

IF ONLY....

by a participant in HMP Parc

If I only knew then what I know now
If I only cared then or tried harder somehow
So young and naive, thinking life's all about having fun
I suppose that's around the time when the drama began
Problems at home, spilling out at school
Affected by emotions I didn't know how to handle
Didn't want to learn and I didn't want to listen
When my teachers were telling me I'll end up in prison
And I heard that already from the mouth of my mother
But all that went, - is in one ear and out the other.

If I only knew then what I know now
I wouldn't have wasted all that time committing crime after crime
Dehumanising, victimising, if I wanted it, it was mine
That's how I used to think and that's what I used to say
Drinking sometimes and smoking all day
I could feel the anger trying but the devil won me over
Exploiting my weakness, whispering over my shoulder

If I only felt then how I feel now
I wouldn't have caused so much pain and created so much destruction
Again and again even after incarceration
It took a catastrophe which damaged my community
Traumatised victims and devastated friends and family
Wishing it was a dream, but clearly a nightmare reality
So I tried to bus case by denying all responsibility
But that didn't work and I guess it was for the best, because
It forced me to look deep into my heart, not just at my chest
Wow! What have I done? What a mess
Would my victim ever forgive me?
And if so, what about the rest?
If I only knew then what I know now.