



**Separated Families – polling summary**  
**July 4-6 2008 – representative sample of 1021 adults across Great Britain**

**\*\*UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 00.001 HOURS, WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2008\*\***

**Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?:**

a) When parents separate, services tend to focus on practical issues such as housing, child maintenance, contact and custody but don't address emotional support for children

**Net agree: 75% (strongly, 44%)**

b) More should be done to support children when their parents are going through a separation

**Net agree: 84% (strongly, 60%)**

c) More should be done to support parents who are going through a separation

**Net agree: 71% (strongly, 43%)**

**Q2. How much, if at all, do you think the following affect children whose parents are going through a separation? Please use a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means affects a lot, and 5 means does not affect at all**

a) Parents arguing with each other in front of the child

**Net affects: 76% (65% affects a lot)**

b) The child having to move between different houses

**Net affects: 63% (46% affects a lot)**

c) Losing contact with one parent

**Net affects: 74% (64% affects a lot)**

d) The financial cost of separation

**Net affects 54% (38% affects a lot)**

**Q3. Thinking about the services offered to families during a separation. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?:**

a) Children aren't encouraged to talk about their parent's separation

**Net agree 59% (strongly, 36%)**

b) No direct support is given to stop/prevent conflicts between the parents when around their children

**Net agree 60% (strongly, 33%)**

c) Children should be a priority when parents are managing a separation

**Net agree 93% (strongly, 80%)**

**Q4. If services were to be more geared towards the needs of children during a separation, how important or unimportant do you think each of the following should be?**

a) More support to prevent arguments between parents

**Net important 85% (very important, 57%)**

b) More opportunities for children's voices to be heard

**Net important 93% (very important, 70%)**

c) Family counselling

**Net important 90% (very important, 60%)**

d) More access for parents to practical and legal advice in sorting contact arrangements etc

**Net important 93% (very important, 65%)**

e) More access for parents to practical and legal advice in sorting out money e.g. child maintenance

**Net important 94% (very important, 69%)**