

News Bulletin

June 2009

Number 19

Dear Members

June is an interesting time for families – many are in the midst of coping with exams, whilst simultaneously beginning to look forward to the long summer break as the sun shines and temperatures increase. I hope that many members were able to participate in the first ever National Family Week at the end of May, and would encourage you to consider joining in The Big Lunch on 19 July (see www.thebiglunch.com for more information) which also aims to celebrate families and community.

Hopefully all members have now returned their membership renewal forms, and have remembered or received their log-in details to access the new Members' Area of the Parenting UK website. Our Knowledge Exchange and Policy Debate areas are designed to enable members to share information easily, seek advice and solutions from other practitioners, and provide an accessible way of participating in policy debates. The areas are designed so members can raise the issues which are most pressing for them – please do log in and utilise this new resource.

Members told us they wanted PUK to host more events in the regions, and provide more opportunities to get together with one another to network, exchange ideas and seek peer support. Please see **page 11** for details of our first event of the year, to be held on 22 July in Manchester. The event will be co-hosted by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS). The morning will be built around a topical discussion focusing on internet safety issues, and the afternoon will provide an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the Every Parent Matters strategy. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

With the increasing focus on outcomes for children within the Every Child Matters agenda, Parenting UK wants to ensure that the important outcomes for parents which are achieved via parenting support work are not forgotten or neglected. The next *Bulletin* will explore this theme – if you wish to contribute to the focus on 'outcomes for parents' through a discussion piece, case study, or research findings please email info@parentinguk.org.

With best wishes

Focus on...

Young Parents

Teenage parents are young people as well as being parents services need to reflect this by working towards being young people friendly. Almost 40% of teenage mothers have no qualifications up to three years after giving birth. About 70% of teenage mothers aged 16 to 19 are estimated to not be engaged in education, employment or training. Children's Centres have had varying degrees of success in providing teenage parents with specialist, tailored support delivered in environments and locations that encourage teenagers to access early advice and support. Specific aims include:

- increasing participation in education, employment and training
- improving relationships between young people, their partners and their parents
- supporting the involvement of young fathers in parenting their children
- improving self-esteem and self-confidence of young parents
- improving access to support including supported accommodation and benefits
- reducing smoking and increasing breastfeeding among teenage mothers
- reducing the level of post-natal depression, poor mental health and social isolation of teenage mothers
- reducing the incidence of subsequent unplanned pregnancies

These diverse aims are best served by a multiagency approach. The following articles highlight some of the challenges and successful innovative approaches to working with young parents in the UK.

Specialist provision for pregnant teenagers and young parents

Awarding Body Edexcel has teamed up with the Nationwide Community Learning Partnership (NCLP) to offer new parenting qualifications.

NCLP - The Nationwide Community Learning Partnership is a not for profit organisation. It has created and developed two accredited training programmes for delivery to young parents and parents-to-be. These programmes are nationally recognised at government level and by the Learning and Skills Council for these two important groups in our society. Based in Gloucester, the company has served the training market for several years and is committed to developing high quality parenting programmes for nationwide delivery.

The parenting programmes have been developed in partnership with young people, parents and parents-to-be as well as professionals from statutory, voluntary and training organisations. The courses are designed to improve parenting skills and encourage young people back into education and work, raising expectations and highlighting new and different opportunities that are available. The programmes all have the same core of being user friendly for learners with high quality ongoing support for trainers.

The parenting programmes are aimed at pregnant teenagers and young parents combining the acclaimed Young Mums To Be (YMTB) and Parents with Prospects (PWP) training programmes - taking learners through the journey of pregnancy and the early

years of a child's life as well as looking to their future and required work skills.

The programmes allow learners to gain credits via accredited unit qualifications which are mapped to the QCF - The Qualifications and Credit Framework. The framework is a new way of recognising skills and qualifications. It does this by awarding credits for qualifications and units (small steps of learning) and thus enables people to gain qualifications at their own pace along flexible routes.

The new qualifications will be known as the Edexcel Parenting Award and Certificate for Parents-to-be and the Edexcel Award and Certificate in Parenting.

The YMTB programme along with PWP has been running in recognised centres nationally for the past 12 years. These courses are run by a number of different organisations including SureStart, Connexions, Children's Centres, YWCA, YMCA Training, NACRO and Pupil Referral Units.

The courses are flexible in their delivery ranging from two hours a week to three days; involve multi-agency working; and have been developed to meet the needs of the young people from differing social, cultural and educational backgrounds. Learners are given the opportunity to prepare for their new life as a parent and to improve their life skills. Units cover the antenatal period and post natal information, childcare, budgeting, healthy lifestyles, positive parenting and work-related learning opportunities. All information, education and learning relates directly to the young people involved. The learning takes into account their special circumstances and is designed to raise aspirations and ambitions, move them out of the benefits trap and improve the quality of theirs and their children's lives (Multi-Agency Working, Department of Health).

NCLP as a provider offers excellent support to centres and the tutors who deliver the programmes. Tutors are offered training in delivery and assessment as well as ongoing support with setting up, running and delivery of programmes. Onsite visits from NCLP staff and online and telephone support are also part of the licensing package.

One tutor comments: "The packs are fantastic, they look so professional, and as a tutor they make it easy to deliver. The support from NCLP is really good, it's so important to the tutors to know there is someone really helpful at the end of the phone".

Herefordshire has an extremely successful YMTB programme with its learners gaining well above average levels of achievement. The programme is designed to prepare young expectant parents for birth and parenthood, encouraging their independence, boosting their basic skills, motivating them to breastfeed their babies and helping them plan for their future education, employment and training.

Based at the Greencroft Children's Centre, partnership agencies work together to successfully deliver individual parts of the programme. Midwives, Health Visitors, Connexions Personal Advisors, Youth Workers, Housing and Family Support Workers are all involved in helping the young mums complete the course, put together their portfolios and achieve the Level 1 Skills for Life Competence award.

Three of the mums are now peer breastfeeding supporters, one is a registered childminder and one has gone back to college full-time. Two young mums from one of the groups have been into a secondary school with the school nurse to share with the pupils the realities of young parenthood.

The young mums who often complete the full 12 units of the programme say they benefit from the course and feel better able to cope with parenthood as a result.

The centre also works in partnership with a young dads group started by an ex-learner from YMTB who is now a youth worker. The dads are encouraged to attend the YMTB group with their partners and find the opportunity to meet and discuss their specific issues invaluable.

Local Councillor Jenny Hyde, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "The young parents who get involved in the programme are inspirational. Not only have they learned new skills, they have been eager to give something back by helping other young people and challenging the stereotype of teenage parenthood.

Many of them have formed strong friendships with others on the course and continue attending the postnatal group which is run by Health Visitors once their babies have been born.

We are very proud of the successes of our young people."

One PWP learner from Gloucestershire said: "Doing this course has improved my parenting skills and my knowledge of being a parent. I never realised before I did the course how my children see me as a role model and how important my behaviour is in dealing with theirs. It has also taught me ways to deal with sticky situations like illness or behaviour problems."

The new Parenting Awards and Certificates will be available at Entry Level 3 and Level 1 and will include the following units:-

- Antenatal development and birth
- Developing relationships and play with children
- Developing communications and literacy with children
- Caring for a young baby from birth to six months
- Healthy eating for children
- Keeping children safe and well
- Positive parenting
- Rights and responsibilities for parenting
- · Using planning skills to produce a resource for a baby
- Healthy lifestyles for parenting
- Managing money for parenting
- Career progression
- Work skills units

Sheila King, Nationwide Community Learning Partnership

- f sheilak@ymtb.co.uk
- www.ymtb.co.uk

WILD Young Parents Project

WILD is a learning and development charity working with young families in Cornwall.

Cornwall has achieved Objective One, and now Convergence funding from Europe, due to its status as one of the poorest counties in England. The collapse of traditional industries, and poorly paid seasonal work, has resulted in high levels of deprivation; far removed from the experience of second-home owners and tourists. WILD works across the county, focusing work in geographical areas of high socio-economic deprivation and high levels of teenage pregnancy. WILD works with approximately 230 young mums and 290 children each year. 90% of WILD mums experience post-natal illness and 79% have experienced domestic

WILD aims to provide young mums and their children with opportunities to develop their skills, improve their self-esteem, make positive and healthy choices, protect themselves, participate as equal members of their communities and achieve their potential. WILD's core curriculum is based on the five Every Child Matters outcomes. Activities include;

 Be Healthy: Cooking together, healthy picnics, Race for Life team, dance, family swimming, surfing, kickboxing, mental health workshops, contraception workshops, Chlamydia testing, smoke free homes scheme

- Stay Safe: Domestic violence advocacy and support, positive parenting workshops, SIDS workshops, baby massage, accident prevention, family learning, paediatric first aid
- Enjoy and Achieve: arts (painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics; in partnership with local colleges), ASDAN accredited courses, Music Performance BTec and vocal projects
- Positive Contribution: peer education in schools and colleges, 3-tier volunteering opportunities, campaigns, WILD allotment, parent forums, community consultation
- Economic Wellbeing: IAG, Literacy and Numeracy qualifications, Budgeting and debt management, housing advocacy, college taster days (currently arts, construction, zoology, forensics, marine biology), employment skills

WILD attribute much of their success to well-developed partnership working. They have long-established partnerships with health, children's services, VCS organisations and local colleges, winning a national Beacon Award for their skills partnership with Cornwall College. This year WILD have worked for six months in partnership with Kneehigh Theatre Company. Young mums have worked at Kneehigh's rehearsal barns, alongside the company's writer, choreographer and director, to learn scriptwriting, film, photography, dance and performance skills. The material written by the young mums about their experience of relationships and motherhood was used by Kneehigh to develop their recent production Don John.

WILD are now looking forward to developing two new projects; peer-led support for young mums experiencing domestic abuse, funded by the Parenting Fund; and extra support for young mums from marginalized communities who are experiencing mental ill-health, funded by Lloyds TSB.

"The reason why I started coming to WILD is because I was finding it hard to cope. I did not go out of the house for 3 months or get dressed. I more or less cried every day. I have been coming to WILD for 3 months and I am more confident in going out with my son, I have made some lovely friends and they have babies which we do things outside of my WILD group. The best thing that I have got from coming to WILD is that I have got the confidence to get myself my old job back, do my NVQ3 and be a mummy"

Sally came to WILD while in a foster placement with her baby. She had previously experienced long-term abuse and domestic violence. She was very quiet and withdrawn, but other group members encouraged her to take part in activities. She has completed her Skills for Life qualifications and has been a parent representative. She is now successfully living independently, offers peer support regarding domestic violence, and has enrolled to start a full-time college course next term.

Jo Davies, WILD Young Parents Project, Wesley Building, Wesley St, Redruth, TR15 2EG

- **210077 210077**
- → wild_online@btconnect.com

Voices From Care

Voices From Care is a user-led, campaigning organisation working in Wales with young people who are or have been looked after.

The organisation is run by people who have been looked after themselves. Some of our members are young parents. The organisation offers an Advice and Support Service, which is able to offer support and advocacy. Many of the young parents coming into contact with this service are having a difficult time. They have

to contend with issues around housing, living on a low income (in the majority of cases), relationships, unsupportive or absent family members (reflecting some of the reasons that they themselves were looked after). They need services that can really understand the position they are in, without pre-judging or patronising them. They need services which, whilst having expectations of them as parents, can appreciate that, like all care leavers, they will struggle at times, particularly emotionally.

Parenthood for anyone can be a time when people reflect back on their own family and upbringing – for a young parent who is a care leaver such reflection can be very demanding and difficult, requiring great resilience and maturity to work things through as well as coping with caring for a child.

Young parents in touch with Voices From Care often tell us that they feel things are being made more difficult for them. Voices From Care sat down with some of the young parents to ask what kind of things would help. Here is a brief outline of some of their ideas. Most relate to situations where young parents might be separated from their children and their parenting was being assessed.

- 'Lifestyle' is sometimes cited as a reason for having concerns about a parent / parents. This is a vague term and professionals should be required to be more specific about what exactly they mean. There should be more services which work with young parents about all lifestyle issues.
- Inconsistent reaction by professionals to social issues –for example, poor house keeping, domestic abuse, 'dysfunctional' relationships. Young parents felt that professionals did not give a consistent message, and what was acceptable to one was not acceptable to the other.
- Support versus not enough support. Young parents felt their own support networks were often viewed as unhelpful to them as young parents, but then if they were estranged from family and did not rely on friends they were criticized for having no support network.

Many of the issues young parents wanted us to raise they felt were about discrimination against them as care leavers. They felt prejudged, exposed (everyone had read about their background), set up to fail (sometimes having to travel hours to get to contact, living on poverty level incomes).

The young parents we spoke to knew they had responsibilities and that they were THE PARENTS, but they felt that as care leavers professionals should have more understanding of their situation and that, in particular, the people who had once been their corporate parents should be doing more to support them.

Carol Floris, Voices From Care, 39 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff CF24 3AD

- **202920 451 431**
- 1 info@vfcc.org.uk
- www.vfcc.org.uk

Conwy Young Mothers' Support Service

We have always considered that our Service is a response to need. The first provision to support young mothers to continue with their education was initiated by Clwyd LEA in 1991 as part of their alternative education service. Previously home tuition had been the only education offered to pregnant schoolgirls and schoolgirl mothers. Very few gained any qualifications and in fact many of them just "dropped out of the system." The system seemed very unfair as the young fathers carried on with their education while the young mothers became informally excluded.

The provision for these young mums was modelled on a service in Canada where the caretaker's house on the site of a school was

converted into a centre for pregnant schoolgirls and schoolgirl mothers. This seemed ideal, as the girls still attended the same school, where they were able to maintain contact with their social network and also had a "special place" where they could bring their babies and maintain responsibility for them.

Over the years this original model has been adapted to suit the facilities available: we have provided childcare in a community college, in youth centres, in mobile buildings attached to a school and in a PRU (Pupil Referral Unit)

Whatever the provision, the main aim has always been to ensure that the young mother has the opportunity to continue with education and gain accreditation while still taking on full responsibility for her baby.

Over the years our young mothers have continued with their GCSE course, some have gone on to study "A" levels, a few have gone on to university, many have completed vocational courses and one has set up her own business. All of our young mums have been given the opportunity to make choices and to look towards a future where they can support themselves and their child.

Funding the provision has always been an issue as none of the statutory services have taken on responsibility for caring for the babies. While the Education Service has a legal duty to offer education, there is no structure which funds childcare and/or additional support for the young mums so that they can access their education. In England, all young mothers under 20 are entitled to the Care to Learn grant of up to £160 per week for childcare. In Wales, those still in school get nothing.

In 2006, after many years of struggling to secure funding to keep our young mums' support service operating, we secured funding from The Big Lottery. This has enabled us to expand our service to young mums (under 20) whether they are in school or college. Currently we have 35 young mums accessing our service.

We have set up an on-site Day Care Centre in the grounds of one of Conwy's Education Centres. This is a small mobile building, set out like a holiday cottage and this is the ideal "home from home" environment for caring for the young babies. Two childminders care for up to eight under-threes and the provision is registered and regularly inspected by CSSIW. For those who live outside the area, childcare placements are found locally. Students in college can secure 85% of their childcare fees but many struggle with finding the remaining 15% on a regular basis. Some college students we are currently supporting do not get any help with fees — either because they registered late for a course and all the college funding has been allocated or because the course is part-time and does not qualify for childcare support. For many, we can now offer a lifeline; an opportunity to take that important step forward into "lifelong learning".

Improving parenting skills is also an element of our support and for those who attend our Alternative Education centre childcare courses are offered at both Entry and GCSE level. In addition we offer short courses such as "Learning to Play" a creative programme in which the young mums take part in activities designed to encourage their children to enjoy working in different mediums

In August 2009, our Big Lottery funded project comes to an end and we are now searching and working our way through funding bids to try to secure some funding so that the project can continue. It seems unfair that the young mums in Conwy, North Wales will once again be disadvantaged.

Betty Williams, Conwy Young Mothers' Support Services, Llangwstenin, Nr Llandudno Junction, Conwy LL₃₁ 9JQ

- **2** 01492 540 797
- **2** 07826 876 917
- 🕆 bwilliams275@btinternet.com

The Young Fathers Initiative

Working With Men, with funding from the DCSF Teenage Pregnancy Unit have developed a new website directed at young fathers called the Young Fathers Initiative (www.youngfathers.org.uk). Aimed at young fathers between the ages of 16-25, the site has been built in consultation with the target audience.

The site aims to ensure that young fathers are informed, supported, and have the skills they require to effectively father their children, as well as removing the barriers which currently stop young fathers' involvement in family life. The site also aims to provide professionals working with young fathers with advice and support to help develop their work.

The Young Fathers Initiative provides clear and concise information for young fathers about a variety of areas including: being an expectant father and issues related to before and after the birth, information related to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) and resolving conflict with partners, how to care for children whilst living apart, and advice related to work, education and housing. All of this information is easily bookmarked or downloadable in PDF format to allow both young fathers and practitioners to keep for reference or to share.

Young fathers and practitioners can also find information about the 'Expectant Fathers Course'. First time fatherhood is a huge transition for men and WWM have developed a course which runs over four sessions and has been piloted and delivered through hospitals, Sure Starts and Children's Centres such as Kings College, St Thomas', Queen Elizabeth's and Mayday Hospitals. The programme is one of the first courses (and presently the only one specifically for expectant fathers) to be assessed for the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners' commissioning toolkit. The course aims to build new fathers' confidence, in terms of the role, their skills and their ability to support their partner and baby. Fathers learn practical skills such as holding, feeding and bonding with their baby, and also discuss issues such as the importance of fathers and the impact on relationships. Fathers can find information about where courses are being run and how to sign up, and practitioners can find information about how they can set up and run courses themselves or how Working With Men can deliver courses for them.

Part of the YFI's aim is to support professionals working with young fathers and the site has a dedicated section for this. Currently this section collates all the downloadable information and provides a sign up area for practitioners as YFI will be developing a newsletter focussed towards professionals.

The Young Fathers Initiative wants to encourage interaction between young fathers and so have developed several videos of young fathers sharing their experiences and have these both on the site, and on the YFI YouTube channel. The Young Fathers Initiative will also be utilising social media networking such as Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, and Bebo, as well as the forum located on the site. These will be developed in the coming months to reach out to a wider audience and encourage young fathers to develop a sense of community and support.

For more information please contact Hannah:

- **207 237 5353**
- finfo@workingwithmen.org

On 16 June 2009 in Exeter, The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners is running a workshop on 'Good practice in working with young parents'.

It is free and open to parenting commissioners, service managers and parenting practitioners. It will help you to understand the evidence base in working with teenage parents and consider ways of putting this learning into practice. There are only a few places left – apply now at parentingacademy.org/workforce_workshopbooking.aspxm.

A detailed briefing paper on the topic with be put on the parenting academy's website later this year. More good practice workshops on this topic and others are running later in the year, details of which are also on the NAPP website.

Future issues of the bulletin will be focusing on

Outcomes for Parents Parenting Contracts

If you would like to contribute something on these topics, or if you have suggestions for future issues please email info@parentinguk.org

Newsround

Islamic Values and the Parenting Puzzle

Two nationwide charities, Family Action and Family Links, teamed up to publish a booklet for Muslim parents called *Islamic Values and the Parenting Puzzle*. Launched at the House of Commons on May 18th, the booklet demonstrates how Family Links' popular Nurturing Programme for parents is in tune with Islamic religious beliefs. It quotes and analyses extracts from the Quran, hadiths and Family Links' course book *The Parenting Puzzle*.

Family Links' Nurturing Programme promotes emotional wellbeing, relationship skills and positive behaviour. Since 1997 the charity has trained 3,000 professionals to deliver the 10-week parenting courses in schools and community settings nationwide, annually reaching 20,000 new parents. Family Action offers frontline support to disadvantaged families and sends some staff to be trained by Family Links.

Arifa Naeem, a family and youth development worker for Family Action Slough, started running the Nurturing Programme at the Stoke Poges Lane Mosque, Slough, in June 2008. She identified problems faced by immigrant families and knew the Nurturing Programme, with its emphasis on promoting well-being throughout the whole family, would be of benefit.

Arifa said: "18 women attended our first group in the mosque. The feedback was that parents felt reassured since this was the first time their parenting needs had been incorporated with their religious beliefs. The mosque now not only runs parenting programmes for women, but also for couples."

At the launch, Azmat, a mother on the course said: "I learnt a lot including many practical suggestions on how to deal with challenges parents face in bringing up children." Meanwhile her friends plan to attend, precisely because the practical advice meets their religious needs.

To address nationwide interest, Arifa wrote the booklet with the help of parents, Zaida Ishfaq, an Islamic counselor, Muslim religious leaders and Muslim academics. It retails at £7.50 and is only useful in partnership with *The Parenting Puzzle*.

To buy the booklet or for more information about the Nurturing Programme or Family Action visit: www.familylinks.org.uk

PSHE to become statutory in schools

In October 2008 the Government announced its intention to make PSHE statutory and launched an independent review led by Sir Alasdair Macdonald, to investigate the most effective way of taking this forward.

The government acknowledged that making PSHE education statutory raises a number of areas of concern including: pressures on the curriculum, the role of governing bodies, and the parental right of withdrawal from sex and relationships education. These are all being considered as part of a consultation running until 24 July.

Parenting UK believes that parenting practitioners have important views to input into the consultation. We would like your views in relation to the headline recommendations, including whether parenting should be included in the PSHE curriculum.

Download the full review and give your comments at: http://www.parentinguk.org/3/schools-and-PSHE

Do grandparents matter?

Thinking wider family

Research for the report 'Do grandparents matter?' conducted by Dr Clifford Hill, Research Director, Family Matters Institute and Professor Fiona Brooks, University of Hertfordshire, highlights the problems facing grandparents after parents separate or divorce.

On May 18th Family Matters Institute, Families Need Fathers and The Grandparents' Association met together at Westminster to launch new research on the importance of grandparents and wider families and to call on the government to:

- 'Think Wider Family' ensuring that in any policy guidelines, grandparents and the wider family are explicitly considered and named.
- Amend the Children Act 1989 to remove the obstacle that requires the agreement of the biological family to ask permission prior to making an application for contact and their case being heard.
- Develop a sociological understanding of Grandparenting: funding research, and projects that seek to explore and communicate the role and importance of grandparents to children's upbringing and welfare, and supporting them in this role.
- To ensure that both CAFCASS and the Judiciary consider the important relationship between children and grandparents in the court process and when determining the future arrangements for the child.

Copies of the research report available at www.familymatters.org.uk
© 01767 641002

Child Poverty Action Group

What the European league table means to the UK

CPAG (Child Poverty Action Group) are urging policy makers to put children at front and centre, following the publication of the European child wellbeing league table in which the UK was placed 24th out of 29 countries. Their report looks at why the UK is performing poorly in comparison to other European countries and suggests a ten-step programme to tackle child poverty:

- Protect jobs
- Mend the safety net
- Move away from means tests
- · Remove barriers to work
- Stop in-work poverty
- Put in place a child-first strategy for childcare
- End the classroom divide
- Provide fair public services for those who need them most
- End poverty premiums in taxes and services
- Ensure a decent home for every family

Read the full report at:

www.cpag.org.uk/info/ChildWellbeing and ChildPoverty.pdf

Parents to trigger school changes

Parents in England might be able to trigger council intervention in unsatisfactory local schools under new plans announced by Gordon Brown. In the UK's devolved education systems, these proposals would apply only to England.

Mr Brown said: "We will look at how local authorities can improve their knowledge of what parents want and how satisfied they are with their local schools and... where standards across an area are too low - then the local authority will be required to act."

Mr Brown also stressed there was a need for more collaboration between parents and schools, promising by 2010 that all secondary schools and two years later all primaries would report online to parents about their children's progress.

Read the full article at:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8033044.stm

Are parents to blame for problems in UK schools?

Teachers have launched a devastating attack on parents, accusing many of failing in their responsibilities and undermining schools.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers, which has members in both state and independent schools, says parents are letting children rule the roost at home and then expect schools to discipline them. At the same time parents are undermining the authority of teachers.

Bousted writes. "My members tell me that parents often come into school and threaten staff." She adds, "We are in danger of becoming a nation of isolates, of families living separate lives under one roof. The bedroom, once a place to sleep, has become the living space for the young... Children and young people often spend little time with their parents and siblings."

Bousted received support from other union leaders. Chris Keates, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), said some parents thought their responsibility for children's behaviour ended at the school gate and were undermining teachers trying to enforce discipline.

Justine Roberts, a co-founder of www.mumsnet.com, called for co-operation rather than warfare between parents and teachers. Parents were under tremendous pressure to do many things, she said, including earning enough money to support their families and to follow all the directives coming down from the government.

She argued that it is hard to meet a parent who did not want their child to succeed at school. "Talking together is the most sensible way of going forward, working out why we work so hard and how we can make more opportunities for flexible working to free up time for the family."

Full article available at

☐ http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/apr/o5/schools-behaviour-teachers-parents

Fatherhood Institute appoints new Chief Executive

The Fatherhood Institute has announced that former Deputy Children's Commissioner **Rob Williams** will be their new Chief Executive.

Rob Williams was appointed Deputy Children's Commissioner for England in January 2008 - a role he performed until September, when he stepped down in order to spend time looking after his children

www.fatherhoodinstitute.org

If members have ideas or suggestions for events or working groups that you would like PUK to consider, please email info@parentinguk.org

Training

Entries on these training pages are provided by those individuals / organisations offering the training.
Inclusion here does not imply endorsement by Parenting UK

MindFields

Supporting Parents of Troubled Teens

If popular representations are to be believed, the behaviour of many of our young people is worsening rapidly. What's more, the responsibility for all this is placed on parents whose confidence is severely depleted.

This one-day interactive workshop, led by Richard Brook, is designed to teach the essential skills needed to engage with parents who, despite their struggles, offer the best hope for the future of their difficult and disorderly adolescents. Suitable for anyone who is involved with the parents or carers of teenagers and older children.

30 October, Bristol 16 November, London 7 December, Manchester

£178.25 (group discounts available)

© 01323 811440□ www.mindfields.org.uk

Action on Addiction

Professional Residential Training

This training offers lectures on topics such as family patterns, systemic theory, motivational interviewing and family meetings, together with workshops to explore topics further and apply the theory to practice.

Their professional development groups allow attendees to gain awareness of personal and professional issues as they affect performance, effectiveness and personal well-being.

6-10 July; 21-25 September, Wiltshire Cost: £525 (to include certification).

2 01747 832015.

debby.williamson@actiononaddiction.org.uk

Adoption UK

Formed by adoptive parents in 1971, Adoption UK is a national self-help charity providing services offering support before, during and after adoption. Adoption UK represents a diverse range of adoptive parents and families, including couples, single parents, BME families, lesbian and gay adopters and families with disabilities. Adoption UK will offer support and encouragement to those considering adoption, going through the process or established adoptive families.

As well as offering workshops to practitioners, they are now able to offer places to parents on the following programme/workshops, due to the generous funding given by BBC CHILDREN IN NEED:

School & Education Issues This workshop examines issues that may arise for adoptive parents, foster carers and schools as a result of the effects of separation, loss and trauma on the child. Participants will look at ways in which social and emotional difficulties may be the underlying causes of behavioural problems, and may in turn lead to learning difficulties.

20 June 2009, Perth, £40.25 (inc. VAT)

Parenting Adopted Teenagers This workshop is designed to support and empower adoptive parents and foster carers in understanding and addressing these issues. Parents will be given an insight into general adolescent development and the search for identity. Common warning signs that suggest serious emotional or behavioural difficulties are also highlighted, and the issues of control in relation to the older child is discussed.

19 September 2009, Sheffield, £40.25 (inc. VAT)

201295 752969

training@adoptionuk.org.uk

■ www.adoptionuk.org

Resources

Positive experiences of young mothers

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (TPS) has been implemented in England since 1999 and has two aims: to halve under 18s conceptions; and to reduce the risk of social exclusion among young mothers. The TPS portrays young motherhood as problematic, the cause of poor outcomes. Yet researchers have demonstrated that early motherhood can be experienced positively. This research is discussed here, as are findings from a small-scale study in three English locations, where teenage mothers reported good experiences of parenthood.

http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&fid=4571060&jid=SPS&volumeId=8&issueId=02&aid=4571052

Parental alienation in child custody cases

An Internet survey was conducted to examine the views of mental health and legal professionals about parental alienation (PA) in

child custody cases. Findings from 448 respondents revealed much awareness about the PA concept and controversies, along with the need for further research in the field. In general, respondents were cautious and conservative/moderate in their view of PA and very reluctant to support the concept of Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS). Also, they did not view PAS as meeting admissibility standards. Respondents viewed domestic violence (DV) as an important issue to assess, although they did not usually find/suspect DV in such cases. Further, respondents varied according to professional role (evaluators, trial attorneys/judges, and court facilitators) on the relative importance attributed to various assessment factors. Moreover, evaluators' assessment procedures and the frequency of recommended interventions by trial attorneys/judges and evaluators closely paralleled those typically used in child custody cases. Results are compared to past literature in the field, with hopes of clarifying misconceptions.

"Examining parental alienation in child custody cases" James N. Bow, Jonathan W. Gould, James R. Flens The American Journal of Family Therapy (March 2009)

Verbal Aggressiveness

Guided largely by an attachment theory perspective, a two-part study was conducted to determine the effects of perceived and self-reported parent verbal aggression and responsiveness on young adult children's attachment style and relational satisfaction with parents.

Implications for these and other findings are discussed in this report.

"The Relationship between Parents' Verbal Aggressiveness and Responsiveness and Young Adult Children's Attachment Style and Relational Satisfaction with Parents "Journal of Family Communication (April 2009) - Anthony J. Roberto, Kellie E. Carlyle, Catherine E. Goodall, Janessa D. Castle

Early development and learning

Parents deal with a complex web of choices when seeking and using knowledge and resources related to their young children's literacy development. Information concerning children's learning and development comes in many forms and is produced by an increasingly diverse range of players including governments, nongovernment organisations and commercial businesses. This study used a survey, interview and artefact collection to investigate mothers' and fathers' reported activities in seeking, accessing, producing and circulating information and resources related to children's learning and development. Differences were found relating to parent gender and level of education. Parents' resourcing activities are also shaped by their particular goals for their children.

"Parents Resourcing Children's Early Devlopment and Learning" Early Years, 14 April 2009 - Sue Nichols, Helen Nixon, Valerie Pudney, Sari Jurvansuu

Nutrition and emotional wellbeing

Recent years have seen a growing level of concern about children's behaviour and emotional well-being in Western developed countries, in particular the United Kingdom. This has given rise to a plethora of parenting programmes and increasing attention to children's nutrition. These developments are rooted partly in evidence that some parenting interventions improve child outcomes and that what children eat has some effect on how they behave and how they feel about themselves and life in general. However, the two—parenting and nutrition—are rarely linked in services

This article argues that while there is good reason to suppose that parenting has an impact on children's nutrition, and that policy and practice should take this into account, more research is needed into the underlying mechanisms through which this relationship operates and into which factors moderate it.

"Finish What's on Your Plate! The Relationships between Parenting, Children's Nutrition and Outcomes", Childcare in Practice, April 2009

Rebecca Whear, Nick Axford

Fathers' depression harms young

On how fathers' mental health affects their children

University of Oxford researchers have warned that children whose fathers have mental health disorders are likely to have psychiatric or behavioural disorders themselves. Teenage offspring of depressed fathers also have an increased risk of various psychological problems, including depression and suicidal behaviour.

BBC news, 3rd May 2009

Http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8028452.stm

Paternal psychiatric disorders and children's psychosocial development; The Lancet May 2009- Dr Paul Ramchandani DPhil, Lamprini Psychogiou PhD

www.thelancet.com

The rights of disabled children

Save The Children have published the first book to look at how the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities can be used to support disabled children, alongside the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Written by international children's rights consultant Gerison Lansdown, the guide offers advice on advocacy strategies and good practice for child and disability rights advocates and government organisations, interpreting and implementing the two Conventions.

See Me, Hear Me: A guide to using the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability to promote the rights of children

Gerison Lansdown

RRP £9.95, ISBN: 9781841871233

nublications@savethechildren.org.uk

Substance misuse and mental health

Building resilience in families under stress.

Building Resilience in Families under Stress explores how professionals can support parenting more effectively in families affected by parental mental illness and substance misuse. Drawing on key research on the risks and impacts of parental substance misuse and mental health problems, it demonstrates the need for a joined-up approach from a range of adult and children's services.

It is essential reading for all professionals who are directly or indirectly involved in providing statutory or voluntary services to families affected by parental mental health problems, substance misuse or alcohol misuse.

Building Resilience in Families under Stress: a handbook for practitioners - Emma Sawyer

www.ncb.org.uk

2 0845 458 9910

Reading for Pleasure

Families, learning and storytelling

Reading For Pleasure have recently launched a pack entitled 'Families, Learning and Storytelling' which shows how using archives for family learning can provide opportunities to promote reading through non-fiction texts which draw on the wealth of stories in the collections. These stories together with families' own stories can be used to support community cohesion.

The materials are relevant to managers, staff, tutors and teachers interested in developing family learning programmes with archives. The pack can be used as part of the partnership and curriculum planning process and includes example schemes of work and links to resources.

Families, Learning and Pleasure
Download PDF or order hard copies at

☐ http://www.readingforpleasure.org.uk/families.php

Infant Mental Health in Practice

Keeping the Baby in Mind builds on the expanding evidence pointing to the crucial importance of parents in facilitating their baby's development, and brings together expert contributors to examine a range of innovative psychological and psychotherapeutic interventions that are currently being used to support parents and their infants. It not only provides an overview of the many projects that are now available but also makes recommendations for future practice and the way in which children's services are organised.

Keeping the Baby in Mind marks a new and exciting phase in the development of interventions to support infant mental health and will be of interest across a wide range of disciplines from primary and community care to early years and Children's Centre settings.

Keeping the Baby in Mind: Infant Mental Health in Practice – Jane Barlow, P.O. Svanberg
Routledge, RRP: £9.99, ISBN: 978-0-415-44298-5

☐ http://www.routledgenursing.com

Funding

Sharing emerging practices in the children's workforces

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) Share!, now in its third year, will provide individual grants of £10,000 to successful sites across England. The projects will need to demonstrate how integrated working and workforce reform is really helping to improve the lives of children, young people and families.

Application closing date: 16 Jun 2009 at 13:00

➡ http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/tenders/show/84

BIG – 'Awards for All' opens

A total of £45 million is available in **England** offering Big Lottery Fund grants of between £300 to £10,000 to grassroots groups in the community and voluntary sector, health bodies, schools and parish or town councils. In **Wales** grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available with a total of £2.4 million available.

The programme will focus on social and environmental projects that benefit local communities. A new, simpler application process will have a maximum turnaround time of six weeks for a decision.

In addition to the changes in England and Wales, a new-look 'Awards for All' **Scotland** has also been launched. Supported by the Big Lottery Fund, the Scottish Arts Council and sportscotland, the programme has £10.5 million to give away in grants ranging in size from £500 to £10,000. A new 'Awards for All' scheme in **Northern Ireland** will launch later in April 2009 with a budget of £3.5 million a year.

www.awardsforall.org.uk

20 0845 4 10 20 30

Allen Lane Foundation

Working to make a lasting difference to people's lives

The Allen Lane Foundation is interested in funding work which benefits people in the following groups, or generalist work which includes significant numbers from more than one such group:

- asylum-seekers and refugees
- gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender people
- gypsies and travellers
- offenders and ex-offenders
- older people
- people from black and minority ethnic communities and migrant workers
- people experiencing mental health problems; people experiencing violence or abuse

The Foundation is particularly interested in unusual, imaginative or pioneering projects which have perhaps not yet caught the public imagination.

Single, one-off grants range from £500 up to £15,000. To make sure that grants of this size have an impact, the Foundation will not fund larger organisations. The Foundation no longer has closing dates. Applications will be processed continually.

Allen Lane Foundation, 90 The Mount, York, YO24 1AR

- **201904 613223**
- finfo@allenlane.org.uk
- www.allenlane.org.uk

Tudor Trust

Finding new ways to tackle deep-rooted problems

The Tudor Trust are interested in helping *smaller, under-resourced* organisations which offer direct services and which involve the people they work with in their planning. The groups they fund don't have to be registered charities and there is no maximum or minimum grant amount.

They usually make grants over one, two or three years but may work alongside organisations for a longer period. However as they are keen to support a range of organisations, including those which are new to them, their funding cannot continue indefinitely.

Tudor's focus is on smaller groups which are committed to growth, progression and development. They are more likely to fund *groups with an annual turnover of less than £1 million*. They aim to make around 350 grants a year but receive thousands of applications. They have a two-stage application process with around one in ten applicants going through to the second stage.

The Tudor Trust, 7 Ladbroke Grove, London W11 3BD

20 7727 8522

Nominet

Aiming to make the internet a better place

Nominet has created a Trust to support distinctive and inventive Internet-related projects that can make a difference to people, primarily in the areas of education, online safety and inclusion.

Applications must meet one or more of the Trust's objectives and should generally be for:

- a clearly identified need not to reduce risk in a wellendowed organisation
- a one-off grant for seed or early-stage funding
- fully worked up applications rather than just expressions of interest

They will consider projects which:

- are a new initiative or a distinctive extension of an existing project
- are original and innovative
- have a wide reach or show potential in the long term
- make a significant difference to the users
- are capable of delivering what is promised
- have the Internet at the core

Initiatives that the Trust aims to fund include promoting the protection of children and other vulnerable people from danger, suffering, or being abused through the use of the Internet. At this stage, they will not consider applications for core funding only or applications for hardware only.

The board of trustees will consider applications in the next series of Board meetings over the next few months. They will aim to inform applicants on the decision in writing as soon as possible.

- **2** 01865 334000
- enquiries@nominettrust.org.uk
- http://www.nominettrust.org.uk

Futurebuilders

Helping the sector to compete with the big boys

Futurebuilders England has set up a Consortia Fund to offer a combination of loan finance and professional support specifically for consortia groups aiming to work together to win public service contracts.

The consortium is made up of third sector organisations delivering public services in the fields of welfare reform, education and training, and health and social care – and will help such organisations take advantage of the current commissioning climate.

Futurebuilders is keen to hear as soon as possible from organisations with expertise in the bidding process as well as those experienced in the delivery of public services. Organisations interested in taking part in the new consortium, or to discuss their thoughts, should contact Samantha Healy at

- **207 927 6362**
- ூ samantha.healy@futurebuilders-england.org.uk

The Secret Millionaire

BIG - Channel 4

The Big Lottery Fund and The Secret Millionaire have teamed up to give viewers of the programme a chance to act on the charitable inspiration fuelled by the show. Lottery funding worth £1 million

Parenting UK News Bulletin

has been lined up for people to apply for, or nominate projects to apply for grants of between £300 and £10,000 (£5,000 in Wales) from the Secret Millionaire Fund.

The Secret Millionaire website is live until 21 December 2009. Visitors to the website can nominate or apply at any point during this time scale. Services such as Justgiving, Timebank and Do It will be integrated into the site so that users can get involved. Projects must be completed within one year.

□ http://secretmillionaire.channel4.com/fund_info.shtml

Communities First Trust Fund - Wales

The Communities First Trust Fund (CFTF) aims to support any type of activity that involves local people, through small community organisations, that benefits their community, including music and the arts.

The closing date for applications is Friday 29 January 2010.
There is no minimum amount but £5,000 is the maximum you can

There are over **180 areas across Wales** eligible for support from the Communities First Trust Fund. A list of the eligible areas is available by contacting the Communities First Trust Fund

2 0800 587 8898

apply for.

1 help@wcva.org.uk

City Bridge Trust - London

The City Bridge Trust aims to address disadvantage by supporting charitable activity across Greater London through quality grant-making and related activities with clearly defined priorities.

Their current grant programmes include:

- **Bridging Communities** building on commonalities between ethnic and language communities.
- Positive Transitions to Independent Living childhood into adolescence, adolescence into adulthood, leaving home or leaving care and becoming parents.

There are **no closing dates** for applications for the above.

- **20** 020 7332 3710
- ditybridgetrust@cityoflondon.gov.uk
- http://www.bridgehousetrust.org.uk

Church Urban Fund

Mustard Seed Programme

The Mustard Seed Programme has been designed to enable groups to turn their ideas into action.

Any church or faith-based group can apply but they are particularly keen to hear from groups that have new ideas they really want to test and try out. Grant requests up to £5,000 will be considered. This is a rolling programme where there are no deadline dates.

The grant requested should typically represent at least a third of the total funding required.

- ⁴ resources@cuf.org.uk
- □ http://www.cuf.org.uk/page18531718.aspx

Community Development Foundation

Target Support Fund

The Targeted Support Fund helps organisations that offer services specifically relating to needs resulting from the current recession. It is a one year programme (until May 2010) focused on fifty areas of England that are considered most at risk of increased deprivation.

It aims to help charities provide recession-related services. Charities and Community Organisations in targeted locations around England Grants will be between £10,000 and £40,000.

Grants are given for recession related services, under the following themes:

- Information, advice and guidance
- Employment and employability
- Health and wellbeing

Eligible organisations should be based in one of these areas and have an annual income of between £30,000 and £250,000.

■ www.cdf.org.uk

Budget Hardship Fund

This year's Budget announced new support for the third sector and for those who rely on the sector's services during the recession.

This includes a new Hardship Fund for the sector, worth over £16m. This new money will be targeted at third sector organisations providing front line services that have been hit by the recession.

- http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090422_budget.aspx
- http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_budog_index.htm

Trust for London Funding 2007-11

Trust for London is an independent charitable trust set up in 1986 to support small, new and emerging voluntary organisations which have been established to improve the lives of people and communities in London. They work closely with their sister fund, City Parochial Foundation, which supports organisations tackling poverty in London.

They recommend that you check carefully which fund is more appropriate to your organisation as you can only apply to one.

They will fund areas of work which have one (or more) of the following aims: To challenge discrimination faced by disabled people; to promote the inclusion and integration of recently established communities; to strengthen mother-tongue and supplementary schools to provide creative educational opportunities; to address new and emerging needs.

Each year they will make grants of approximately £650,000. The majority of this is spent on our open programme. The maximum you can apply for is £15,000 per year, although the average grant will be approximately £8,000 in total. They will make grants for one, two or three years. They expect to make 50 grants each year.

There are 3 deadlines a year: 7 February for the June meeting; 30 May for the October meeting; and 25 October for the February meeting.

Trust for London, 6 Middle Street, London EC1A 7PH

http://www.cityparochial.org.uk/tfl/grants/

Nuffield Foundation

The Nuffield Foundation currently has three grant programmes that support research and innovation for beneficial social change. These are:

Access to Justice; Children and Family; Open Door

Grants are mainly for research but are also made for practical developments or innovation. The Foundation also has an Education Programme which supports research and development work in specific priority areas. Unsolicited grant proposals are not accepted, but other funding opportunities arise from time to time.

Deadlines - November 2009 Meeting, *Outline Applications - 10 July 2009*, Final Applications - 4 September 2009

The Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JS

2 020 7631 0566

F 020 7323 4877

■ http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org

Membership Renewals

Please remember to return your fully completed renewal forms ASAP. New services for members make this an exciting time to be part of the PUK network and the sooner that we can process renewals the sooner we can ensure that everyone has full access to the online facilities.

The Big Lunch Sunday 19th July

A day to bring the UK together:

- To share stories, skills and tools, so we all end up richer in every sense
- To discover common ground across age, class, faith, race and the garden fence.
- To conquer our natural shyness, to open our curtains, doors and minds and look out for one another.

Simply use your postcode online at www.thebiglunch.com to find a Big Lunch on your doorstep – be it a street, park, roundabout, bridge or any public outdoor spot you like.



Every Parent Matters: A Reality Check

Wednesday 22 July, 10.00 am – 4.30pm

Manchester

A joint PUK/UKCCIS event

Morning: Topical Discussion - Virtual Reality

'Every parent will know that video games and the internet are a part of childhood like never before. This is extremely positive; giving kids the opportunities to learn to have fun and

communicate in ways that previous generations could only dream of. But it can also present a huge challenge to parents and other adults involved in the welfare of children.' Dr Tanya Byron

The morning session will present an overview of the Byron Report 'Safer Children in a Digital World' and UKCCIS, before providing time to explore the following questions:

- What are parents struggling with in relation to internet safety? What issues are arising?
- What can we do as professionals to support parents?
- What do we need as professionals to be more effective in supporting parents?
- What are the best ways to raise parental awareness of internet safety issues?

Afternoon: Interactive Session - Strategy v Reality

The afternoon will provide an opportunity for members to network, reflect, exchange ideas, and review the impact of the Every Parent Matters strategy. . .

- What effect has the development of local parenting strategies had on the ground?
- What has worked well, and what key issues still need addressing?
- Are Children's centres and extended schools increasing the amount of support available for parents?
- Has the creation of PSA and parenting expert posts delivered for those parents who need support?
- What are the key challenges which lie ahead for the parenting sector?

For further information, programme, and speaker details and to register online, go to www.parentinguk.org/a/events/our-events

For queries, please contact <u>events@parentinguk.org</u> or 020 7284 8379.

Cost: ± 75 for non-members; ± 50 for PUK members.

Conferences

June

Involving Men as Fathers (seminar)

ContinYou

20 7587 5080

8 June Birmingham 17 June Lancashire 19 June London

The Children's Plan - what it really means to you

Association of School and College Leaders

229 1122

10 June London

Working Together in Partnership to Tackle Gang and Knife

Inside Government

2 0845 666 0664

16 June London

A World Class Children's Workforce: Fitting the Jigsaw Together

Westminster Briefings

20 7096 2918

18 June London

Hidden Harm: Families, Drugs and Alcohol

KCA - Adfam

26 168 168 26 168

18 June London

Promoting Parenting, Communication and Family Wellbeing

The Royal Society of Medicine

20 7290 2986 2986

22 June London

Steering Young People Away From Crime

Capita Conferences / Catch 22

870 400 1020

24 June London

Examining the Role of Children's Trusts: The Implications of Establishing them as Statutory Bodies

Westminster Briefings

20 7096 2948

24 June London

Preventing Teenage Pregnancies and Supporting Teenage Parents

Lemos & Crane

20 8348 8263

30 June London

July

Supporting Young Fathers

Trust for the Study of Adolescence

2 01273 693 311

1 July London

Advanced Child Care Law and Practice

Family Rights Group Training

2020 7923 2628

office@frg.org.uk

2 July London

Strategically Measuring Impacts and Outcomes

Haymarket

20 020 8267 4011

9 July Birmingham

Supporting Parents: Which Intervention?

The International Attachment Network

20 7485 9227

11 July Leicester

Children's Centres: Delivering Inclusive Children's Centres

Capita Conferences

2 0870 400 1020

16-17 July London

September

Child-rearing in a Risk Society

ESCRC Seminar Series Changing Parenting Culture

204 2833

16-17 September Birmingham

Working together to prevent child death in the 21st century -Lessons learnt, effective practice and future challenges NSPCC

234 7225 / 7282

training@nspcc.org.uk

25 September Leicester

Later in the year

Rising to the Challenge: Brighter Futures for All

National Children and Adult Services

20 7664 3131

finfo@lga.gov.uk

21-13 October Harrogate

Policy for Families: Challenges and Choices

Family and Parenting Institute

20 7424 3460

1 info@familyandparenting.org

30 November London

For a more comprehensive and regularly update list of conferences and events, please visit www.parentinguk.org/3/conferences



Advertising

The News Bulletin is produced for members every two months (the next deadline for copy is 16 July)

Advertising rates are currently:

Inserts Member £175 Non-Member £225

We welcome your comments on and contributions to our News Bulletin. Please address any correspondence to info@parentinguk.org

Published by Parenting UK
Unit 431 Highgate Studios, 53-79 Highgate Road, London NW5 1TL
phone 020 7284 8370 fax 020 7485 3587

Registered charity No 1076942. Registered in England and Wales No 3588930