



Putting families at the heart of the asylum process

News on Parenting UK's merger with leading charity Family Lives
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New report into the effects of parental alcohol consumption

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Cover image: Claudia Janke

We welcome your comments on and contributions to our News Bulletin. Please address any correspondence to the editor, Rachel Tonkin:
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Ensuring the future of Parenting UK as we merge with leading charity Family Lives

In these challenging times, it has become essential to look at new ways of working in order to sustain Parenting UK's membership services. We have considered numerous options over the past couple of years and we are delighted to announce that from the 15th November Family Lives and Parenting UK will be joining forces to create a stronger leading charity supporting parents and families and those who work with them. Both organisations share a similar vision and ethos to deliver high-quality support for families and have worked closely together for a number of years. In its new form, Family Lives will be able to draw on the expertise and experience of both families and practitioners to create a more powerful national voice.

Parenting UK's name and services will be retained within the wider Family Lives brand. The new organisation will allow for the continuation of current work and the development of new opportunities that benefit families and those who support them. The merger will enable us to be more efficient and effective in the work that we do but key personnel will continue in post. The current work of Parenting UK will be maintained and developed within the Business Development Department of Family Lives.

Jeremy Todd, Chief Executive of Family Lives said;
"I am delighted with the opportunity to merge with such a well-respected parenting charity, Parenting UK. Working together will allow a greater provision of services to members, and the families we serve, alongside providing a stronger

voice to influence policy makers and Government. Family Lives is committed to collaboration and efficiency at every level. This merger is part of a broader strategy to enhance and extend services to all members of the Family and those who care and work on their behalf."

Pamela Park, Chief Executive of Parenting UK, said:

"We are very pleased to be joining with such a strong charity with the same aim of supporting families and parenting. This will ensure a continued focus on developing and enhancing the parenting workforce and ensure we maintain a voice for the sector in the long term so that families continue to receive the high-quality and professional support they need and want."

We hope that you will support this exciting development. We will keep you up to date with the progress of this merger; however rest assured that all current services, such as website logins and ebulletins, will remain the same for the time being. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Best Wishes

Pamela Park and Jeremy Todd

Family Nurse Partnership extended in Scotland

Health Secretary Alex Neil has announced that The Family Nurse Partnership programme, which aims to give children a healthier start in life, is to be brought in to Lanarkshire and Highland.

The programme is already up and running in Lothian, Tayside, Fife, Glasgow and Ayrshire & Arran.

Family nurses visit expectant mums every one or two weeks during pregnancy and throughout the first two years of their baby's life, offering guidance and supporting mothers to make positive choices on areas such as child development, preventative health measures, parenting skills, breastfeeding, better diet information and on education and employment.

The evidence from programmes already up and running in the US shows that it is improving prenatal health, increasing young mothers' uptake of employment, resulting in fewer unintended pregnancies and helping to reduce child neglect.

The programme will be up and running in Highland by early next year, and will see a team of four nurses supporting 100 families.

In Lanarkshire, 250 families will be supported by ten nurses when the programme starts later next year.

Making his first announcement as Health Secretary, Mr Neil said: "I am delighted to be able to announce that this groundbreaking programme will be supporting even more families across Scotland. NHS Lanarkshire has been nominated to introduce the programme due to the high levels of need in the area and I am sure this will be welcomed locally. This is also great opportunity to work with Highland, an area of Scotland which is pioneering the integration of health and social care. This will help us to explore the benefits of delivering such an intensive programme in a formally integrated health and social care environment.

"The programme has been running in the US for a number of years and has had some very impressive results for the parents involved and their children.

"The programme has been running in Lothian for two and a half years now and evaluation of the impact of the project so far has similar positive results."

Poorer toddlers need well educated nursery teachers

A new report from the Sutton Trust says that the Early Years workforce should be better trained to support children from poorer socio-economic backgrounds, who aren't performing as well at school as their peers from wealthier backgrounds.

The research was based on conclusions of international delegates at the social mobility summit in May – from the UK, the USA, Australia and Canada.

The UK, despite spending more on early education than many other countries, still has significant gaps in school-readiness between the richest and poorest four and five year olds. The report suggests that this investment in early years education should therefore be better targeted.

The gaps in school achievement are, for the most part, directly related to parenting, and specifically the level of parental education. However, a lot of these issues can be made up for by properly trained early years and childcare workers, who can help close gaps in vocabulary, cognitive skills and sociability of young children.

Sir Peter Lampl, chairman of the Sutton Trust, said:

"The early years are vital to every child's development, and essential to their future life chances and social mobility. The government is right to continue investing in the early years, with more places for poorer two year-olds, but it is vital that the workforce has the skills and

education to provide those youngsters with a good vocabulary and the cognitive and social skills that will prepare them for school.

"Most of the gaps that we see between poorer and better off young people are evident from a very early age, so investing wisely can make a huge difference."

Among the report's other suggestions was a peer feedback programme for teachers, which would draw on evidence from classrooms around the world to deliver professional development from the strongest sources.

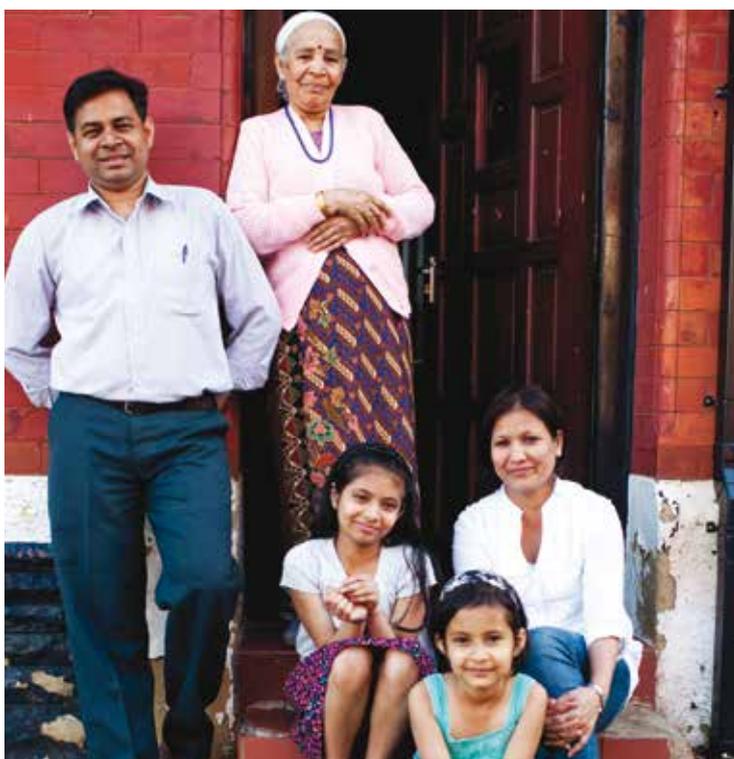
The report also suggests ways for early years training to be bolstered earlier on, with universities engaging pupils to consider early years work from as young as 11 and 12, and later a work-based training for school leavers, conditionally funded by employers on an outcome-dependent basis.

A £3 million pound investment into early years' intervention will support future research work from the Sutton Trust, allowing them to build upon the ideas discussed at the summit over the next five years. The importance of addressing social mobility was agreed on by leading figures from all three major political parties – Nick Clegg, Ed Miliband, and Michael Gove – who addressed the conference.

Poverty tsar Frank Field plans own pilot project after coalition 'ignores report'

Frank Field MP aims to implement his anti-deprivation plan in his own constituency, disappointed that the government has ignored the report it commissioned from him about poverty and life chances which highlighted the importance of parenting.

His key recommendation is for new ways of measuring deprivation to be introduced alongside the poverty measure set out in the Child Poverty Act, which defines a family as being in poverty if its income is less than 60% of the median household income for that year.



Putting family at the heart of the Asylum Process

When Miranda sought sanctuary in the UK because of a well-founded fear of persecution in her home country, she was provided with temporary accommodation in Liverpool. At the time, she was heavily pregnant with her second child and struggling to look after her two year-old son on her own. Miranda was able to access medical care but as her date of delivery drew near, she became increasingly worried and confused about what would happen to her son. Her life in transition, she faced a number of predicaments: She was awaiting a decision on her asylum claim and the right to remain in Britain; looking after her child in a city that was strange to her; facing the prospect of giving birth without the support of the father, family or friends, and no one to ask who could look after her child while she was in hospital.

As a signatory of the UN Refugee Convention of 1951, the UK has a longstanding tradition of welcome for people fleeing persecution or conflict. Yet seeking protection in this country still remains a complex and challenging process. For asylum seekers, it is a shock to discover that their account of what has happened to them will be scrutinised, questioned and in most cases

disbelieved by the authorities. Alongside the stress of navigating a bewildering asylum process are the added difficulties of living with very little financial support, social isolation, and coping with the effects of the trauma of what has happened to them back home. But for many people going through this process there is an even greater consideration; bringing up children safely and securely in a nurturing environment.

The distress of the asylum journey can have a significant impact on someone's mental health. One mother was so distressed by the experience that she felt she could no longer cope. She was anxious that her two young daughters were not getting an education and became increasingly terrified that she might lash out at them in frustration. With no one to turn to for support or advice, she began to have suicidal thoughts. She felt that the only solution for her daughters was to take her own life so that they would be orphaned and avoid being returned back home. The tragic fact is that it is not uncommon for parents seeking asylum in the UK to reach similar levels of desperation when they are concerned for the safety of their children.



working with refugees to build new lives

Earlier this year, Refugee Action piloted a new way of working with asylum seeking families in an attempt to help them overcome these obstacles. A caseworker was assigned to each family so that a relationship of trust could be built up over time. The aim was that by increasing honest communication to engender confidence early on in an asylum seekers' journey, their resilience would increase and they would be better able to present evidence in support of their application for asylum. The caseworker was often the only person involved with the parent who understood the whole context of their situation. Working with families in this way brought caseworkers much closer to understanding the extreme difficulties parents face when trying to juggle the dual responsibilities of seeking protection for themselves and their children, and parenting.

In the case of the individual experiences highlighted above, caseworkers were able to address their concerns early on by encouraging them to talk and do things to help them cope with their stress. As well as the opportunity to receive good quality impartial advice and support, having the opportunity to meet other people and engage in social activities had a direct impact on a person's ability to begin to tackle other issues in their lives. Families were referred to a Refugee Action Wellbeing project, offering physical activities such as access to a bike scheme as well as a range of other opportunities for getting involved where they could meet people in similar circumstances to talk about their worries more openly. The impact on parents of attending just one of these sessions was huge. It reduced stress, gave them the chance to get out of their accommodation, and meant that they were better able to engage with their asylum claim. Parents then developed the confidence to make other contacts and some even took up volunteering roles in their local community. For these women, childcare and learning English were the most important areas to help them start

to make connections in their community and begin the long process of rebuilding their lives.

It is vital that asylum seeking families have information about welfare provision such as social and health services, the education system and how to make an appointment with a GP. Having someone who they trust to take them round to show them where the shops, clinic, school, or library are and tell them about how to use local transport was a useful way of helping families to get to know their area and become less isolated. For the vast majority of parents, the welfare and health of their children is paramount. For asylum seeking parents, this is no different. However, they also have the added pressure of trying to understand and progress through a complex and frightening system. The impact of looking after very young and demanding children can be huge; there is no you, there is only them. Being able to off-load, to share, to have someone else to bear witness to and acknowledge the challenge they face as a parent actually puts them in a position of having strength again, and that can be extremely powerful.

Mary Keane is an Advice Manager at Refugee Action. *Please note that names have been changed to protect the identity of individuals.

About Refugee Action

Refugee Action is an independent, national charity that has been standing up for refugee rights for more than thirty years. We provide practical advice and assistance for newly arrived asylum seekers and offer long-term commitment to their resettlement through community development work. As one of the leading agencies in the field, Refugee Action pioneers partnerships with refugees through social action projects to build stronger and safer communities across the UK. For more information, please visit: www.refugee-action.org.uk

Photo credit: Claudia Janke

New report looks at child-to-parent domestic abuse

Adfam and Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) have produced a joint report on child to parent violence (CPV) documenting the experiences of parents affected by the behaviour of their substance abusing children.

CPV is not widely recognised, but the effects are seen to be very similar to those experienced in other forms of domestic abuse, such as partner violence.

88 families were consulted through nine focus groups. Many of these groups were run by facilitators who had experience of living with substance abusers before providing support for other families.

The study looked at the parents' experiences of abuse and of seeking support, with an aim to uncover areas that need addressing so that support services can be improved and made easier to access and approach.

Parents were asked what form their experience of CPV took, when they first became aware of it and how they went about seeking support.

Certain themes were found in common. While some abuse was perpetrated by daughters, CPV was usually directed from sons to mothers, with the age of abusers ranging from as young as 11 to as old as late 40s.

Many were described as being violent one minute and loving the next, and often with poor education or a low attention span. In many cases, there was a trigger event around the age of 13 or 14 that turned the children on to drugs or alcohol which, in turn, led to abuse.

The abuse itself took many forms, from threats and physical assaults to financial extortion and social isolation. Parents were left feeling frightened and emotionally distressed, with financial problems, physical health problems and even serious injury.

Significantly, the guilt experienced by parents, believing they were at least partly responsible for the behaviour, meant they were often afraid to talk to

family, friends or professionals, worrying about the stigma of having a substance abusing child in the family. Parents often didn't believe they were allowed to seek support as the definition of CPV is so under-recognised.

In cases where parents had been able to seek support, they were met with a range of responses, from judgement and dismissal, to full support. Mutual support groups with experienced leaders were found to be the most effective, providing a safe space with an understanding of the issues. Groups were accessed via friends, social services, health professionals and the police.

The report recommends that national policy should give more support to family and community groups working with families affected by substance abuse, as this type of support can provide a lifeline to families.

Family-based support groups are cost-effective, requiring relatively few resources to run and can save public spending by reducing strain on other sources of health and social care that victims of abuse may seek.

As these groups are often informal and ad hoc, they are unlikely to apply for grants so the report recommends that they be funded more readily by government. It also recommends more programmes for perpetrators under 21 to address their issues around violence.

In a culture where CPV isn't widely discussed support needs to be readily available to those parents who need it. In providing this, services – whether focussed on substance abuse or domestic violence – need to recognise and take seriously the threat from substance abusing children towards their parents, which can be a nightmare situation, filled with self-blame and self-doubt.

In September this year, it was announced that definitions of domestic violence would be expanded to include violence perpetrated by under-18s. ■



National Parenting Strategy Launched in Scotland

Parents will benefit from easier and better access to information and support thanks to Scotland's first national parenting strategy which was published at the beginning of October.

The Scottish Government's aspiration is for Scotland to be the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. The National Parenting Strategy seeks to turn this aspiration into practical action by championing the importance of parenting, by strengthening the support on offer to parents and by making it easier for them to access this support.

The National Parenting Strategy is all about valuing and supporting Scotland's parents as one of the single biggest ways of giving children the best start in life. The strategy refers to parents, meaning anyone with a parenting role of children of all ages from the early years right through the teenage years and into young adults. This isn't about dictating to parents how to bring up their own children, this is about making it easier for parents to understand the positive difference they can make to their child's development, helping parents to feel confident in their ability to care for their children, feel reassured that help is available if and when they need support and ultimately making parenting an even more rewarding experience.

The strategy sets out a range of commitments including:

- Investing £18m (2012-15) to improve access to information, advice and support for parents throughout their children's lives

- Introducing legislation which provides a dedicated first contact – such as a health visitor – to co-ordinate support and advice for every child who needs it

- More help for families going through relationship difficulties, including a new website and £500,000 towards family counselling and mediation

- Extending the Family Nurse Partnership programme to more first-time teenage parents

- Offering parenting programmes to parents of young children with behavioural problems

- Reviewing the delivery of foster and kinship care across Scotland

- Creating more play and early learning opportunities by investing £1 million a year up to 2015 in the Play Talk Read campaign

- Making policies and services more Dad-friendly

- Promoting family friendly working through encouraging employers to adopt more flexible working practices

Introducing the best package of flexible early learning and childcare anywhere in the UK

The Minister for Children and Young People Aileen Campbell said:

“The new National Parenting Strategy builds on the great work already underway to support parents in Scotland. It aims to provide the kind of support parents have told us they want, wherever they live.

“Parents told us they want to know where to go if they need help, and to be sure they can get support early enough to avoid a crisis. That's why we are investing £18m to make it easier for parents to get help in their local area. And through the Children and Young

People Bill we will offer all parents a dedicated first port of call such as a health visitor to co-ordinate information and support. We also plan to extend the Family Nurse Partnership programme to even more first time parents and carry out a wide-ranging review of foster and kinship care.

“We know parents or those with a parenting role are the greatest influence on children, so if we're serious about improving children's life chances and making Scotland the best place to grow up, we must ensure parents and carers feel empowered, valued, supported and confident in their abilities, while at the same time knowing help is out there if they need it.”

Clare Simpson, Project Manager at Parenting Across Scotland, added: “This strategy is the aspiration to make Scotland the best place in the world to bring up children. It is a joint document, made up of the views of the Government, organisations that work with families and parents themselves. Now, we all need to act together to make sure it becomes a reality.”

The commitment to improve family support is one of over 80 commitments, and is backed by £18 million from the Government's Early Years Change Fund announced recently by the First Minister for local authorities to develop community based family support programmes.

The strategy was shaped by a widespread, informal consultation involving a wide range of practitioners, and over 1,500 people with a parenting role. Covering every local authority area, it included input from lone parents, grandparents, service families, parents affected by issues such as substance misuse and prison and families from black and ethnic minority and travelling communities. ■

You can download the full strategy www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications

Parenting programmes should be socially inclusive according to a new framework document

Parenting programmes should be socially inclusive according to a new framework document published by the British Psychological Society's latest report.

Although evidence-based parenting programmes work, and governments are adopting them as universal child mental health measures, practitioners have found that without adapting programmes to be socially inclusive, they do not attract and retain parents who face a range of social hurdles.

The Society's Technique Is Not Enough (TINE) framework is designed to ensure effective parenting programmes engage those most likely to benefit: parents on low incomes who are marginalised and socially excluded. It states that if all local programmes adopted this framework participation rates could increase dramatically.

Fabian Davis, Chair of the British Psychological Society's Social Inclusion group explained: "Parenting programmes enhance parent-child bonding, reduce parental mental ill-health and lessen the chances of children growing up with behavioural problems or worse. We recommend programmes use a range of psychosocial approaches to increase inclusion by involving culturally congruent parent "graduates" in the recruitment and retention of parents. When parents who have already benefited from the programme are involved in delivering the programme to others, it really helps. Parents should also be involved in adapting programmes' content and learning styles to sensitively match participating parents' cultural backgrounds as well as quality control and evaluation."

The TINE framework describes how programme developers can invest in local parents and practitioners so their parenting programme can become an integral part of education and social care. Genuine co-production between programme developers and local parents, working alongside teachers, health and social care practitioners, can drive effective inclusion. TINE challenges developers to identify the essential ingredients from their current parenting programmes and to clarify what can be adapted to meet local parents' socio-cultural needs, whilst avoiding adaptations that dilute effectiveness.

The document evolved from joint work with families and teachers from an existing programme in an alliance including community health, psychologists, family therapists, social workers and children's rights professionals. The framework is illustrated with examples from 11 UN recommended programmes.

TINE was published in association with a range of organisations including Middlesex University, Save the Children UK, The Social Research Unit, Dartington, The Inclusion Institute, The British Association of Art Therapists and Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust. It aims to ensure that the current interest in parenting programmes translates into co-produced classes that benefit the very parents who most need them. ■

Read the full report: www.bps.org.uk

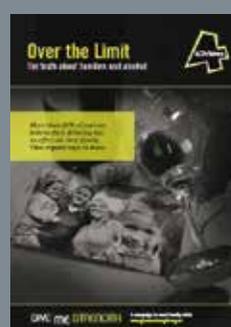


Silent Voices: Supporting Children and Young People Affected by Parental Alcohol Misuse

By the Children's Commissioner, September 2012

The report looks at the experiences of children affected by parental alcohol misuse and the wider related issues such as unemployment, domestic violence, and mental health. It also looks

at the protective factors including how these are being delivered by current services and the policy changes that might need to be made to improve these.



Over the Limit: The Truth about Families and Alcohol

By 4Children, 2012

Over the Limit: The Truth about Families and Alcohol, warns of a silent epidemic of alcohol misuse by British families. The report warns that too many parents remain oblivious to the negative effects that alcohol can have on

their parenting. An alarming 19% believe alcohol has a positive effect on their parenting ability and 62% of parents say that their drinking behaviour has no impact on their family at all.

Attachment in Common Sense and Doodles: A Practical Guide

By Miriam Silver

An informal introduction to attachment and what it means for understanding and helping children who have experienced trauma, neglect or abuse. Doodles featuring throughout the book bring the ideas to life - ideal for parents or professionals caring for fostered, adopted and looked after children.

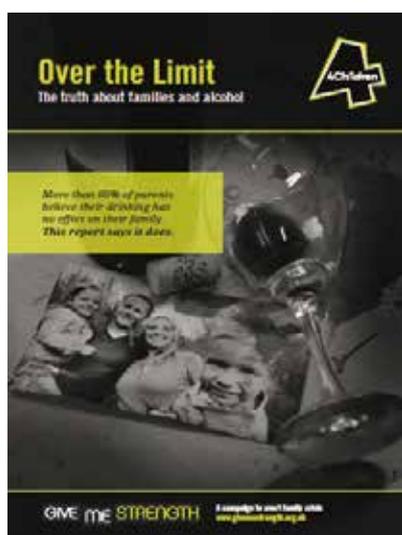
Published: Jessica Kingsley
February 2013, Paperback: £12.99

Child and Family Social Work

A special issue of Child and Family Social Work has been made freely available online until 31 December 2012.

The issue focuses on parental engagement with services when children may be at risk and contains 15 articles on this topic.

Volume 17, Issue 2, pages 115–117, May 2012



New report from 4Children says parents' drinking habits have an effect on their children: Over the Limit: The Truth about Families and Alcohol

Over the Limit: The Truth about Families and Alcohol, warns of a silent epidemic of alcohol misuse by British families. As a society we seem most concerned with underage and binge drinking but research set out in this report shows that as a society we should be equally concerned about the impact alcohol has in our homes and in our families. The report by 4Children finds that a significant minority of new parents are increasing their alcohol intake soon after the birth of their children; drinking every day; and as a result experiencing conflict within their relationships. Perhaps most surprisingly, 62% of parents believe that their drinking behaviour has no effect on their family.

The report also highlights particular concern about the level of drinking amongst new parents. 4Children's ComRes survey found that 17% of parents maintained their intake of alcohol upon discovering they were pregnant, including 5% of mothers – which we estimate to be more than 220,000 every year, 35,000 of them mothers, when extrapolated from ONS figures. Further, the poll found that after the birth of their first child, 23% of parents continues to drink as much as before their baby was born, and 17% say they increased the amount they consumed – which the report has calculated exposes 280,000 babies to potential harm every year.

4Children's research for this report, carried out by ComRes, found that 17% of parents – more than 220,000 every year – continued to drink the same amount upon discovering they were expecting their first child, while 5% of

mothers increased the amount they drank (35,000). Further, the report finds that after the birth of their first child 23% of parents continued to drink as much as before their baby was born, and 17% say they increased the amount they consumed.

Households found most likely to drink were the wealthiest – with almost four times as many families in social group AB drinking every day, when compared to the poorest families in social group DE. Also, fathers are more than three times as likely as mothers to drink every day, and more than twice as likely as mothers to have tried illegal drugs ever.

Although as the report points out it has to assume that the majority of these parents will not be collapsing drunk on the streets, or using class A drugs in doorways, the impact of parental drinking on children can still be profound. Parenting capacity can be adversely affected, and quality interactions with the youngest children disrupted, by parents who merely drank socially, or finished a bottle of wine over dinner.

4Children is concerned that too often this results from a profound lack of awareness amongst parents of the damage that hazardous drinking can do to their families. The report found that at key transition points in parents' lives – particularly around the birth of their children – services and information provision focussing on alcohol and substance abuse were inadequate. Though almost all mothers report being asked about their drinking or drug use during their pregnancy, little or no emphasis is placed on the impact that alcohol can have after the baby is born; except as it pertains to breastfeeding - with fathers receiving virtually no information about the impact that drinking could have on their children.

4Children believes that in order to ensure that families across Britain are able to cherish their children and enjoy

every moment of those crucial early weeks and months it is vital that services, society and the alcohol industry work together to ensure that no parent is oblivious to the risks and impacts hazardous drinking can have on their family and that when things do go wrong, appropriate support is made available before problems become crises.

The report warns of the stark reality of life for families where drinking has reached hazardous levels and is calling for a series of wide ranging reforms including a commitment from the alcohol industry to recognise their responsibility to the wellbeing of consumers by diverting 1% of revenue to fund a new alcohol awareness campaign aimed at families. ■

Some of the key findings the report highlights are:

- 22% of children live with a parent who drinks hazardously
- 6% of children (around 700,000 across the country) live with a dependent drinker
- 62% of children who were subject to care proceedings were from families with parental alcohol misuse
- More than a third of all domestic violence cases involve alcohol

Read the full report at www.4Children.org.uk

Frank Field MP to give exclusive insight into plans to pilot poverty and life chances recommendations at our Annual Conference

In December 2010 the Rt Hon Frank Field MP published an Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances to the Government. The report was warmly welcomed by David Cameron as “marking a vital moment in the history of our efforts to tackle poverty and disadvantage”.

The review made several recommendations including improving parenting skills which has been acted upon by the Government through the CANparent trial taking place in Camden, High Peak in Derbyshire and also Middlesbrough. However, Mr Field says that the Government has shown little interest in following up the Review’s key recommendation, despite the interlinked social ills of child poverty and lack of social mobility being high on the political agenda.

As a result of the Government not acting on the recommendations made in his report, Mr Field has set up his own charity to pilot the recommendations in his local constituency in Birkenhead.

As Mr Field set out in a recent article on his website, the current poverty measure, which defines a family as being in poverty if its income is less than 60% of the median household income that year is an approach which has incentivised a strategy that is heavily focused on reducing child poverty rates in the short term through income transfers.

Mr Field argues that the evidence shows that increasing household income does not automatically protect poorer children against the high risk that they will end up in poverty themselves as adults. There needs to be a broader approach to tackling child poverty which focuses on improving the life chances of poor children which links directly to social mobility.

The Government’s strategy to improve social mobility has a substantial focus on schools which Mr Field argues again ignores the evidence.

Mr Field says, “By age three there are significant ability differences between children from lower and higher income families. These gaps persist throughout childhood, widening during school years (especially after age 11).

“The good news is that high quality interventions and effective policies that begin much earlier than the first day of school really can make a difference.

“The Review I conducted set out a strategy to prevent this ability gap between richer and poorer children emerging in the first place. The evidence that children’s life chances are most heavily predicated on their

development in the first five years of life informed the proposal to establish a new set of ‘Life Chances Indicators’ to run alongside the Government’s existing child poverty measures.

“These new Indicators offer the possibility of measuring how successful we are as a country in making life’s outcomes for all children more equal. I also recommended that the Government establish the Foundation Years as a new pillar in our education system. The Foundation Years would coalesce all under fives services making them more effective and self-reinforcing.”

Mr Field has established a new charity – the Foundation Years Trust – in his Birkenhead constituency to pilot the Review’s proposals. The Council Leader, Councillor Phil Davies, is backing the project. You can hear an exclusive speech about this pilot at our annual conference on 15 November. See our website for details of how to book. ■

Recommended Measures

- Cognitive development at age three - Language and communication development, problem solving skills and school readiness
- Behavioural, social and emotional development at age three - Emotional health, behavioural and conduct problems, hyperactivity, peer relationships and positive behaviour
- Physical development at age three - Body mass index (BMI) and general health of child
- Home learning environment - Activities that parents undertake with their child(ren) which have a positive effect on their development, such as reading with their child, teaching songs and nursery rhymes, painting and drawing, playing with letters and numbers, visiting the library, teaching the alphabet and numbers, and creating regular opportunities for them to play with their friends at home
- Maternal mental health - General measure of mental health that enables identification of significant levels of distress or impaired function

associated with common mental disorders, such as anxiety and depression

- Positive parenting - Warmth of parent-child relationship (including parent’s affection, praise and empathy with their child as well as child’s openness, affection and feeling towards parent) and control of parent over child (including parental discipline and the extent to which the child obeys parental requests)
- Mother’s educational qualifications - Educational, school, vocational or other qualifications
- Mother’s age at birth of first child
- Quality of nursery care - Quality of nursery care centres covering: aspects of the setting (both facilities and human resources); the educational and care process which children experience every day; and the outcomes or the longer term consequences of the education and care the child receives.

Taken from Review of Poverty and Life Chances, 2010

Complex Safeguarding Cases: working with risk and some of the psychotic illnesses

Date: 15 December, London

Provider: AIMH UK

Booking: www.aimh.org.uk

Dr Amanda Jones and AIMH UK are committed to giving an annual workshop to facilitate ongoing thinking about this very difficult and painful dimension of perinatal practice.

Working with Difficult to Engage Families

Date: 3 November, London

Provider: Tradewind

Booking:

<http://epidm.edgesuite.net/RBI/socialcare/SCEUP/DifficulttoEngageFamilies.pdf>

[DifficulttoEngageFamilies.pdf](http://epidm.edgesuite.net/RBI/socialcare/SCEUP/DifficulttoEngageFamilies.pdf)

This course will look at the reasons that families are difficult to engage, how lack of engagement affects assessments and most importantly will equip participants with a range of strategies for working with and responding to these behaviours.

Bringing prisoners' families awareness training to the workforce

Date: 15 November, West Midlands

Provider: Action for Prisoners' Families

Booking: www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk

Did you know 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison every year and more children are affected by parental imprisonment than by divorce.

This half-day event will:

- Explain what Hidden Sentence training is and its role in workforce development
- Demonstrate Hidden Sentence training exercises
- Discuss the various training options and accreditation process
- Showcase successful delivery models

Trauma: The Child, The Family and The Worker

Date: 26 October, London

Provider: The Tavistock and Portman

Booking:

www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk

Children and their families are often referred following traumatic events. These events resonate through the family, and workers themselves can feel traumatised by constant exposure to clients' distress. This day will be of interest to all professionals working with children and their families.

CPD courses on Research with Children and Young People

Date: 2013, Edinburgh

Provider: The Centre for Research on Families and Relationships

Booking: www.crf.ac.uk/cpd/cpdindex.html

CRFR now has three CPD courses on research with children and young people, building on many years of delivering the successful 'Listening to Children' course. The courses are highly participative and aim to draw on participants' experience.

Care for the Family: Working with Parents

Date: Glasgow (November 12&13)

Birmingham (November 27&28)

Birmingham (March 6&7)

Cardiff (March 13&14)

Booking: www.careforthefamily.org.uk

2 day non residential training module.

Those attending will gain an understanding of the importance of the parent/child relationship, including attachment theory, parenting styles and managing behaviour. They will also understand key principles of working with parents either in groups or in a one to one supportive role. For module content see website. This includes lunch and refreshments on both days, comprehensive course handbook and a copy of a facilitator's manual from our Core range of courses.

Drug Proof your Kids

Date: 19 March, Birmingham

Time Out for Parents - Children with Special Needs

Date: 28 November, Glasgow; 29

November, Birmingham; 21 March,

Cardiff

Time Out for Parents - The Early Years

Date: 7 November, Birmingham;

7 February, Scotland

We offer optional accreditation through the Open College Network at Level 3.

Facilitating Groups - 2 day non residential training module

Those attending will gain an understanding of the key theories and skills, and will be confident, to work with adult groups in formal or informal settings. For module content see website.

Statutory rate: £295.00 inc VAT/

Voluntary sector/individual: £225.00 inc

VAT/OCN accreditation fee (optional) £120.00

The fee includes lunch and refreshments on both days and a comprehensive course handbook.

Autumn Term 2012 Venues – Glasgow (Sept 17&18), Birmingham (October 17&18)

Spring Term 2013 Venues – Birmingham (January 15&16) Cardiff (January 23 & 24)

Using Solution Focused Approaches & Mindfulness

Date: 28th February 2013

Provider: Eileen Murphy Consultants with Mindfulness Workshop from Dr Danny Penman (best-selling author of Mindfulness - Finding Peace In A Frantic World)

£180 including Lunch (Parenting UK Members Discounted rate: £150)

www.brief-therapy-uk.com

This training event provides real Solution Focused resources and skills for those working in Parenting, Social Care, Mental Health, Education and Recovery. Delegates will be equipped with the skills to maintain a curious mindset about the experience and self-knowledge of the individual, the real expert on what works and what doesn't work for them, that will help workers to map out a journey for change and recovery.

Dr Danny Penman, the award winning journalist will provide a rare opportunity to experience "the chocolate meditation" Mindfulness exercise.

If you run training courses make sure you add them to our website. Just go to www.parentinguk.org and click on 'Your work - training directory' and you can add the courses yourself.

To see more courses available, just visit Parenting UK's website: www.parentinguk.org

Please note that inclusion of courses here does not imply endorsement.

The Wirral – Children’s Services

Wirral Council is inviting applications for the provision of childrens services. This commissioning will build on commissioning of services funded by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). Services are being commissioned for the following priority areas in 2013-14:

- PA1 - Family Support and Parenting.
- PA2 - Short Breaks for Disabled Children.
- PA3 - Youth Challenge.
- PA4 - Statutory Children’s Services.
- PA5 - Intensive Family Intervention Programme.

Each of the five priority areas have a number of individual service areas which providers can bid for separately.

Deadline: 9th November
www.the-chest.org.uk/

Stockport - Specialist Parenting Service

Stockport Council is inviting applications for the provision of a Specialist Parenting Service. The service will operate within the community, to enable parents to be supported with issues which impact on their ability to provide adequate care and guidance for their child or children. The Service Provider will play a key role in supporting the Local Authority to develop a Parenting Strategy and should support the workforce, particularly the Early Help and Prevention Service in developing and enhancing their skills. Interested parties are advised to contact the awarding authority for further information.

Deadline: 12 November
www.stockport.gov.uk/

Mothercare Group Foundation Grant

The scheme is intended to support charities undertaking projects in the following areas:

- Ensuring the good health and well-being of expecting mothers, new mothers and their children.
- Special needs of babies and premature babies.
- Parenting initiatives for family well-being.

www.mothercareplc.com/charity

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation

The Foundation administers a variety of funds which aim to support not-for-profit voluntary and community groups in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Support is available under the following Programmes: children, young people and families; adults facing life crisis; the natural environment; community development and engagement; and health.

Expression of interest forms may be submitted at any time, to be considered at the next panel meeting. Most panel meetings are held on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October.

For further information, please contact Enquiries, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, The Quorum, Barnwell Road, Cambridge, CB5 8RE. Telephone: 01223 410535

Nottinghamshire - Adult and Community Learning Service

The Adult and Community Learning Service (ACLS) Grants are administered in Nottinghamshire by Nottinghamshire County Council in partnership with the Skills Funding Agency. Funding is intended to deliver learning opportunities to adults who are residents of Nottinghamshire.

Any community or voluntary organisation, training provider, primary care trust, school, sure start children’s centre or Nottinghamshire local or district authority may apply.
<http://www.nottsacslmoodle.net/course/view.php?id=67>

Francis C Scott Charitable Trust

The Francis C Scott Charitable Trust is for charities active in Cumbria and North Lancashire. The Francis C Scott Charitable Trust is intended to support groups who work within deprived rural and urban areas, to help with the needs of children up to the age of 21 years.

Applications for grants below £4,000 can be made at any time and are reviewed on a monthly basis. For grants of over

£4,000, applications should be submitted at least a month before the next Trustees’ meeting.
www.fcsct.org.uk/

St Monica Trust Community Fund

The Trust provides gifts and short-term grants for individuals and families in financial hardship that have a physical disability, or long-term physical health problem in Bristol or the surrounding area.

www.stmonicatrust.org.uk/what-we-do/community-fund

Where to find funding

You can find further information about funding on the Parenting UK website. The following provide general guidance and information on funding:

Association of Charitable Foundations – www.acf.org.uk
 Charities Aid Foundation – www.cafonline.org
 Charities Information Bureau – www.fit4funding.org.uk
 Directory of Social Change – www.dsc.org.uk
 Funderfinder – www.funderfinder.org.uk
 Grants 4 Funding Portals – www.grants4.info/portal/index.

November

Children in Scotland's Annual Conference

Date: 01 November 2012

Venue Dunfermline

www.childreninscotland.org

The Children in Scotland Annual Conference brings together professionals, policy makers and experts from across the children's services sector in Scotland and abroad to debate the way ahead, and consider how the sector can achieve its aim of better childhoods for all children.

Getting to grips with child and family policy in Wales

Date: 13 November

Location: Llandudno

Booking: www.childreninwales.org.uk

This course is designed for managers and practitioners who wish to gain a clearer understanding of how their organisation, and key areas of work, fit into the main policy areas concerning children, young people and families in Wales. Participants will learn about distinct Welsh policies that influence both national and local planning and relevant funding streams. There will be opportunities to share practice and network with others.

Parenting UK Annual Conference Parenting and the recession - exploring how economic disadvantage affects parenting style and child outcomes

Date: 15 November 2012

Location: MWB, 10 Grey Coat Place, London SW1P 1SB

This conference will discuss strategic and practical solutions for supporting parents during recession and reducing the impact on parenting style. The afternoon will also include practical sessions on ensuring practitioners understand the impact of the recession on parents; proving what you do works to help survive the recession and other helpful topics. The day will close with Parenting Question Time where delegates can ask the panel about the important parenting topics of the day.

The Rt Hon Frank Field MP will be offering an exclusive insight at Parenting UK's annual conference into his plans to

pilot the recommendations set out in his report on poverty and life chances in his Birkenhead constituency. The Review conducted by Mr Field on behalf of the Government set out a strategy to prevent the gap between richer and poorer children emerging, recognising that children's life chances are most heavily predicated on their development in the first five years of life. The Review proposed using new indicators of life chances to run alongside existing child poverty measures, however the Government has not taken up these recommendations.

The value and use of cohort studies for social investigation and policy making

Date: 20 November 2012

Venue: Institute of Education, London

Booking: <http://cls.ioe.ac.uk/>

This conference aims to showcase research on cohort data examining various aspects of the lifecourse - including health and wellbeing, education, families and parenting, employment and earnings, poverty and survey methodology. It will provide the opportunity for researchers, academics and policy makers, interested in life course research, to come together and share ideas.

Every baby matters... international infant mental health conference

Date: 27 November 2012

Venue: Edinburgh

Booking: www.mellowparenting.org

Mellow Parenting's Biennial Infant Mental Health conference has been set for Tuesday 27th November 2012 and will take place in the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Confirmed Speakers so far include Professor Vivette Glover, Professor Jane Barlow, Professor Stephen Scott, Professor Antony Cox, Professor Phil Wilson, Dr Christine Puckering, Mr James Fergie. For further information please contact the Mellow Parenting Office.

Every word matters: Communication and language from the very beginning

Date: 30 November 2012

Location: London

Organiser: National Literacy Trust

This November's Talk To Your Baby conference looks at pre-birth to the end of the foundation years, with a particular focus on the way in which attachment, communication and language promote positive futures two-year-olds.

December

Innovations in Approaches to Domestic Violence and Abuse: Moving Practice Forward

Date: 10 December

Location: London

Booking: www.baspcan.org.uk/events-national.php

This conference focuses on learning from recent research, serious case reviews and innovative practice developments. It looks at Domestic Abuse from each family member perspective, including fathers, enhancing insight and seeking new ways to work with an old problem that we know cause short and long-term harm to children, physically and emotionally.

Please let us know about any events you are running about parenting and families by emailing us at info@parentinguk.org

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

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