

# Families Outside

Voicing the needs of families affected by imprisonment in Scotland

families  
outside

Bulletin – January 2013



[www.familiesoutside.org.uk](http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk)

voicing the needs  
of families affected  
by imprisonment

## DOORS OPEN AT ADDIEWELL PRISON VISITORS' CENTRE

*From this month, Families Outside will manage a new Visitors' Centre*

On 7 January, Families Outside opened the doors to a new Visitors' Centre at HMP Addiewell, where families can go for support, respite, or simply some warmth and a cuppa before and after a visit to a loved one in prison. With visitors' centres such as those run by Crossreach and the Salvation Army demonstrating their benefit well beyond the criminal justice sector, we are delighted to be managing the new service at HMP Addiewell. A unique design for a Visitors' Centre in Scotland, the facility is located outside the secure area of the prison but remains an integrated part of the prison building itself.



With the start up of the centre, we have employed two new staff members. Janet Pringle, the Visitors' Centre Manager, has a background in domestic violence and sexual abuse training. Steph Clark, our new Visitors' Centre Worker, comes to us from West Lothian Council with a background in youth work, advocacy, alcohol and drugs projects and community education. We are delighted to welcome both Janet and Steph to the team! We would also like to thank The Tudor Trust and Sodexo Justice Services for providing funds to run this service for the next three years. With the formal launch of the Visitors' Centre in February by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, Brigadier Hugh Monro, we look forward to working in partnership with Sodexo over the coming years.

<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...

### HELPLINE EVALUATION - QUESTIONNAIRE

Families Outside has developed a survey for users of our Support & Information Helpline which will help us evaluate our service.



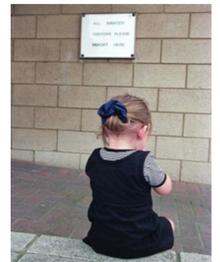
Given the sensitivity of the issues that our callers often experience, this anonymous survey will only be offered to callers via email, our website, Facebook and Twitter. If you have contacted our Helpline, please do take part in the five minute survey - your feedback helps us to do our job better!

### BOARD MEMBERSHIP - HELLO AND GOODBYE!

Families Outside welcomes three new Board members while saying goodbye to two valued Trustees. Glen Gilson, a partner with an expertise in private client law at HBJ Gateley, replaces Chris Sheldon, who has just been made a partner at Turcan Connell. Valerie MacNiven also joins the Board and is a retired civil servant, previously head of the Scottish Government Criminal Justice Directorate. Last but not least, Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, makes up our trio, replacing Stephen Swan who has retired from the SPS. We gladly welcome Glen, Valerie, and Colin while saying a fond farewell to both Chris and Stephen.

### VOICES OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY IMPRISONMENT

In our last bulletin, we mentioned the launch of Sarah Roberts' report, *The Role of Schools in Supporting Families Affected by Imprisonment*. Through recent consultancy work, Sarah has developed close links with Families Outside and is beginning to implement recommendations stemming from her research. Already Sarah has delivered training to student teachers, and we are all excited about an agreement from SPS to co-deliver a series of CPD sessions for teachers inside HMP Edinburgh.



Sarah's vision to ensure that the voices of children affected by imprisonment are heard, and to help teachers and school communities offer the right kind of support, fits directly with our own strategic aims and is attracting funding from a variety of sources, which is very encouraging. Watch this space!

### FAMILIES OUTSIDE ANNUAL REPORT, 2011-2012

If you have not received a copy of our 21st Birthday annual report and would like to do so, please download it from our website at [www.familiesoutside.org.uk](http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk), or you can of course request a hard copy via email [admin@familiesoutside.org.uk](mailto:admin@familiesoutside.org.uk)



COMING SOON

### FAMILIES OUTSIDE NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2012

*'Them and Us?' - Victims, Offenders, Communities, and Families Affected by Imprisonment*

COMING SOON

Chaired by David McKenna, CEO of Victim Support Scotland and President of Victim Support Europe  
Hampden Park, Glasgow 10.00am – 3.30pm, Thursday, 9 May 2013

## TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING

Families Outside continues to conduct training for new recruits at the Scottish Prison Service 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:

- ⇒ Child Protection Training (Training the Trainers), SPS College
- ⇒ Parenting Across Scotland conference
- ⇒ Tayside Community Justice Authority Board
- ⇒ Health Promotion event, HMP Glenochil
- ⇒ Volunteer Training, The Croft
- ⇒ Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol & Drugs Partnership event
- ⇒ Children in Europe conference – Engaging with Fathers
- ⇒ MSc seminars, Glasgow Caledonian (Women Who Offend; The Impact of Imprisonment)
- ⇒ MSc seminar, University of Strathclyde (Policy Transfer & Penal Practice)
- ⇒ HMP Barlinnie visit - Univ. of Strathclyde graduate students
- ⇒ Irish Professional Network
- ⇒ Rotary Clubs
- ⇒ Teacher training - University of the West of Scotland
- ⇒ Podcast for probationer teachers
- ⇒ Hosted research visit from New Zealand Dept of Corrections

Feedback from the research visit from New Zealand stated that “...working with the children and families of prisoners is now on the agenda at the Department. A fantastic result!”

The work of our Cross-Party Group on Children & Families Affected by Imprisonment continues to be an excellent way of raising awareness, with the Convenor and delegates asking numerous Parliamentary Questions on the topics identified.

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

- ⇒ Call for Evidence: Justice Committee’s Scrutiny of the Scottish Government’s Draft Budget 2013-14
- ⇒ Scottish Parliament Justice Committee: Consultation on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the UK Prisons (Interference with Wireless Telegraphy) Bill
- ⇒ Shaping Scotland’s Court Services: A public consultation on proposals for a court structure for the future
- ⇒ Re:D draft proposals (Alcohol Interventions; Community Justice Centre for Women)
- ⇒ Early Years Change Fund Guidance

We also actively participate in many relevant groups, including:

- ⇒ SPS National Steering Group for the improvement of Service Delivery to Women in Custody (by invitation)
- ⇒ Scottish Government’s Reintegration and Transitions Champions Group (Young People Who Offend – Whole Systems Approach) (by invitation)
- ⇒ National Prisoner Healthcare Network Mental Health work stream (by invitation)
- ⇒ EUROCHIPS
- ⇒ Ministerial Early Years Task Force (by invitation)
- ⇒ National Parenting Strategy Group (Parenting Across Scotland)
- ⇒ Children’s Sector Forum (Children in Scotland)
- ⇒ Cross-Party Group on Children and Young People

The future of the Scottish Government’s Women Offenders Strategy Group will be reviewed as part of the Government’s response to the Angiolini Commission.

## JOY OF A SHARED CHRISTMAS

Families Outside knows many families who are affected by imprisonment struggle to afford Christmas gifts for their children. So with Christmas approaching, we were delighted to receive hundreds of gifts donated by Greyfriars Church and local primary schools in Lanark. These were given to the children of families we support; children supported by Circle, The Lighthouse Foundation, and Includem; and to children visiting prisons for Christmas at HMPs Castle Huntly, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Low Moss and Peterhead. Many thanks for their generous donations!



## THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY

A successful Home Detention Curfew Information Session was held for visitors to HMP Low Moss in December. Staff from Families Outside, the prison, and SERCO (who operate the tagging service) were available in the prison’s Family and Friends Centre to answer questions and promote understanding of the Home Detention scheme. There was a lot of interest from visitors, with many specific and general questions. Visitors were also able to see the equipment which would be placed in their home and how it works. All partners have agreed that future sessions will be planned.



In October, Families Outside, the Scottish Prison Service, and the Salvation Army held an information session for families visiting HMP Edinburgh. The session was aimed at families of prisoners eligible for transfer to the Open Estate. Stewart Tweedlie, Casework Manager from HMP Castle Huntly, attended the session alongside our Family Support Worker, Kerry Knox. The 2-hour event was deemed a success, with the benefits clear both for the families and Prison Service. As a result of the event, prison officers were able to revise the information they provide to families. Both Stewart and Kerry hope to make this a regular session in the calendar of events.

## CASH FOR KIDS 2012

Our Family Support Coordinator was successful in applying to Radio Clyde’s Cash for Kids 2012 fund for eight families across four Community Justice Authority areas. Fifteen children benefited from an award of £25 each. The awards were delivered in time for Christmas, and the children and their families thank Cash for Kids for this much needed gift.



**Families Outside**  
**Support & Information Helpline**  
**Freephone 0500 83 93 83**  
[support@familiesoutside.org.uk](mailto:support@familiesoutside.org.uk)  
answerphone if not available

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

