

**Cross-Party Group**  
**Children and Families Affected by Imprisonment**  
**& AGM**

**Wednesday**

**1-2pm**

**Attendance:** Mary Fee MSP, Nancy Loucks, Elaine Stalker, Rebecca Joyce, Ann Darlington, Richard Thomson, Justina Murray, Georgina Lyttle, Jonathan sher, Janice Wilson, Katie Lang, Suzanne Gallagher, Richard Lyle MSP, Ivan McKee MSP, Daniel Cairns, Claire Baker MSP

**Apologies:** Anne Pinkman, Lexi Smart, Joan Alexander, Margaret Slater, Gael Cochrane, Becky Cropper, Steve Harte, Sue Maxwell, Viv Dickenson, Janet Home, Anne Watt

<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	<b>Action</b>
Mary Fee MSP welcomed those in attendance, and apologies were noted.	
<b>Election of office bearers</b>	
In accordance with the terms of Cross-Party Groups for the Scottish Parliament, the election of office bearers was held. Ms Fee was re-elected as Convenor of the Cross Party Group, Mr Richard Lyle was re-elected as Vice Convenor, and Nancy Loucks was re-elected as Secretariat.	
<b>Discussion of work programme for upcoming year</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Mary Fee proposed topics for the group to focus on during the upcoming year. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How the provision in the 2016 CJ Act re: information sharing about children of prisoners is working in practice</li> <li>- Female offenders, alternatives to sentencing and support packages for women</li> <li>- The Domestic Abuse Bill and the impact of domestic</li> </ul>	

<p>abuse on families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prison Visitor Centres</li> <li>- Education in prisons</li> <li>- Meaningful contact between a prisoner and their family</li> </ul> <p>Mary also suggested inviting Michael Matheson to provide an update on his plans and thoughts on Justice Community Safety and alternatives to custody, as well as inviting the Prison Reform Trust to talk about their work on reducing the use of imprisonment for women.</p> <p>The group also proposed topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The impact of prison regimes on families and how the change of regime can affect them – for example how changing the time of visits can impact upon families ability to travel to the visit</li> <li>- The role of Family Contact Officers</li> <li>- Adverse childhood experiences (ACE)</li> <li>- The Named Person legislation</li> <li>- Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and pre-conception support</li> <li>- Prison Healthcare</li> </ul>	
<b>Discussion of new meeting Day/Time</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>It was agreed that the meetings will be moved to a Wednesday evening to accommodate the schedule of MSPs and encourage as many as possible to attend the group. Mary Fee also advised that more speakers may be available to attend. A ‘reception’ style meeting can be accommodated during the evening.</p>	

AOB	Action
<p>Families Outside has produced three new publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Picking up the Pieces’ which supports families of people who have been convicted of a sexual offence.</li> <li>• ‘My Diary’ which is a tool to support children with a parent or relative in prison. The book can be used by children themselves and those who work with them.</li> <li>• ‘The Families Left Behind’, written by families for families and shares the experiences of families affected by the imprisonment of a family member, offering support and information to others in the same situation.</li> </ul> <p>Copies can be requested by contacting the Families Outside Helpline on 0800 254 0088.</p>	

Date of next meeting: TBC