside;
- We also chair Glasgow CJA's Women Offenders' Group;
- South West Scotland CJA's Family Strategy Group welcomed around 75 representatives from a range of disciplines to an event at HMP Kilmarnock that focused on support for children and families affected by offending;

▪ We were grateful to receive funding from Glasgow CJA to update *It's No Holiday*, our DVD on teenagers with a family member in prison, and develop this into a web-based resource.

Opportunities for input continued to expand, such as through membership by invitation to the Ministerial Early Years Task Force and the Scottish Working Group on Women Offenders. We also submit feedback regularly to Scottish Government consultations and Commissions, such as by invitation to the Angiolini Commission on Women Offenders.

We have also updated our website to include Frequently Asked Questions, a 'jargonbuster', and feeds from our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

## POLICY &amp; PRACTICE

**2011/12 was a landmark year for policy and discussion regarding the children and families of prisoners.** Families Outside was privileged to be one of four Scottish delegates at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Day of General Discussion, which focused for the first time on the children of prisoners. Almost uniquely, children themselves spoke at the main session which, with 250 participants, is likely to have been the biggest ever.

Prior to this, Families Outside hosted a Parliamentary event 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.

Families Outside experimented with awareness-raising amongst new audiences through a special screening of *Winter's Bone* at the Edinburgh Filmhouse, followed by a panel discussion. For the first time, and thanks to a donation of over 180 gifts from Greyfriars Church in Lanark, we distributed Christmas presents to children supported by ourselves and by Circle, and to children visiting five different prisons.

Finally, 2011/12 has been a busy year for publications, including a new brochure outlining all publications available from Families Outside. These include new Helpline posters and a new leaflet summarising the work of our organisation, along with the following:

▪ *In Brief 6 - Prisoners' Families: The Value of Family Support Work*

▪ Two new Factsheets on "Preparing for a Prison Sentence" and "What to Expect When Starting a Prison Sentence", prepared at the instigation of and with support from an ex-prisoner

▪ "Prison and Parenting" in Parenting Across Scotland (2012)

Scotland: the best place in the world to bring up children?

We look forward to bringing you up to date on these initiatives in our next report.

## NEW FOR 2011-12

We have had yet another successful year at Families Outside, with our income increasing by £14,730, or 3.8%.

**Reflecting over the past year identifies yet further opportunities to support children and families affected by imprisonment.** Our essential core activities such as the Helpline, direct support work, training, campaigning, and development of policy and practice will continue, though we will build on these in a number of ways. In 2012/13, we can look forward to these activities including:

- In collaboration with Strathclyde Police, South West Community Justice Authority, and the Lighthouse Foundation, launch an information card for families at the point of arrest.
- Campaign through the UN's Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights regarding the UK's treatment of children with imprisoned parents.
- Linking with prisons, develop work within schools to support children of prisoners.
- Continue development of a web-based resource for professionals in justice, education, health and other sectors.
- Continue to promote the use and development of prison Visitors' Centres, including start-up of our own at HMP Addiewell.
- Pilot and review the use of Child & Family Impact Assessments at key stages in the criminal justice process.
- Provide further opportunities for family members to come together, talk and listen in a safe environment and feed more directly into our work.

- Produce *In Brief 7* on support to children of prisoners through schools and *In Brief 8* on the financial impact of a family member's imprisonment.

We look forward to bringing you up to date on these initiatives in our next report.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Hunt Charitable Trust, St Clair's Trust, The Moffat Charitable Trust, The Big Lottery, Sodexo Justice Services, the Friends of Families Outside and everyone else who supported our work throughout the year.

In addition, we were grateful to receive a grant from The Alexander Moncur Trust. This will be applied to the coming financial year 2012/13.

Income £s	2011	2012
The Scottish Government	134,348	132,712
The Scottish Prison Service	29,521	29,892
The Robertson Trust	35,230	18,040
The Monument Trust	-	40,000
The Wise Group	61,066	53,228
The LankellyChase Foundation	15,000	24,750
Lothian & Borders Community Justice Authority	17,145	-
The Gannochy Trust	-	5,000
RS Macdonald Charitable Trust	15,000	15,000
The Henry Smith Charity	25,000	25,000
Crossreach	6,652	15,804
Anonymous Donor	7,000	5,000
The Brook Trust	15,000	15,000
Others	22,578	18,844
<b>383,540</b>	<b>398,270</b>	

Expenditure		
Cost of generating funds	12,154	15,390
Charitable activities	302,982	344,012
Governance costs	9,300	10,015
	324,436	369,417
<b>Net Incoming (Outgoing)</b>		
Resources for the period	59,104	28,853
Balance brought forward at 01/04/11	65,586	124,690
<b>Balance carried forward at 31/03/12</b>	<b>124,690</b>	<b>153,543</b>
Summary of Balance Sheet		
Fixed Assets	4,678	1,038
Current Assets	120,012	152,505
Net Assets	124,690	153,543
Funds		
Unrestricted	120,839	146,935
Restricted	3,851	6,608
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>124,690</b>	<b>153,543</b>

**families outside**

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