

Prisoners' children and their families

We provide support to children with a parent in prison, or children whose parents have been in prison and have recently been released. Our 'whole family' model means we offer support to the child, their parent/carer and, where possible, the prisoner parent post-release.

We provide families with...

- Advice on what to tell children about imprisonment
- One to one support for children to discuss their feelings and wishes regarding contact
- Peer group support for children where they can meet others who share their experience whilst having fun.
- A support group for adults who have a loved one in prison.
- Advocacy support (we can speak to prison, probation and other services on your behalf).

Parents, including both the parent/carer and the prisoner parent post-release are welcome to join our Family Recovery Programme (see overleaf).

“ Going to a group where there are other children with a parent in prison makes me feel better, I know I'm not the only one. ”

HMP Altcourse Visitors' Centre

We also manage the visitors' centre at HMP Altcourse where our role includes welcoming visitors on arrival and taking them through the relevant registration procedures, providing information, support and play activities for children.

We accept both self referrals and referrals from other agencies.

Just call our team on
0151 702 5577 or
0151 706 6701.



For more information contact:

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Family Impact

Strengthening families affected by parental drug or alcohol misuse or imprisonment.


enhancing learning

creating homes

promoting wellbeing

empowering communities

strengthening families



“ This is the only place where
I can be myself and I'm
accepted for who I am and
what I do. ”

We're part of an organisation called PSS and our purpose is to 'help people get the most from life'.

Each year we work with thousands of people and every one of them has their own hopes and dreams for the future. Looking ahead is very important for one of our teams in particular; those who work with our children, young people and their families. Our children and family services support people from many different walks of life; people with loved ones in prison, children and young people who are caring for a parent or sibling, teenagers who are leaving the formal care system and youngsters who have experienced trauma. Our work in this area has one aim; to help people strengthen ties as a family, enabling them to not only look after each other but to look after themselves as well.

The work of our Family Impact team covers two key areas; families affected by alcohol and substance misuse and families affected by parental imprisonment. Below we give an overview of the first side of our service and over the page our prisoners' children and prison-visitor support work.

Families affected by alcohol and substance misuse

This specialist service offers a 'whole family' approach, supporting all family members through the recovery process.

Our service includes:

- One to one sessions and group workshops
- Outreach support
- Children and Young People group programmes
- Grandparent and family member support groups
- Guest speaker presentations
- Advice on and signposting to recovery options
- Nurturing parenting programme
- Information and guidance (including housing, budgeting and health)

We also offer 'Family Recovery Programmes' and individual support to those living in families affected by addiction.

“ I'm made up I've got support from Family Impact, they totally understand me and although it's challenging at times, I feel like I'm moving forward and making positive changes. ”