

# Families and Imprisonment

Pat Dawson, Governor,  
Limerick Prison,  
Ireland.

# Limerick Prison



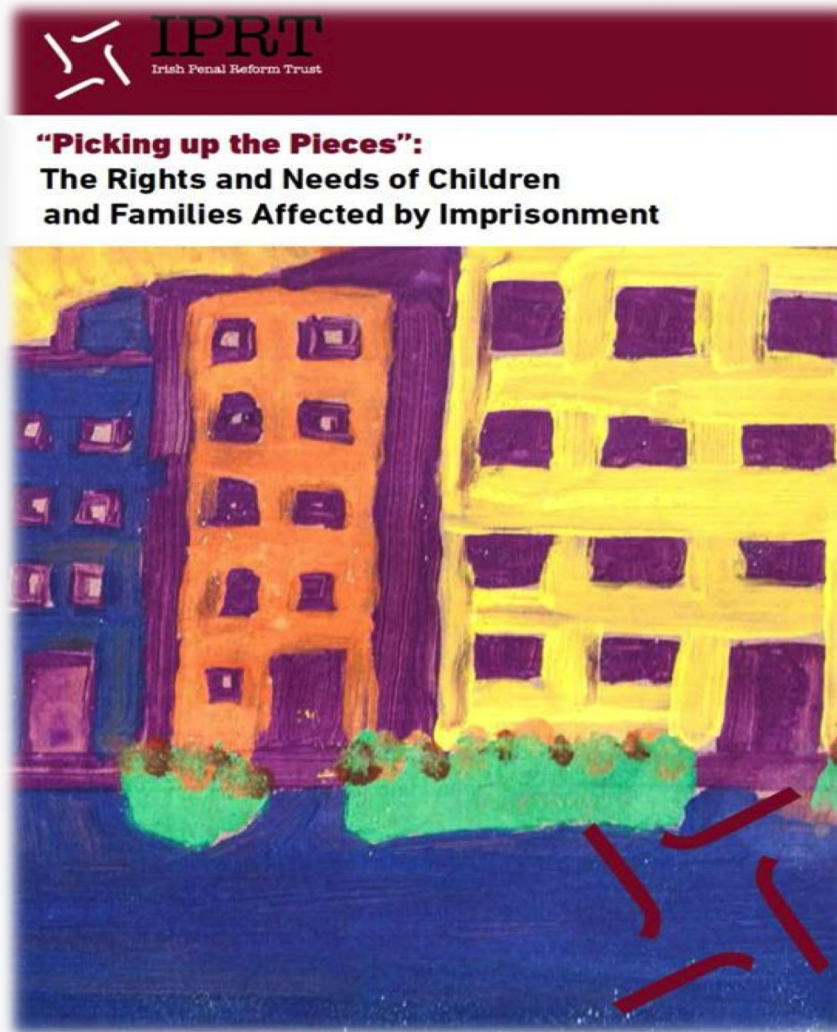
# Limerick Prison



# Limerick Prison

- Constructed 1817-1821
- Remand and Sentenced prisoners
- Committal rate in 2014 (1716 Male/1164 Female )
- Daily average population 230/27
- Staff 213

# Irish Penal Reform Trust





# Families and Imprisonment Group

## Our 3 Year Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015

“Strengthen family supports to facilitate on-going contact with prisoners while in custody and their reintegration post release, with appropriate supports and programmes.”

# Initial steps for the group

- Prison surveys
- Consultation
- Liason with other groups
- Visit to other jurisdictions

# Visits: The opportunity

- Rehabilitation
- Positive intervention
  - To enhance resettlement
  - To reduce recidivism
- 17,725 Visitors in 2014 including 5,015 children



# Shaping our policy

- Human Rights
  - UNCRC & ECHR
- Evidence-based
  - Children of Prisoners – EU Coping Project (2013)
    - Enhance resettlement and reduce reoffending
    - Enhance children's well-being
    - Reduce inter-generational offending
    - Potential to enhance the smooth running of prisons

# Visits: A key to rehabilitation

- Communication
- Visiting arrangements
- Staff training
- Development courses
- Community follow up

*The right security enables positive visits*

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# FIG Local Progress

- Group created & goals set
- Development of relationships
- Bedford Row
- Childhood Development Initiative
- Probation Service
- Psychology department
- University of Limerick

# Actions 2015

- Selection of families
- Roll out of Parenting Plus Programme
- Mothers in Bedford Row
- Fathers in Limerick Prison
- Coordination in special visits in Prison
- Graduation formal celebration
- Review evaluate and repeat



