

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
TRANSFORMING LIVES



CHILDREN OF PRISONERS EXPERT GROUP WORKSHOP

IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RECOMMENDATION: SCOTLAND

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Leiden



1. Alignment across policy areas within and beyond government in Scotland:

- 'Getting it Right for Every Child' – **shared purposes and common outcomes** across government and all services that work with children
 - Incorporation of **UNCRC** into Scottish Law
 - The Scottish Sentencing Council fostering debate on the **sentencing of parents**
 - Interest in children of prisoners from within the **Scottish Parliament**
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Shared outcomes ('SHANARRI')



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2. Prison Service Family strategy

- Guides Scottish Prison Service's work with families at national and individual prison level
- Includes most elements of the Recommendation: processes, facilities, visits, events for children, staff training, engagement, relationships, child protection, etc



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3. Strong partnerships with organisations such as Families Outside, Barnardos and Early Years Scotland

For example:

- Providing practical support and accessible information for families and children
- Enabling family centres to be available at most Prisons
- Providing opportunities, of many different kinds, for parents to engage and learn with their children



My Story

My Story, written by Katie, has been developed with support from Families Outside, to help young people with a family member in prison to understand and explore their feelings.

[Download](#) 2.28Mb PDF



My Visit

Many children with a family member in prison will visit them at some point, although not all children have the opportunity to visit. It can help children feel better about visiting if they know what this is like and where their family member is.

Two examples:



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Early Years Scotland website. The URL is <https://earlyyearsscotland.org/about-us/services/working-with-children-and-families/young-children-affected-by-imprisonment>. The page features the Early Years Scotland logo with the tagline 'Investing in our youngest children' and a contact number: 'Call us on: 0141 221 4148'. A navigation menu includes 'About Us', 'Membership & Insurance', 'Professional Learning', 'Shop', 'What's New', 'My EYS', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area is titled 'Young Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment' and features a video player. The video is titled 'Learning Together Through Play at HMP Low Moss' and shows two young children playing with toys on a blue mat. The video player includes a play button, a progress bar, and a timestamp of 17:10/11. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the browser window.

Parenting classes for young fathers in Polmont Young Offenders Institution

Learning through play at Low Moss

Overview of current position with Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)5 in Scotland

- The table shows that most elements are either in place or partially in place
- COVID has been hindering progress but is also shining a spotlight on children affected by imprisonment
- New impetus from UNCRC work, the refresh of the Scottish Prison Service family strategy and a new Scottish Government Group to consider children affected by imprisonment

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4. What next?

Covid: **recovering/rebuilding** from setbacks and **learning** from what happened

Extending **staff training** on child's rights, child protection and family strategy

Revised **Women's Strategy** with explicit reference to the rights and wellbeing of children including new **Community Custody Units** with more home-like settings for children



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There is much still to do

And signs of growing
consensus and support to do it

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