



Supporting Families and Friends of Prisoners

Action
For
Families
Enduring
Criminal
Trauma

AFFECT NEWS

Registered charity no. 10970

Sharing news and support for families

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Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Ones,

At the time of writing this, the country seems to be in a state of turmoil, and many things appear unfair. Decent people are having to do more than one job in order to make ends meet, and then have to use foodbanks to support themselves and their children.

Many of our members comment on the state of our prisons, conditions worsening, with family contacts still limited and stressful. This is borne out by research, and information from prisons themselves. One of the most worrying aspects is the difficulty, caused by the high turnover of staff, of recruiting and retaining experienced staff. We work closely with Prison Reform charities, and have submitted information to the Home Office to highlight this problem.

Recruiting and keeping volunteers is also an issue for AFFECT. It takes an enormous amount of effort to identify a suitable volunteer, support their training, and keep them. We have lost two really good volunteers recently due to the cost-of-living crisis, as the individuals concerned need to earn money to live. Who can blame them? Certainly not me!

In the light of this situation, the Trust Board decided to create a temporary, **paid** post, using the Lottery grant. An advert is contained in this Newsletter.

The AGM was held a few days ago, and it was reported that AFFECT has 9 Telephone Support Workers with 22 clients, and we have 89 Members. No mean feat.

In closing, you can see that there are challenges ahead, as indeed there are for you. We are all trying to keep going, keep positive, list things to be grateful for, and live life as fully as possible. Let's hope next year is a good, fulfilling and peaceful one.

Love,
Carol
Chair

ADVERTISEMENT

Are you interested in progressing the work of AFFECT on a temporary (6 months) paid basis? Hourly rate applies, and hours can be negotiated. The work would require computer and some organisational skills.

Please ring 07833 458415 in order to discuss further.

Some time ago one of our experienced and long-serving AFFECT Members recommended the book “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse”, by Charlie Macksey. You may recognise some of the wise sayings from it. The book has been turned into a short film, which will be shown on Christmas Eve, 4.55pm on BBC1, and thereafter on BBC i-player. This is an extract from the book:

“What do we do when our hearts hurt?” asked the Boy.

“We wrap them with friendship, shared tears and time, till they wake hopeful and happy again.”

We hope that AFFECT can be one of those sources of friendship and support.

Data Protection

Affect keeps very limited information on our Members, namely name, email and telephone details. If you would like to be removed from our records, please email affect01@hotmail.com or ring Carol on 07833 458415

our next

GROUP GATHERING

is on **Saturday 21st Jan 2023 at 1pm**, by **Zoom**. If you would like to attend, please reply to your invitation and you will be given details.

These gatherings are well worth attending as you will meet other people who have loved ones facing long periods in prison and you can talk in a safe place.

