

# Charter for Organisations/services

## to support children and families of offenders

As an organisation/service we recognise that children and young people who have a parent or significant family member within the Criminal Justice System:

- Experience or fear experiencing stigma, discrimination and victimisation. This may discourage them from actively seeking help and support.
- Experience a greater risk of social exclusion, mental health problems, poor school attendance and attainment and offending behaviour.
- Experience an increased likelihood of change in housing and care arrangements as well as financial hardship.

We further recognise that, given appropriate support, children and families of offenders will feel empowered to adapt to their changing circumstance, develop emotional resilience and make positive life choices.

As an organisation/service we aim to:

- Show a positive and enabling attitude to children and families of offenders.
- Ensure all staff have up to date training and information on the impact of offending on children and families and how best to support them in our service and know where to signpost families for appropriate support.
- Challenge stigma, discrimination and victimisation aimed at children and families of offenders immediately, and do so robustly and according to our equality and diversity policies and procedures.
- Identify a 'Champion' for children affected by offending in the family.
- Ensure that children affected by offending in the family have the opportunity to achieve their ambitions and realise their potential.