

Gloucestershire County Council Children's Services is committed to helping children and young people with a parent in prison.

If you wish to talk to someone please contact:

Jane Clarke 01452 427240

Karen Watson 01452 426927

Tim Gisborne 01452 426246

For other local contacts see back page.

Some children and families have commented on the support provided by the Castle Gate Family Trust:

'Rae, I miss my Dad but I like writing to him with you' (Child age 6)

'Speaking to you has made me see things a lot clearer, I know it's not my fault now' (Child age 13)

*'Just want to say a very big thank you for everything. It helped **** so much. She has talked about you throughout the year. And that means a lot to me.'* (mother)

Some professionals have also commented:

I will definitely use the service again...they provide the support and direct information we simply cannot' (Headteacher)

'I think all schools should have a link... It's a wonderful service.' (Reintegration Coordinator)

Local Contacts:

Castle Gate Family Trust	01452 453127
Education Welfare Service	01452 550505
Youth Offending Service	01452 547540
Nelson Trust	01453 885633
Fair Shares	01452 413900

National Support:

Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
NSPCC	0808 800 5000
Childline	0800 1111
Family Rights Group	020 7923 1696
The Prisoners' Families Helpline	0808 080 2003
Prisoners Advice Service	020 7253 3323
Assisted Prison Visits Unit	0845 300 1423
Barnado's	01179 375 500
PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust)	020 7490 3139
Prison Reform Trust	020 7251 5070
St. Giles Trust	020 7703 7000
NACRO	020 78407200
Howard League for Penal Reform	020 7249 7373

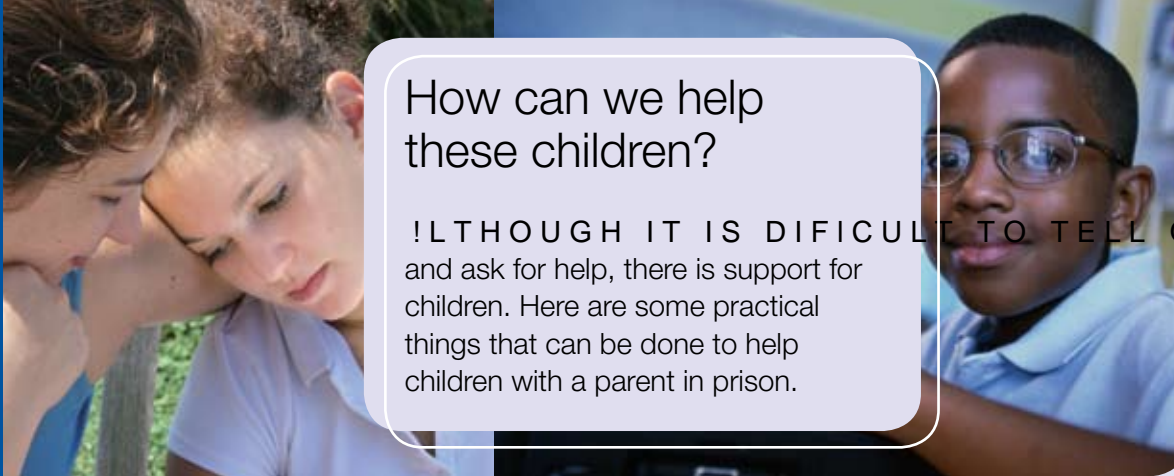
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CYP00200 8/10

Education of
a child with a
parent or close
relative in prison

Information for parents,
carers and families

Do you know a child who has a parent or close relative in prison?



How can we help these children?

ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL OTHERS, you can ask for help, there is support for children. Here are some practical things that can be done to help children with a parent in prison.

What if the child is finding things really difficult?

Keep talking to the school to see what EXTRA SUPPORT CAN BE PROVIDED. The prison centre or family support staff at the prison can provide advice and information.

Children with a parent in prison are innocent victims and may:

- NOT KNOW THAT THEIR PARENT IS IN PRISON
- MAY BELIEVE THAT THEIR PARENT IS PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS from home
- IND IT DIFFICULT TO CONCENTRATE AT SCHOOL
- BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT THEIR PARENT BEING IN PRISON
- HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF ANXIETY AND WORRY
- BECOME WITHDRAWN
- BE BULLIED OR BECOME BULLIES THEMSELVES
- EXPERIENCE MONEY PROBLEMS AND PAYING FOR SCHOOL EVENTS
- BE IN DANGER OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL
- BEGIN TO OFFEND THEMSELVES

Tell the children the truth.

- THINK ABOUT WHAT TO SAY AND WHEN TO SAY IT
- PREPARE FOR QUESTIONS
- CAN YOU REALLY KEEP IT A SECRET?
- Learn about their parent being in prison from friends or other people in the community
- PARENTS ARE TOLD THE TRUTH THEY CAN VISIT THEIR parent in prison
- WHAT THE PRISONS CAN OFFER
 - Family day visits
 - Regular communications of all kinds
 - Offer of support
 - Work with Families & Schools

Inform the child's school

- ASK TO SPEAK TO THE (HEAD TEACHER OR) A member of staff that you trust
- TELL THEM WHAT HAS HAPPENED
- SCHOOLS WILL TREAT THIS INFORMATION AS PRIVATE
- AGREE WITH THE SCHOOL WHAT IS BEST FOR THE CHILD
- EXPRESS EVERY LEAST THE SCHOOL CAN KEEP AN EYE on the child

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Many services use the Common Assessment Framework usually called CAF. This is a tool that helps professionals to understand the needs of the child and what support they need.

Who can offer to do the CAF?

- PROBATION SERVICE
- THE FAMILY support or visitor centre staff at prisons
- THE CHILD'S SCHOOL
- CONNEXIONS
- HEALTH SERVICE
- SOCIAL SERVICES

CAF is a voluntary tool and the family decide who this information is shared with. So, the family stay in control.

They are not alone

Over 160,000 children have a parent or relative in prison

OF CHILDREN WILL EXPERIENCE a parent imprisoned during their school years

