

**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:

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

## National Support:

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

We can produce this document in Braille, in large print, on audio tape and in other languages. If you would like a copy in one of these formats, please phone 01452 426504.

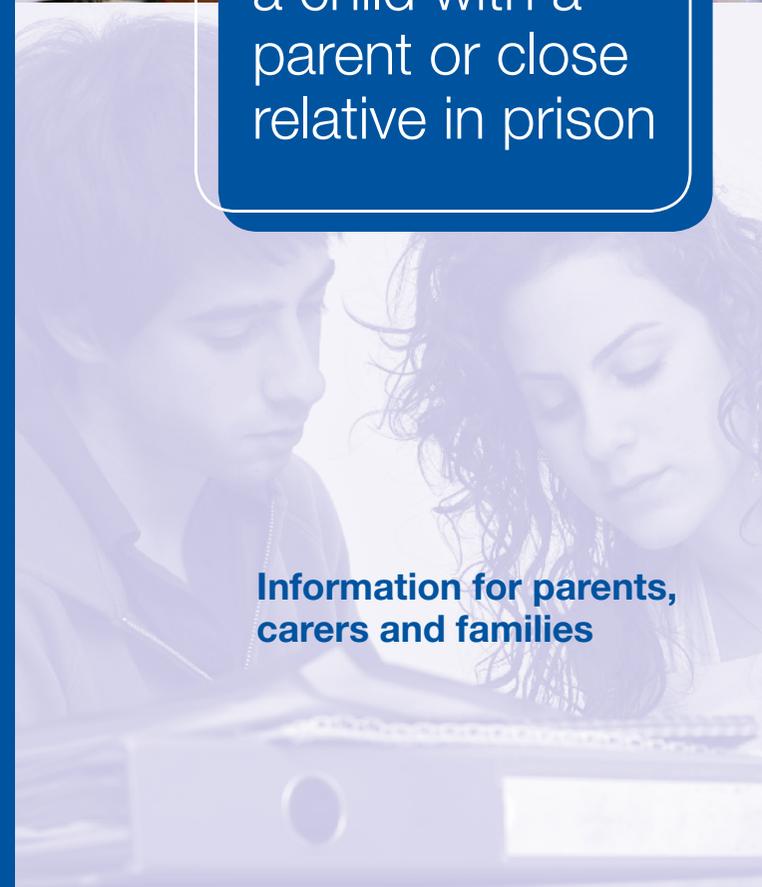
CYP00200 8/10



**Gloucestershire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL



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

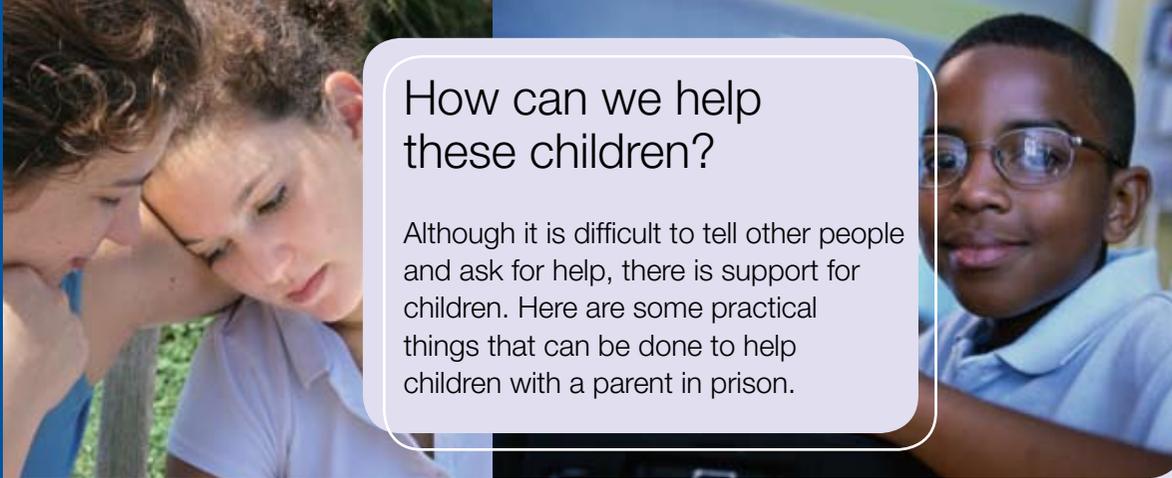


Information for parents,  
carers and families



**Gloucestershire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

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 other people and 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 visitor 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 'working away from home'
- find it difficult to concentrate on their school work
- 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 difficulty 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
- Be prepared for questions
- Can you really keep it a secret – children could learn about their parent being in prison from friends or other people in the community
- If children are told the truth they can visit their parent in prison
- What the prisons can offer:
  - Family day visits
  - Keeping communications of Offenders open
  - Work with Families & Schools

## Inform the child's school

- Ask to speak to the Head teacher or other member of staff that you trust
- Tell them what has happened
- Schools will treat this information in confidence
- Agree with the school what support would be best for the child
- At the very least the school can keep an eye on the child

## Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Many services use the Common Assessment Framework, usually called 'CAF,' to find out the needs of the child. This is then used to find out who can provide support to help with those needs.

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

A CAF is voluntary and the family decide who this information can be shared with. So, the family stay in control.



## They are not alone

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

7% of children will experience a parent imprisoned during their school years

