



News and resources to help you in the year ahead

An update from CANparent

An introduction to Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families

Find events, training and conferences in your area

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We welcome your comments on and contributions to our News Bulletin. Please address any correspondence to the editor, David Carrington: davidc@familylives.org.uk

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CANparent: moving forward

by Paul Williams
Programme Lead - CANparent

The CANparent Trial and Market Development programmes, currently supported by Department of Health, finish at the end of March 2015. The CANparent Trial (in Camden, Middlesbrough, High Peak and Bristol) was to examine the development of a universal, preventative offer of parenting classes potentially to all parents of children aged 0-5 years.

The aim of the trial was to evaluate whether the free provision of parenting classes would provide sufficient incentive to providers to start offering additional parenting classes nationally, including for parents beyond the foundation stage and whether a universal approach could normalise and de-stigmatise parenting classes.

In 2013 we saw the launch of the CANparent Market Development programme, which introduced a Quality Mark for providers of universal parenting classes, rolled out a two year long business support project and a yearlong campaign to engage parents and potential commissioners and purchasers of the value of parenting classes.

CANparent will not end, though. The format and focus will shift slightly and the parenting sector will be pleased

to know that the Quality Mark will remain, as will a focus on engaging commissioners and purchasers. Parents, commissioners, purchasers and employers can still visit www.canparent.org.uk to find universal parenting classes that have received the CANparent Quality Mark.

Listed below are some of the activities that are taking place over the next few months:

Quality Mark

We now have a growing number of providers who have attained our Quality Mark. The Quality Mark enables providers to demonstrate that their class makes a positive difference to parents. It's a sign for commissioners and parents alike that they can be confident that what they are attending will benefit their families.

Assessment of programmes will be an ongoing process (currently) and will continue from April 2015 when a charge for assessment will be introduced at some stage during the year.

To register for assessment, please visit: www.canparent.org.uk/providers

We are also working closely the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) about how the CANparent Quality Mark can feed into the EIF Guidebook.

This will also give the providers awarded the Quality Mark further proof that their programme makes a positive difference to parents.

CANparent: a celebration

To celebrate the CANparent trial and wider Quality Mark programme we have arranged an afternoon tea event to help us look at the great progress we have made since 2012 and in the last year since launching the CANparent Quality Mark.

The event is open to anyone who has been involved in the CANparent programme and will be held on Tuesday 24th February 2015.

The event will look back at CANparent's successes over the last few years and look forward to the next exciting phase of making a positive difference to parents and families.

We are also delighted to welcome Dr Daniel Poulter MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health to the event, where people can:

- Hear representatives from the Government and the parenting sector discuss the impact of CANparent so far and going forward
- Meet facilitators of CANparent business support workshops and some of our partners in the marketing campaign
- Network with fellow providers and stakeholders
- Find out how the CANparent Quality Mark supports organisations working with parents

The event will run from 2:30pm – 5:30pm at Church House Conference Centre, Westminster, London.

To confirm your place, please visit:
<http://www.parentinguk.org/events/canparent-a-celebration/2015-02-24/>

Brokerage

We will be holding key commissioner engagement events in:

Birmingham (4th March)

Leeds (18th March)

London (31st March)

These events will give providers who hold the Quality Mark the opportunity to pitch their programme to potential customers.

We are inviting large corporate organisations, schools, children's centres sports clubs, GP surgeries, Local Authority and public Health Commissioners.

We are planning to run a number of similar events over the next year.

For more information about these events and to book your place please get in touch with Emily Lee:
emilyl@familylives.org.uk



Welcome to Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families

by Luke Evans

Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families

In October 2014 the charity Action for Prisoners' Families (APF) merged with Family Lives to build on Family Lives' work with the families of prisoners and offenders.

To mark its new position the organisation has been renamed Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families.

Action for Prisoners' Families was formed in 1990 to act as the umbrella organisation for family welfare services such as prison visitors' centres working with the families of prisoners in each prison.

APF quickly began to influence the national debate on prisons policy and the Woolf Report published in 1991 stressed the importance for prisoners of maintaining family contact and the value of visitors' centres. Visitors' centres are generally located outside the prison and provide a non-judgemental welcome, refreshments and welfare services for families visiting their loved ones in the prison.

Over the years, due to the influence of APF and others, prisons have become more family friendly with visitors' centres in almost all prisons, play areas for children in many visiting halls and the availability of extended family visits. The role of families in supporting prisoners whilst they are in prison and on release has been recognised by government.

At the same times policy measures such as guaranteeing prisoners access to payphones to stay in contact with their families and the Assisted Prison Visits Unit which reimburses the travel costs of visitors on benefits have made it easier for families and prisoners to stay in touch.

As well as influencing policy APF developed the highly successful Hidden Sentence training for professionals such as teachers, social workers, nurses and police officers who come into contact with prisoners' families in the course of their work. It also published a range of publications, both books and leaflets, providing guidance and support to the children, parents and partners of prisoners and for professionals.

In addition the organisation sought to bring together staff in family welfare services to promote good practice and provide a network for prisoners' families and professionals to work together.

Today the work of the charity is still needed. In recent years the prison population has expanded so that now an estimated 200,000 children across England and Wales have a parent in prison during the course of the year.



Increasingly prisoners are being held far from their homes which results in families having to travel further to visit prisons whilst at the same time cut-backs and pressure of numbers mean that families are worried about their family members' welfare.

In 2014 the government selected APF and Family Lives to provide the national helpline for prisoners' and offenders' families and the two organisations started working together sharing expertise.

As part of Family Lives we continue to provide Hidden Sentence training accredited by City and Guilds to level 3, distribute publications and raise the issues faced by prisoners' families.

We send out regular email bulletins and reflect the voice of prisoners' families in public policy work and the media. Our work is influenced by our network of over 2,000 professionals and prisoners' families as well as specialist reference groups made up of researchers, service providers and, most important of all, prisoners' families.

To find out more about our work see our website www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk or follow us on Twitter: @prisonerfamily.

Resources and Publications

Go to www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk to access a wide variety of resources to help families affected by imprisonment.



Focus on Teenagers event raises questions about adolescent development

We were very pleased to welcome our members and special guests to the Focus on Teenagers event, held in October of last year at the House of Commons. The event was kindly sponsored by Tim Loughton MP.

Discussions ranged from the impact of pornography on young minds, how to address the emotional needs of teenagers, how parents could understand the way teenagers interact with each other, and how compulsory PSHE could help towards a healthier adolescence.

It was agreed that all bodies and practitioners needed to ensure that steps were being taken to meet the emotional needs of teenagers, particularly in regards to pornography. It was agreed that a multi-faceted approach needed to be undertaken, addressing the technology, the industry, current PSHE outcomes, and the overall needs of parents and young people.

It was also noted that parents often felt disrespected by their teenagers, to the extent that discussing a subject such as pornography could be very difficult for all parties involved. Media literacy for teens and parents was a major point of discussion, insofar as parents needing to feel capable of answering their teen's technical questions, and also understanding how their teens navigate and communicate within digital spaces.

Of course, digital spaces are full of altered images, messages and myths – something which any person could find difficult to process logically. It was felt that teenagers could learn about representations in the media this as part of an inclusive PSHE and life skills curriculum.



Led by the PSHE Association, there has been much progress on the issue. The association have found their views shared by numerous charities, organisations and public bodies. In this election year the association will be stepping up their campaign with the aim of making PSHE a statutory part of the national curriculum.

To follow the latest developments, please visit: www.pshe-association.org.uk

We hope to hold a follow-up event sometime in the Spring, so please check the Parenting UK website to keep up to date.

Workplace Bullying Webinar now available via Family Lives YouTube channel

In early February Family Lives hosted a live Q&A webinar about workplace bullying. The webinar was recorded and the video has now been uploaded to the Family Lives YouTube channel.

To view the video go to www.familylives.org.uk and click on the YouTube logo.

We know that many people suffer in the workplace on a day to day basis so if you are experiencing any workplace bullying issues then you may wish to view this webinar.

The webinar may also be of use to the parents you work with. Please inform them of this resource if you feel they are impacted by these issues.

The webinar is ideal for those who may be confused as to what constitutes workplace bullying and how they can recognise it. The webinar is also useful to those who can see workplace bullying happening at their workplace and want to learn how to tackle it effectively.

On our panel we had Deborah Casale of law firm Slater & Gordon, and Suzie Hayman, a Trustee for Family Lives, counsellor and parenting educator.

They answered numerous questions and offered guidance and support to those affected by workplace bullying and its emotional effects.

Thank you.

Are you recruiting?

Advertise your vacancy on our website to reach the best person for the job. Parenting UK members get a discount on advertising fees.

Email your job to info@parentinguk.org

Only £50 (excl.VAT) for two weeks

Barnardo's announces launch of major prisoner family support scheme

Leading children's charity Barnardo's has announced the launch of its nationwide community programme to improve support for children who have a parent in prison.

Barnardo's worked with local agencies in three areas: Bristol, the Isle of Wight and south east Wales. The programme raised professionals' awareness of the needs of families where children had a parent or carer in prison or serving a community sentence.

Outcomes from these pilot projects were positive, and those who took part reported improvements in their family lives, as stated in the report:

- Nine out of 10 families who wanted to improve contact between the offending parent and their child said the scheme achieved this. Research shows such contact helps cut re-offending
- 75 per cent said they had better access to support as a result
- 74 per cent of parents said stress had been reduced.
- All felt relieved at having someone to speak to freely without being judged

The evaluation of the pilot was joint funded by the National Offender Management Service.

Barnardo's Chief Executive, Javed Khan says:

"We know that children who have family members in prison are some of the most overlooked and isolated in the UK. The disruption and distress this causes when growing up can ruin their life chances. Barnardo's is committed to giving these children continued support."

"We are finding new ways of working that improve and build relations between offenders and their families and helping to embed this thinking within the new probation service for England."

The scheme is in line with the Government's 'Transforming Rehabilitation' policy which emphasises the importance of the resettlement of offenders within their communities to reduce the rate of recidivism. The Government has stated that the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Companies need to ensure that the operating frameworks in place give sufficient priority to supporting offenders to maintain or build relationships with their children and families.

Following the successful evaluation, Barnardo's plans to roll out further community support programmes for offenders' families across the UK in the next two years.

The full report and summary can be read here: www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/policy_research_unit/research_and_publications/working-with-offenders-families/publication-view.jsp?pid=PUB-2400

Support programme for families improves children's behaviour, study finds

Improving Futures, a Big Lottery Fund funded programme for families with multiple and complex needs, is helping to improve parenting skills and reduce behavioural problems in children according to the latest evaluation report.

Launched in 2011, the programme has found that issues faced by families in the 26 initial pilot projects had fallen by around a quarter, and the number of strengths before and after support had risen from 9 to 15.

Overall, 3,902 families benefited from a diverse range of provision, such as basing professionals in schools and GP services, providing a single point of contact for families to liaise with, and in bringing together professionals with diverse specialities to ensure that families benefited from the best support available.

Key findings of the programme are:

- A 49% reduction in children with persistent, disruptive and violent behaviour
- A 35% fall in levels of parental anxiety and frustration
- A 53% increase in participation in family activities
- An average of 34 hours of support was utilised by each participating family

A key success of the programme was finding that parents felt they had made significant and positive changes to their households, and that the support empowered them to address problems that arose within their homes.

Interestingly, families who qualified for free school meals benefited highly from being involved in the programme. These families exhibited signs of improved daily routines, such as regular bedtimes, mealtimes and robust school routines.

Unfortunately the range of projects had little bearing in reducing levels of mental health problems and adult smoking.

Also, the prevalence of those with no formal school qualifications did not decrease over the course of the programme.

The evaluation and learning was carried out by Parenting UK, Ipsos MORI, Ecorys UK and the University of Nottingham.

The full report can be read here: www.improvingfutures.org/downloads/ImprovingFutures-Yr%202%20Report_Summary%20Report_FINAL.pdf



Families with children face higher risk of living expense shortfall

A new study from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has found that families with children face a higher risk of having an income below the Minimum Income Standard.

The Minimum Income Standard defines an 'adequate' income based on what the public think people need for a minimum acceptable living standard. For example, of the 9.3 million individuals living in couple working-age households without children in the UK, 1.6 million lacked the income required for an adequate standard of living in 2012/13. This was 17 per cent of couple working-age households, up from 10 per cent in 2008/09.

A key finding of the report was that pensioners and couples without children remain the most likely to have an adequate income. However, a growing proportion of couples without children are finding themselves on an income that is just adequate rather than being well above the minimum required.

The full summary and report can be found here: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications>

National Youth Agency launches booster fund for employability projects across the UK

Supported by funding from Barclays, the National Youth Agency is investing £1 million into the youth sector, delivering employability and life skills training for up to 100,000 disadvantaged young people aged 14-25 between January and December 2015.

The National Youth Agency is working directly with a number of organisations across the UK to add value to existing employability projects, providing youth work deliverers with the flexibility to meet the specific, local needs of the young people they work with. The Employability Support Programme will enable youth workers to give dedicated, tailored support to their young people and help them explore routes to employment.

Parents and early years providers must be expected to do more to combat child poverty, commission says

In its December 2014 report 'How the key players outside central government can tackle child poverty and promote social mobility', the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission has stated that more must be done to help children escape poverty.

- Early years providers should also engage with parents to build relationships of trust and an understanding of the needs of each family.
- Early years providers should seek to form closer relationships with schools to agree what school readiness

looks like for their children.

- Parents and other primary carers should be supported in developing the necessary skills to provide a positive home/classroom based learning environment where a child's emotional, mental and physical development is promoted

The full report can be read here:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/391765/Advice_to_Ministers_-_other_actors.pdf

New parenting inquiry launched by Social Mobility and Parents and Families APPGs

The All Party Parliamentary Groups for Social Mobility and Parents and Families have joined forces to launch a new inquiry into parenting support and social mobility.

The issue of social mobility is of growing importance across Britain. With inequalities rising, and the gap between rich and poor becoming more pronounced, the necessity for government to take steps to ensure that life chances are not inextricably tied to background has become more prominent.

With the general election fast approaching, both APPGs believe that now is the ideal time to investigate this important area and highlight the key issues to all political parties, and any future government.

The Inquiry is in direct response to feedback from the recent consultation on social mobility and parenting, led by the APPG for Social Mobility. With two detailed evidence sessions taking place over January and February 2015, the Inquiry will publish their final report and recommendations, and launch at a parliamentary reception, in March 2015.

Baroness Claire Tyler, Co-Chair of the APPG for Social Mobility said:

"I am delighted that this important issue is receiving the attention it so clearly deserves. Evidence shows that the role of parenting is fundamental in promoting social mobility, and it is important that we investigate how parenting support can be enhanced, and the supporting role that both government and other agencies can provide, especially in the current economic climate. By making this a joint inquiry, we will be able to draw on the skills and expertise in both of the all party groups and their wider networks, and build on the excellent work that has already been undertaken in this area."

Anand Shukla, Chief Executive of the Family and Childcare Trust added: "It is fantastic that the Family and Childcare Trust are playing an integral role in this inquiry. Having extensive experience of working with parents and families, we are in an ideal position to provide the necessary support and guidance in investigating this essential issue, and in arriving at much needed recommendations."

We are also proud to announce that Parenting UK has been asked to deliver evidence to the inquiry.

The Guardian investigates the state of children's mental health

The investigation into children's mental health is based on research that is 10 years old, the most recent set of available data.

Through infographics and wide-ranging research from leading bodies, the story summarises the current state of children's mental health and what support is and isn't available. One of the key findings was that while there is an increase in reported mental health problems in children, funding for charities and support systems is historically low.

It was also found that between 2014/15 and 2013/14 74 out of 96 NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups had frozen or cut their Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services budgets.

The full story can be read here: www.theguardian.com/society/christmas-charity-appeal-2014-blog/2015/jan/05/-sp-state-children-young-people-mental-health-today

Minister for School Reform answers questions on PSHE and SRE

In a wide-ranging discussion that ranged from resilience, safeguarding and development of character, Nick Gibb MP, the Minister of State for Schools, answered questions before a Commons Select Committee regarding the DfE's PSHE and SRE policies.

The discussion takes place at a time of increasing debate over whether PSHE should be made a statutory part of the national curriculum.

Mr Gibb stressed that PSHE was "a huge priority" and that good PSHE was "crucial to enable young people to cope with life in modern Britain and a demanding academic curriculum."

A full outline of the proceedings can be viewed on Parliament's website: www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/news/pshe-and-sre-4/

Families report mixed feelings on SEND reforms

The Department for Education's December 2014 report 'Special educational needs and disability pathfinder programme evaluation' reported that families felt varying levels of progress had been made.

Although families feel they are being listened to and included in regards to SEND reforms, they remain unconvinced that the policy has helped to improve the quality of life for children.

Families also reported frustrations with having to continually explain their child's needs to relevant authorities. Families also felt that perceptions of 'fairness' in the system had not improved.

A final report will be published in March of this year.

Decline in adoption placement orders causes concern across sector

A number of leading charities and consultancies have found that the number of granted adoption placement orders has fallen dramatically. This decline is blamed on instability in the adoption system and on a lack of clarity for the actions councils can take for children's placements.

A DfE spokesperson said: "We remain concerned about the continuing decrease in the number of children with an adoption decision, but are pleased that the Court of Appeal has re-affirmed that previous judgments did not change the law in relation to adoption, and councils must not shy away from pursuing adoption where this is in the best interests of children."

New research from the Family and Childcare Trust estimates that 335,000 families will fall through childcare support gap

The Family and Childcare Trust estimates that some 335,000 families could miss out on financial help to pay for childcare because of complexities in the new childcare support system.

The charity notes that while the Government has estimated that 50,000 families may be affected by the new system, the charity believes that the figures do not include the growing numbers of people who are self-employed or on zero hours contracts.

From 2016 families will benefit from four financial support systems directly related to childcare: tax credits, Universal Credit, employer-supported vouchers (which are currently in place) and the new tax free offer. In addition to these systems, families may also receive support from Job Centre Plus and Housing Benefit.

The charity is concerned that many families will not know which system is the right one for them to apply for, and have stated that the government's online calculator is not useful for families who have not yet moved to Universal Credit or those who still remain in employer-supported schemes. Another concern is that if families apply for a scheme unsuitable to their situation, the responsibility to switch schemes lies directly with them. This protocol could lead to families losing vital financial support.

Anand Shukla, chief executive at the Family and Childcare Trust said:

"With an increasing number of people in the workforce whose income changes week-by-week, it is clear that our childcare system is too complex and as a result, many working parents will miss out on the financial help they need."

The Family and Childcare Trust is calling on the Government to introduce a simple support system that is responsive to families' needs and recognises the reality of modern day working patterns.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies releases initial findings of the Millennium Cohort Study

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) at the UCL Institute of Education has released its initial findings regarding life for 11 year olds in the UK.

The study has collected a wealth of information from the exploration of a number of areas, such as: child behaviour,

cognitive development, health, schooling, housing and parents' employment and education.

Via www.cls.ioe.ac.uk, some of the key findings were:

- More than one in four (26%) children were living with a lone parent at age 11, while 12 per cent were in families that included a step-parent – Family Structure Report
- Parents' qualifications remain the most powerful predictor of cognitive development across the board – Child Cognitive Development Report
- Just over half of the 11-year-olds said they were hurt or picked on by other children – Child Wellbeing Report
- Nearly three quarters had their own mobile phone, a huge increase from the 15 per cent who had one at age 7 – Growing Up and Independence Report.

Brain scans find that 'executive functions' such as impulse control 'aren't fully operational during adolescence'

Academics and clinicians at the Harvard Medical School have presented an overview of findings on the subject of adolescent violence and mental illness.

The story details the speakers and presentations at a symposium titled: 'Mental Health and the Developing Brain in the Second Decade of Life'.

The first speaker at the symposium was a former gang member reflecting on his adolescence and the choices he made. He goes on to detail how he turned his life around with the help of an inner city outreach programme.

The story then goes on to cover the findings of a research group who were charged with examining the brains of adolescents through MRI scans, with further examinations into risk factors, concussions, and the nature of mental illness in the developed world.

To read more about the executive functions outlined in the study, please follow the link: developingchild.harvard.edu/key_concepts/executive_function/



Fathers and Families - In Practice Paper New Welsh Translation 2015

This is a guide for parenting practitioners to offer tips and support in engaging and working with fathers.

The document originated as a research paper for Parenting UK, written by Adrienne Burgess of the Fatherhood Institute and funded by what was then the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

This 2014 update has been produced as a learning document for Improving Futures, a UK-wide programme funded by The Big Lottery that aims to improve the lives of children growing up in families with multiple and complex needs.

The paper was updated in 2014 for the Improving Futures project and we hope with this new Welsh translation the paper will be of use to a wider range of practitioners.



Evaluation of Big Lottery Fund Improving Futures Programme Year 2 Evaluation Report: Summary 2014

Improving Futures, a Big Lottery Fund funded programme for families with multiple and complex needs, is helping to improve parenting skills and reduce behavioural problems in children according to the latest evaluation report.

Launched in 2011, the programme has found that issues faced by families in the 26 initial pilot projects had fallen by around a quarter, and the number of strengths before and after support had risen from 9 to 15.

This paper can be accessed via www.improvingfutures.org



Policy briefing – 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 2014

The Wales UNCR Monitoring Group has produced a briefing paper for the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Convention reached its 25th year on 20 November.

The UNCR is an international human rights treaty that sets out a comprehensive set of rights that children and young people are entitled to have upheld. Wales is the first country in the UK to have put the Convention into its domestic law, in the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

This paper can be accessed via www.childreninwales.org.uk

Parent Group Leader Nurturing Programme training in Oxford - train to deliver 10 week Parenting Puzzle groups

Provider: Family Links

Location and start dates:

South East - 17 Mar 2015

Course length: 4 days:

17, 18 & 24, 25 March

Price: £880

Qualification: Recognised as a Parent Group Leader and able to deliver Parenting Puzzle groups to parents

Contact: 01865 401800 or

lucy.willoughby@familylinks.org.uk

Our four day Parent Group Leader (PGL) training enables practitioners to lead 10 week parent groups with 8-12 parents guiding them through the Nurturing Programme.

Parent groups help parents understand their children's behaviour and the feelings that drive it. 8 out of 10 parents report an improvement in their children's behaviour and family life after attending a parent group.

Working 1-2-1 with Parents of At-risk Teenagers: 1-day Workshop on Using Take 3 in 1-2-1 Interventions

Provider: Take 3 Parenting

Location and start dates:

Oxford - 20 March 2015

Course length: 1 day

Price: £125

Contact: info@take3parenting.co.uk

1-day workshop for practitioners working 1-2-1 with parents of at-risk teenagers (participants are required to have already attended our 3-day standard accredited facilitator training).

Take 3 is a comprehensive, evidence-based programme that has been used successfully in different contexts, including youth justice and schools. This workshop looks in more depth at the ethos and contents of Take 3 and how to use the materials in individual work.

It will include reflections on the practitioner's use of Take 3 skills and strategies, engaging parents, working

with resistance and practising using Take 3 skills and strategies in challenging and diverse situations.

ESCAPE & Parallel Lines Facilitator Training

Provider: Training Together

Location: East of England

Start date: 17 March 2015

Course length: 3 days

Price: Contact to confirm

Qualification: Accreditation from Take 3 Parenting

Contact: Chris Duguid 07946484389

or email trainingtogether@hotmail.co.uk

Escape is an evidence-based parenting programme. User friendly and comprehensive,

it is very much in tune with the needs of both parents and facilitators. It offers a flexible framework for working with parents and young people to improve relationships and help them deal with problems and live together.

It is widely used with parents in the youth justice system, schools and the community. It promotes a problem-solving approach in helping parents establish a positive relationship with their teenagers.

The programme includes Parallel Lines, a companion programme for working with young people in conjunction with their parents.

Mellow Parenting: Going Mellow

Provider: Mellow Parenting

Location: London

Start date: 13 March 2015

Course length: 3 days

Price: £950

Contact: enquiries@mellowparenting.org

Mellow Parenting is a relationship based intervention which promotes positive parent-child interaction. Training in the core Mellow Parenting programme consists of a three day course which provides practitioners with a thorough background to the model and an understanding of how to run Mellow Parenting groups.

Participants will receive a Certificate

of Attendance to confirm they have attended the three day training, and will leave equipped with the knowledge to deliver Mellow Mums, Mellow Dads, Mellow Babies and Mellow Toddlers Groups within the new modular approach to Mellow Programmes.

Tuning in to Kids & Tuning in to Teens – Accredited Facilitator Training

Provider: Mindful Centre -

University of Melbourne (Australia)

Location: London

Start date: 27 May 2015

Course length: 2 days or 3 days

Price: £425 (2 days) / £690 (3 days)

Contact:

nicholas.wright@unimelb.edu.au

The Tuning in to Kids and Tuning in to Teens programs are emotion coaching-based parenting workshops usually delivered over six weeks to parents in a small group setting.

It is an interactive format that uses a mix of teaching methods including group discussion, role playing, and viewing examples of different styles of parenting (emotion dismissive/emotion coaching) on a DVD.

Facilitators use the program manual to plan their lessons, and the manual provides all the necessary handouts and media.

Both the Teens and Kids programs are evidence-based and were developed at the Mindful Centre, University of Melbourne, Australia.

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.

Department of Health - Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund 2015-16

Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396559/Information_Pack_2015_to_2016.pdf

The Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund is provided by the Department of Health. The scheme provides funding from one to three years to support proposals in the health and care field. To be successful, organisations will need to have a clear focus on how their proposals would support and drive forward new ideas, disseminate and replicate excellence or undertake strategic developments in voluntary sector capacity and/or capability in the health and care field.

Closing date: 13 March 2015

Fernhurst Trust

Website: <http://lgn1395234048.site-fusion.co.uk/home>

Grants are available to registered charities whose work at the heart of communities in North Yorkshire (including the City of York) provides sustainable benefit to young or unemployed people.

Grants range from £1,000 to £5,000.

Registered charities working at the heart of communities in North Yorkshire (including the City of York) can apply.

National charities may be considered for funding if their projects benefit communities in North Yorkshire.

Closing date: 17 April 2015

Assertive Community Outreach Service

Apply via: <http://tinyurl.com/oe5uoh4>

Opportunity Nottingham is a partnership of 18 statutory and third sector support agencies including Nottingham City Council and Nottingham CVS and led by homelessness charity Framework. Under

a Big Lottery Fund programme called Fulfilling Lives – Supporting People with Multiple Needs, the partnership will work with Nottingham citizens affected by at least three of the following issues:

- Homelessness.
- Substance misuse.
- Mental ill health.
- Re-offending.

In order to meet its aims the partnership is to commission services to deliver tailored support to people with multiple or complex needs. These services will aim to empower and enable beneficiaries to take control of their lives.

In order to both ensure that these individuals are identified and made known to Opportunity Nottingham and that appropriate community resources can be activated and accessed, the Assertive Community Outreach service will need to make strong links with BME led agencies, cultural and faith groups and women's organisations.

Applicants are advised that the successful bidder will enter into a contract with Framework Housing Association.

Closing date: 23 February 2015

CAN Invest - Early Intervention Fund

Apply via: can-invest.org.uk

The Early Intervention Fund is a new social investment (loan) fund that has been created by CAN Invest, the Social Investment Financial Intermediary arm of CAN, in partnership with UBS. The Fund will be managed by CAN Invest.

The Fund aims to assist young people and their families in East London who are facing a number of different issues such as poor education, unemployment, ill health, poverty and child development. The intention is to deal with these issues before they become serious problems and ultimately to help young people achieve their full potential in life.

The loan and business support will support VCSE organisations that are inexperienced in social lending and

seeking to expand their impact or to support them to a sustainable model.

CAN Invest defines 'early intervention' as "programmes that support targeted action to prevent social cost and personal harm for children and young people".

Closing date: Ongoing

Freemasons of Derbyshire Grassroots Fund

Website: <http://www.foundationderbyshire.org/>

Grants are available to charities, voluntary and community groups for projects and activities that support community life and tackle disadvantage across Derby and Derbyshire.

Closing date: Ongoing

Church Urban Fund - Together Grants

Website: <http://www.cuf.org.uk/about-us/regional-contacts#overlay-context=contact/regional-contacts>

Funding is available to enable churches and Christian organisations in England that are working in deprived communities, in partnership with others, to undertake new or expanding initiatives which directly tackle the effects of poverty.

The Fund is supported by funding from the J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust. Maximum value £5,000.

Contact enquiries@cuf.org.uk for further information.

Closing date: Ongoing

The Gibbons Family Trust

Apply via: www.gibbonstrusts.org

The Gibbons Family Trust offers grants to charitable organisations working with children and young people under the age of 25 years in Devon and the Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Closing date: Ongoing

March

Early Intervention and Parenting – strengthening the contribution of parenting support services

Location: Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno Junction

Date: 03 March 2015

Organiser: Children in Wales

Children in Wales' parenting conference, being held in North Wales, will be around the theme of strengthening the contribution of parenting support services to early intervention family support. Participants will consider key messages from early intervention research, including what are the main principles and ingredients of successful parenting programmes.

Please note: this is a repeat of the Parents' Week conference held in Cardiff in September 2014, but with some changes to the speaker list and workshop topics.

'Troubled, who me?' conference - Understanding the needs of offenders' families and why

Location: Liverpool

Date: 04 March 2015

Organiser: NoOffence! in partnership with POPS

The expanded Troubled Families (TF) programme has ambitious service transformation goals and will work with a broader range of multiple problems.

We will bring together expert speakers and delegates to discuss, gain a greater understanding of scope of the issues, to share information, ideas and knowledge and to consider what is required to provide an effective programme of support for offenders' families in both a prison and community setting.

Preventing bullying behaviour jigsaw workshops

Location: Conwy

Date: 10 March 2015

Organiser: Children in Wales

The Jigsaw Workshops are being organised in response to the Children in Wales Preventing Bullying Behaviour Conference in 2013, where delegates highlighted their wish to learn more about practical examples being delivered in the field.

Through attending this event you will be more informed and better equipped to work towards effective practice in the prevention of bullying behaviours, and adopt effective and appropriate interventions and support.

Parenting across Scotland 2015 Conference - Creating Loving Relationships

Location: Dundee

Date: 12 March 2015

Organiser: Parenting across Scotland

The PAS 2015 conference, Creating Loving Relationships, is focusing on relationships. Increasingly, the importance of relationships within families is being recognised.

We've got an exciting and stimulating programme lined up for the conference, starting with the Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell MSP, who will address the conference and focus on how the Scottish Government is ensuring that families are supported to give their children the best start in life.

Disruption in family placement - children as victims and children as perpetrators of violence

Location: London

Date: 18 March 2015

Organiser: British Association for Adoption and Fostering

The publication of the University of Bristol's adoption disruption study (Selwyn et.al, 2014) has raised serious questions about the care and support available to adopters and adopted children and young people. One of the most dramatic themes to have emerged from the study is the part that 'child to parent violence' plays in adoption disruption.

This conference will explore the nature of 'child to parent violence' as an organising theme and its potential for escalation into serious threats to both the child, their carers, other family members and others.

April

Life in the classroom conference: the impact of trauma and attachment on learning

Location: Northampton

Date: 16 April 2015

Organiser: Adoption UK

This conference will address effects of early trauma – covering neurobiology, responses to retriggering, somatic responses, sensory integration and attachment disorders – and place it into context for adopters, carers and teaching staff.

Speakers will address the impact of Developmental Trauma and Attachment Theory to help explain their effects on learning and behaviour in the classroom and offer advice on interventions at home and in school. Delegates will gain a fuller understanding of the impact of trust, safety and self-esteem on learning and achievement and identify appropriate classroom interventions to support the hurt child.

Child Protection in the Digital Environment Conference

Location: Manchester

Date: 30 April 2015

Organiser: Capita

Bringing together experts from across education, local government, social care, health, police and the gaming industry, this is your opportunity to take away transferable learning to both safeguard children in your remit and educate them to build a healthy relationship with the internet.

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 davidc@familylives.org.uk

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