Stronger together
The Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Prison Service have written this plan.

- We know that good family contact can stop people turning and returning to crime
- We want people in our care to have better contact with their family
- We want to help make that happen, where we can
- We know that there may be some times when this is not safe or helpful
- Those in our care, families, and other experts have helped us write this plan

What’s it all about?

What do we mean by family?

- People who someone is related to - for example a parent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousin
- People who someone is close to
- People who know someone well
- This could be close family, distant family, a friend, or a neighbour
When someone is in our care because they commit a crime it can harm everyone - especially family

Their family:
- might feel sad, angry or alone
- might have no money or no home
- might become ill or need help

**Children** might miss their parent, grandparent, brother or sister

Their education, friendships and health might even suffer

Being apart from family could also harm those in our care

**Having safe contact with family can help stop crime in the future**
How will we work?

We will base our work on certain values:

✓ The health and safety of children is vital

✓ Family Members are treated with fairness, dignity and respect

✓ Families will help us support and work with their loved one

✓ Every family is different

✓ Working together is best

✓ Families also need help
What do we plan to do?

Support safe, helpful family contact

What will help?

- Avoid visits in school hours
- Support family contact
- Help mothers in custody
- Create better visits – room and time to play, learn, talk and be together
- Share information with families who visit or want to visit
- Help those in our care and families help themselves

How will this help?

- Families can stay in touch
- Better visits for families and people in our care
- Help people stop turning to crime
Families Matter

What will help?
- Welcome and help families
- Involve families more
- Support children
- Help those in our care
- Share information
- Help families visit

How will this help?
- Families are involved more
- Families feel respected
- Help people stop turning to crime
- Staff know how their work affects families
Families are safe and well

What will help?
- Support those in our care and their families to keep well
- Assist those in our care and families to avoid crime
- Work with experts to help families
- Support family wellness and safety
- Share important information with families

How will this help?
- Staff know about safety and wellness
- Staff know what to do to help
- Those in our care and their families can get the help they need
Children come first

What will help?

- Make sure children are safe
- Staff know how children might act or feel if a family member is in our care
- Tell others that children grow, cope and learn differently
- Share information with children in a way they will understand
- Work in a way that helps children and their families
- Get those in our care involved in teaching their children

How will this help?

- Work better with others to help those in our care and their families
- Children are at the centre of all our work
- Children and young people get the best possible start