

# Family Matters

*'He's doing the sentence,  
but I'm paying the price.'*

families  
outside

voicing the needs  
of families affected  
by imprisonment

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Why families need additional support  
Edinburgh Corn Exchange  
3 October 2012

# Why are we here?



*Imprisonment is a traumatic experience for families, and its impact is often significant and enduring. Families Outside works to mitigate the effects of imprisonment on children and families - and consequently to reduce the likelihood of reoffending - through support and information for families and for the people who work with them.*

# Families Outside: How we do this

- **National Scottish independent agency**
- **Direct service provision:**
  - ◆ **Support & Information Helpline**
  - ◆ **Family Support work**
- **Information and materials**
- **Targeted work on policy and practice**
- **Training and awareness raising, policy development, strategic influence**
- **Partnership work**
- **Research**
- **9 staff**

# Quiz!

How many prisons does Scotland have?

**16**

How many prisoners are currently held in Scottish prisons?

As of Monday 1 October 2012:

**8,385**

- **8,025 in custody**
- **360 on HDC**

**Receptions in 2010/11: 35,930**

# Quiz!

How many prisoners are likely to have children?

- one-third
- half
- two-thirds

**two-thirds**

**43% of sentenced prisoners and 48% of remand prisoners lost contact with their families when they entered prison.**

**Only about half of prisoners use their minimum entitlement to visits.**

**Grounds 2009: only 8 of 22 marriages survived, with 11 ending during custody and 3 ending after release.**



# Benefits of family ties

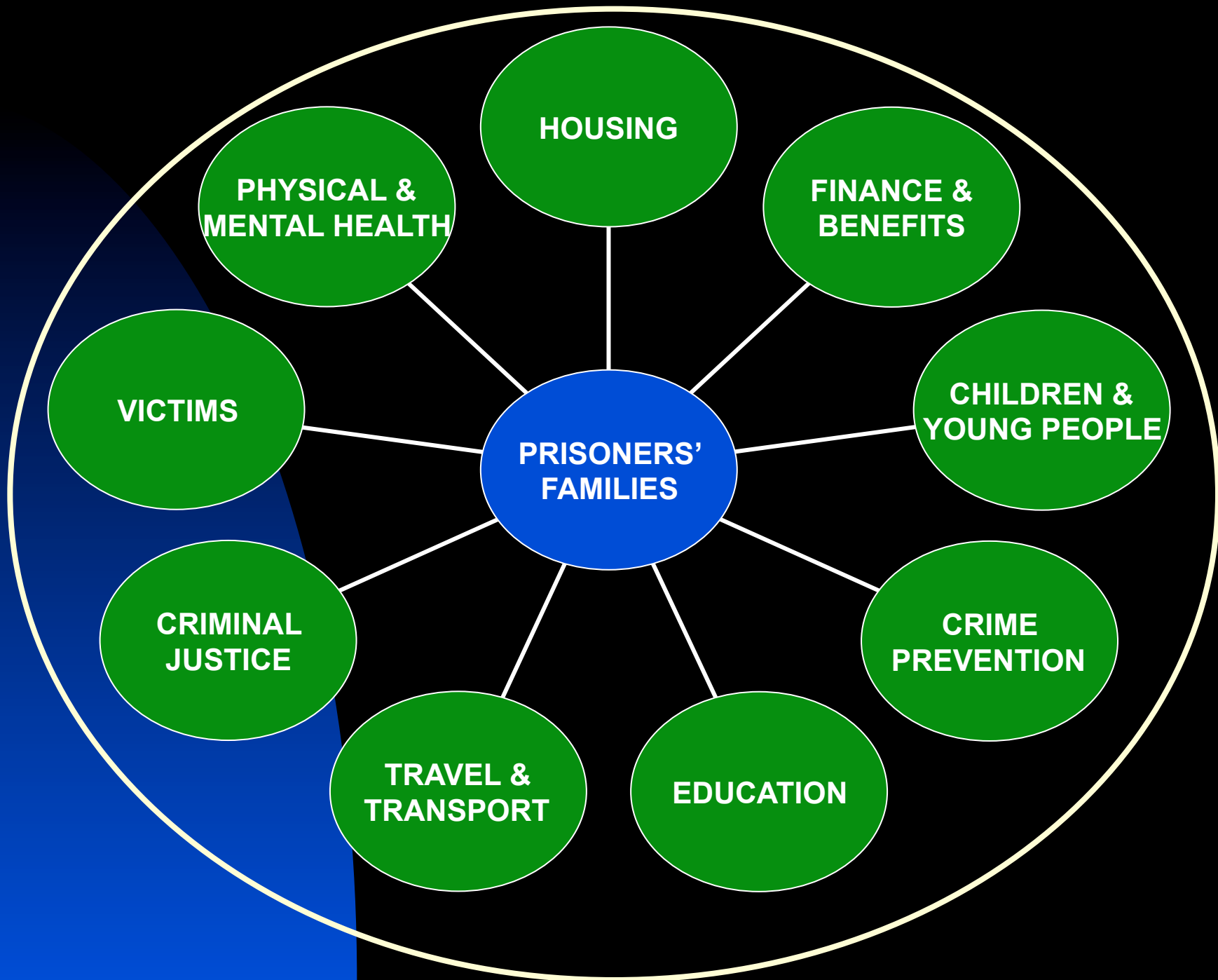
- Reduced risk of reoffending
- Improved behaviour in prison
- Improved mental health
- Increased likelihood of reunification after release
- cf: Family breakdown as risk factor

# Impact of Imprisonment on Families

- Loss of income
- Loss of housing
- Impact on children
- Shame
- Victimisation
- Cost and logistics of transport
- Lack of information
- Little involvement in the decisions that affect them







**HOUSING**

**PHYSICAL &  
MENTAL HEALTH**

**FINANCE &  
BENEFITS**

**VICTIMS**

**PRISONERS'  
FAMILIES**

**CHILDREN &  
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE**

**CRIME  
PREVENTION**

**TRAVEL &  
TRANSPORT**

**EDUCATION**

# As a parent...

- **What sources of support do you rely upon?**
- **What sources of information do you rely upon?**
- **What kind of contact / interaction with your family is most important to you?**

**About half of men and two-thirds of women in prison are parents of dependent children.**



**Every year in Scotland, an estimated 16,500 children are separated from a parent through imprisonment, with about 1,850 separated from an imprisoned mother.**



# Quiz!

Approximately what proportion of children in Scotland witness their parent's arrest?

- one-fifth
- one-third
- one-half

**one-third**

# Quiz!

Compared to 10% of children in the population in general, what proportion of children with a parent in prison develop significant mental health problems?

- 10%
- 20%
- 30%

**30%**

# Quiz!

How many boys with a convicted parent go on to offend themselves?

- 17%
- 38%
- 65%
- 86%

**65%**

# Children of Imprisoned Parents

- Higher risk of future imprisonment
- Higher risk of problems with physical and mental health
- Regressive behaviour/grief responses
- Multiple care arrangements
- What do you tell the children?





## Honest?

Emma's Story

What happens when a relative  
is sent to prison

families  
outside

voicing the needs  
of families affected  
by imprisonment

## What's the story?

Jenny's Journey



What happens when a relative  
is sent to prison

families  
outside

voicing the needs  
of families affected  
by imprisonment





***No-one explained anything.  
I knew he was getting kept  
in, but I didn't know where.***

**Daughter (12)**

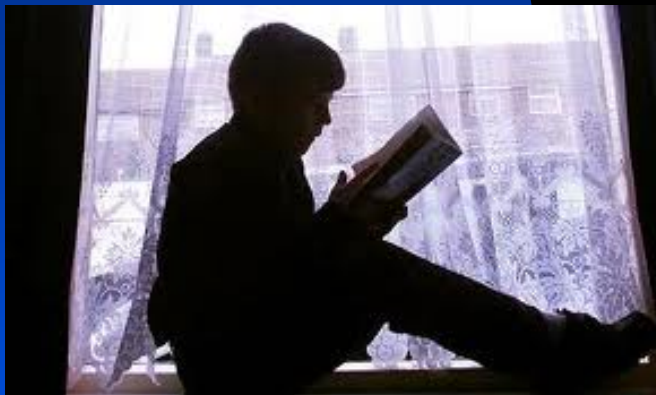
***Folk shouted 'murderer' at  
me in the street.***

**Daughter (15)**



***Someone should have just  
asked me what was wrong  
(at school)***

**Son (19)**



# Making a difference

- **Existing legislation and policy:**
  - ◆ **Additional Support for Learning**
  - ◆ **Curriculum for Excellence**
  - ◆ **Equally Well**
  - ◆ **Getting It Right For Every Child?**
- **SPS: Good Practice Guidance; Core Screen; Prisoner Survey**
- **Child & Family Impact Assessments...**
- **Rights of Children & Young People Bill**
- **National Parenting Strategy**

# **Making a difference in prison**

- **PPP / other parenting programmes**
- **Positive Relationships Programme**
- **Play, Talk, Read?**
- **Homework Clubs / Family Learning**
- **Input from guidance teachers**

# Conclusions

- **Imprisonment is a family experience**
- **Parents in prison are still parents!**
- **Clear benefits to maintaining family ties**
- **Need to support families in their own right**
- **Families do not always access the support or opportunities available**
- **Multi-agency collaboration is essential to address the needs of both prisoners and their families**

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*Thanks!*

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