

Families Outside

Voicing the needs of families affected by imprisonment in Scotland

families
outside

Bulletin – July 2013



www.familiesoutside.org.uk

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HMP ADDIEWELL FAMILY FUN DAY

A great time had by all the children and families who attended

On Saturday 13 July, HMP Addiewell had a Family Fun Day for prisoners and families, many of whom attend the prison's Family Bonding Visits. The day could not have been more perfect; the sun was shining, the skies were bright blue, and for this day, all was right with the world. The event was expertly organised by the Addiewell staff, many of them giving up their own time to make for a successful day.

The theme was **Highland Games**, and everyone from the Families Outside Visitors' Centre team, prison staff, prisoners, and their families got into the spirit by wearing tartan attire. There was a huge array of activities ranging from a bouncy castle, face painting, kilt making, and an adventure playground. And games would not be games without the Sack Race, Toss The Caber, Shot Putt, Beat The Goalie, and the Wet Sponge Challenge.

Our very own Families Outside Visitors' Centre Team got creative, devising a competition whereby the children attending would make a model of a bagpiper. There were lots of great entries from the children and a few adults who couldn't resist displaying their creative sides. There was also a piper and a drummer for the day, who created an amazing authentic atmosphere and really set the scene.

Lunch was provided and did not disappoint, again a lot of effort went into the 'spread'. The children had fantastic fun, and there was great interaction with the children and their fathers. This day was an absolute credit to the Addiewell Team and provided a means for the families to share proper family time and a proper family experience. It allowed the fathers to spend time with their children in a 'normal' way and was a hugely positive experience. The feedback from visitors and children was great. When speaking with the families, they said that they were so grateful for the opportunity to have a proper family day. Our staff who took part would also like to take this opportunity to say that it was a privilege to have been involved. We look forward to the next one!



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PRISON REFORM TRUST WRITING COMPETITION

The Prison Reform Trust are once again holding their annual writing competition. This year's competition will be judged by Rachel Billington, Kingslee 'Akala' Daly, Erwin James, Chris Mullin, Michael Morpurgo, and Femi Oyeniran.

The topics for this year's competition are:

Lyric/Rap - 'Talking' (400 words)

Short Story - 'Keeping in Touch' (1,000 words)

Comment—'Having a Say' (500 words)

There will be prizes for each of the competitions, ranging from £75 to £200. There will also be an additional prize for the best entry in any topic for people under age 21. To enter and for more information, click the pic.....



EDINBURGH SHERIFF COURT

Families Outside is delighted with the response to our volunteer request for the Addiewell Prison Visitors' Centre and look forward to a continued inflow of applications. In the meantime, we have another project at Edinburgh Sheriff Court that we would like volunteers for, should you be willing and have the time. The role would include providing support to families caught up in the criminal justice system and signposting them to other organisations as appropriate. For more details and to apply please visit the **Getting Involved** page on our website.

NEW VISITORS' CENTRE STAFF

This month Families Outside recruited Diana Fraser as our new part-time Visitors' Centre Worker. She will join Janice Quinn and Dawn Henderson at the Centre, making up our tremendous trio at HMP Addiewell.



Diana comes to us from Liber8 Lanarkshire and the Scottish Association for Mental Health. She brings with her experience in counselling, addiction awareness, and youth work, providing practical, social and emotional support to the clients she has worked with. We are delighted to welcome Diana to Families Outside and hope she will enjoy her time with us.

COPING PROJECT

The Final Report from the **COPING project**, "Children of Prisoners: Interventions and Services to Strengthen Mental Health" has recently been published. The report represents a milestone which can enhance and strengthen the work of organisations working with the families of prisoners.

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:

- ⇒ Impact of Imprisonment on Children and Child Safeguarding
- ⇒ Silent Children conference (Barnardo's, Birmingham)
- ⇒ Teacher training sessions (HMPs Edinburgh and Aberdeen)
- ⇒ Volunteer training, HMP Addiewell
- ⇒ HMP Glenochil Health Promotion Day
- ⇒ Invisible Victims conference, University of West of Scotland
- ⇒ Alcohol & Drug Partnership Chairs conference
- ⇒ National Youth Justice Practitioners conference
- ⇒ St Paul's and St George's Church
- ⇒ Prison Reform Trust and Soroptimists' launch of action pack on women in the crim. justice system, Scottish Parliament
- ⇒ Stirling Interfaith Group

Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill attended our June Cross-Party Group on Children & Families Affected by Imprisonment to address the group and answer questions. Convenor Mary Fee MSP then met with Colin McConnell the following day to take forward further issues raised by the group.

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

- ⇒ Consultation on Redesigning the Community Justice System and related consultation events
- ⇒ Scottish Prison Service Workshop on Assets-Based Approaches, SPS Organisational Review
- ⇒ Planning meeting for SPS conference
- ⇒ Review of progress on recommendations from the UN's Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights

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 Reintegration and Transitions Champions Group (Young People Who Offend – Whole Systems Approach) (by invitation)
- ⇒ National Prisoner Healthcare Network Mental Health workstream (by invitation)
- ⇒ Ministerial Early Years Task Force (by invitation)
- ⇒ SPS/SG Joint Working Group on Parenting (by invitation)
- ⇒ Parenting Across Scotland National Steering Group
- ⇒ Children's Sector Forum (Children in Scotland)
- ⇒ Cross-Party Group on Children and Young People
- ⇒ Chairmanship of the Glasgow CJA Women Offenders group
- ⇒ Chairmanship of the Family Outcome Groups for the South West and Lothian & Borders Community Justice Authorities;
- ⇒ Scottish Working Group on Women's Offending
- ⇒ local SPS Children and Family Development Groups
- ⇒ SPS National Suicide Risk Management Group
- ⇒ Interfaith Throughcare Forum
- ⇒ Coordination of the Crim. Justice Family Support Network
- ⇒ Faith in Throughcare Steering Group & Eval. Sub-Committee
- ⇒ Prisoners' Week Planning Forum
- ⇒ Advisory group for Visitors' Centre at HMP Perth
- ⇒ SPS Review of Compassionate Release
- ⇒ SPS Working Group on Palliative Care for Prisoners
- ⇒ Scottish Justice Matters editorial board
- ⇒ Scottish Consortium on Crime and Criminal Justice

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LETTER K - FOR KIDS

Sesame Street has created the first Muppet with an imprisoned parent to help teach children how to cope when mummy or daddy goes



to prison. Alex has blue hair, a green nose, and wears a hoodie. When he talks about his daddy, he is very sad. Families Outside is delighted to see the creation of Alex, whereby for the first time the effects of imprisonment on a child have been addressed by a kids TV programme.

Joining Big Bird, Oscar the Grouch, and Elmo, Alex will help children aged three to eight cope when mummy or daddy is imprisoned. Though Alex will not be part of the regular cast on Sesame Street, he plays a central role in an online toolkit. The **Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration Initiative** is an online tool kit helps kids with a parent in prison find support and comfort and provide families with strategies and tips to talk to their children about imprisonment.



The toolkit of resources is available on the Sesame Street [website](#) and includes videos, printable leaflets, eBooks, and apps. The toolkit also includes a video where Alex shamefully admits that his father can't help him build a toy car because

he's in prison. A woman then tells him that she knows what he's going through because her dad was in jail when she was his age. The online materials include suggestions for how to prepare a young child for visiting a parent in prison, including letting the child know some of the things they can expect to happen. There is also help on the website for children on how they might explain the situation to other people. Brilliant!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Two posts, each 21 hours per week
SJC Scale AP4/5: £23,464 - £29,155 pro rata
12-month appointments with scope for renewal



Family Support Worker

Covering the Northern & Tayside Community Justice Authorities, you will provide direct information and support to families affected by imprisonment.

Regional Coordinator

Covering the Northern & Tayside Community Justice Authorities, you will liaise with prisons and other regional organisations to train and promote awareness of issues and services for these families.

Please download an application pack [here](#)

Closing date: **5pm Wednesday, 31 July 2013**

Interviews: **6 August 2013 (Family Support Worker)**
7 August 2013 (Regional Coordinator)

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

