



# AFFECT NEWS

*Sharing news and support for families*

Registered charity no. 1097087

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Action for  
Families  
Enduring  
Criminal Trauma

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## Welcome to the summer newsletter

### Latest news...

#### **JOIN US** for our Annual General meeting.

We would like to welcome you all to our **AGM on the 6th of October.**

There will be refreshments provided and, we are currently looking into asking a speaker to join us. We would love to know what you'd be interested in hearing about so please let us know!

Invitations will be sent out with more details. We do hope you can come and give us your support.

Volunteers. The requests for help continue to increase, so we will be looking at ways to meet this need with our small team of dedicated volunteers.

We have had several offers of help recently and currently have a student volunteer doing on-line research for us. We will also be interviewing possible counsellors and listeners in September.

Rooms. Southern Health Trust have kindly offered us the use of rooms on an ad-hoc basis for meetings and interviews, so we will have a wider range of locations.

Wishing you all the best  
from all at AFFECT!

Join us at our  
NEXT GROUP  
GATHERINGS

Saturdays

12.30pm

1st Sept 2018

1st Dec 2018

2nd March 2019

If you would like to come please reply to your invitation and you will be given details.

These gatherings are well worth attending as you will meet other people who all have loved ones facing long periods in prison.



*If ever there is a tomorrow when we're not together.....*

*there is something you must always remember.*

*You are braver than you believe,*

*stronger than you seem,*

*and smarter than you think.*

*but the most important thing is, even if  
we're apart....*

*I'll always be with you in the heart.*



## **Breaking News—Prison reform.**

Today the Prisons Minister, Rory Stewart, promised to resign if drugs and violence in prisons were not reduced in 12 months. This follows the announcement by the government of £10 million to improve security and conditions in prisons after Ministry of Justice figures last month showed that violence and self-harm in prisons were at an all-time high.

10 prisons which have the most serious problems with violence, high drug use and decaying buildings are being targeted.

They are:

Hull - Category B

Humber, East Riding of Yorkshire - Category C

Leeds - Category B

Lindholme, near Doncaster - Category C/D

Moorland, Hatfield Woodhouse, South Yorkshire - Category C

Wealstun, near Wetherby, West Yorkshire - Category C

Nottingham - Category B

Ranby, Nottinghamshire - Category C

Wormwood Scrubs, west London - Category

Isis, South-East London - Category C

The money will be spent on:

:new body scanners, which are very effective in detecting drugs,

:sniffer dogs trained to detect psychoactive drugs such as the highly dangerous Spice which is causing enormous problems in prisons,

:Military style leadership training for prison governors to raise standards of management in prisons,

:repairs to cell windows, many of which have been broken by prisoners "fishing" for drugs thrown over the walls or sent in by drones. Perimeter security will also be improved.

Of the 10 million, £6m will be used for security, £3 for repairs and £1m for training.

Mr Stewart said that "a new ethos and new direction" were needed in prisons and that it was vital that "offenders can change their lives around....We need to make prisons calmer, more orderly places and in the end that comes down to challenging and managing prisoners consistently, firmly and fairly.... I want you to judge me on those results and I will resign if I don't succeed."

As an ex-prisoner interviewed on TV this morning said "Ministers come and go but the conditions in prisons only get worse!"

We can only wait and see.

Anne



### Visit V-9-8-

My daughter's prison number.  
I clutch my visiting order.  
The procedure: we stand in line,  
my photo ID, proof of address,  
index finger print checked.  
Belongings in a locker, nothing taken in  
except locker key, 10 pounds in coins.  
No paper hankies, plenty inside.  
Guards in dark trousers, starched  
whit shirts, black shiny flat shoes.  
Hair short or tied back.  
Her name is called. Then  
the body search, arms in crucified position.  
Coins in a dish.  
no sniffer dogs this time. Sliding doors open,  
mechanically programmed. Keys rattle on a  
chain.  
Then into the huge room. feels like an airport  
lounge with a sense of delay.  
No flights; all grounded.

She emerges from a door  
all smiles and we hug like she is a young child.  
The inmate has a the red chair, visitors have  
blue. The inmate has a white mug, visitors have  
blue.  
I buy her chocolate, herbal tea  
and we listen and laugh as the hands on the  
clock tick round in circles.  
After nearly two hours a guard walks past. "Ten  
more minutes"  
I shift in my seat, begin to say good-bye.  
"Thanks for coming"  
"See you next month"  
The last words hang in the air.  
Her sentence is my sentence.  
Loved ones are the silent sufferers.  
We are all doing time.  
Anon.

### **Help raise funds for AFFECT!**

**Please send your old inkjet cartridges to:**

[www.recycle4charity.co.uk](http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk)

**For each cartridge £1 goes to AFFECT. You will need to  
enter the code: AFFECT-C8627 to register.**

Thanks to everyone who has sent articles and information for the Newsletter. We are always interested in your suggestions for content, so please send in comments, useful tips or information via the contacts on the front page.

**We are particularly interested in hearing your story, or even a small part of it, as it helps members feel they are not alone with their problems.**

Please aim for a **maximum of 500 words**. Any contributions will appear with your first name only, or will be totally anonymous if you prefer.

**Please note the views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the editor or of AFFECT.**