Engaging Fathers in Children's

Services Thursday 23 April 2009



Central London

Conference chair: BRONAGH MISKELLY

Group Editor, **Community Care**

Keynote address:

RT HON BEVERLEY HUGHES MP Minister of State for Children, Young **People and Families** (has been invited)

PROFESSOR CHARLIE LEWIS

Co-director, Centre for Research in Human Development, Dept of Psychology, Lancaster University

DAVID BARTLETT

Acting CEO, Fatherhood Institute

CLARE ROSKILL

Freelance Social Care Consultant & **Co-author of Fathers Matter 2**

DR JONATHAN SCOURFIELD

Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences,

University of Cardiff

NEIL BLACKLOCK

Development Director, Respect

SIMON KING

Teenage Pregnancy Advisor (Young Fathers), Hull Teenage **Pregnancy Support Service**

YVONNE KINGHORN

Teenage Pregnancy Support Service Co-ordinator, Hull Teenage **Pregnancy Support Service**

TRACEY BIGNALL

Policy and Practice Officer, **Race Equality Foundation**

JON DAVIES

Chief Executive, Families Need Fathers

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Learn practical ways to engage men in children's services
- Explore government policy and the challenges of working with fathers effectively
- Understand how groups are successfully putting policy into practice
- Work effectively and safely with men of different backgrounds, in children's services
- Gain insights from the feedback of Fathers involved with children's' services

Pre-conference half-day workshop: Wednesday 22 April 2009, 1.30pm **Engaging Fathers and Men in the Child Protection System**

Workshop Leaders: David Bartlett, Acting CEO, Fatherhood Institute & Clare Roskill. Freelance Social Care Consultant and Co-author of Fathers Matter 2

Previous Delegate:

"It taught me how to be more father orientated; to help value people, not alienate." Margaret Sproston, Beds CC

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Engaging Fathers in Children's Services

Thursday 23 April 2009

Why attend this conference?

There are currently a range of government initiatives, such as the Teenage Pregnancy Unit and Sure Start all encouraging the development of work with fathers and projects in this area are expected to mushroom. These initiatives are supported by policies included in Every Child Matters, Every Parent Matters, Children's Centre Guidance, and the Gender Equality Duty.

Local Authorities, children's services and Primary Care Trusts are examining their services to make sure that they support the growth of strong relationships with fathers as well as mothers.

Assessing the extent to which child services are inclusive of fathers and improving that inclusion where necessary, is a vital step on the journey towards maximising positive outcomes for users of children's services.

Pre-conference half-day workshop: Wednesday 22 April 2009, 1.30pm:

Engaging Fathers and Men in the Child Protection System

Available to be booked separately or together with the main conference

Workshop Leaders:

David Bartlett, Acting CEO, Fatherhood Institute

Clare Roskill, Freelance Social Care Consultant and Co-author of Fathers Matter 2 (report outlines the findings of a two-year action research project on the engagement of fathers with social care services funded by the DCSF/Parenting Fund

Professionals working with children have a difficult job, often accompanied by challenging circumstances. They have a great responsibility and make complex judgements every day. Effectively engaging with fathers/men can be a vital process and there are many positives but also concerns when working with fathers/men to safeguard vulnerable children.

This workshop will focus on how professionals working with children can be enabled to engage effectively with fathers/men where there are child protection concerns. We will use research and detailed exploration of case material to help attendees improve their knowledge and skills in this complex and important area.

Covering key issues:

- Understanding the wide-ranging impact that the father-child relationship has on children
- A brief overview of the historical context of fathers/men in child protection
- Exploring current child protection policy and standard procedures for child protection
- Sharing ideas for changes in policy and practice
- Professionally assessing children and families
- Exploration of case material to identify effective interventions with families where there
 are child protection concerns

About the Fatherhood Institute (charity reg. no. 1075104):

- Collates and publishes international research on fathers, fatherhood and different approaches to engaging with fathers by public services and employers
- Helps shape national and local policies to ensure a father-inclusive approach to family policy
- Injects research evidence on fathers and fatherhood into national debates about parenting and parental roles
- Lobbies for changes in law, policy and practice to dismantle barriers to fathers' care of infants and children

Who should attend this conference?

- Children and Families Social Workers
- Fostering and Adoption Social Workers
- Sure Start professionals
- Children's Centres professionals
- Family Support Workers
- Child Protection Social Workers and team managers
- Anyone in health, social care, charities or the voluntary sector working with adult men or children

Post-registration training and learning (PRTL)

Attending this conference is an excellent opportunity to collect PRTL hours as required by the GSCC. Simply attend the conference, record your learning on the Record of Achievement form provided and keep it with your GSCC form for reference when you re-register.

What past delegates have said about our previous Engaging Fathers conference:

"Brilliant. Very good material presented. Very useful for practitioners and managers alike"

Ronald Tshuma, Senior Practitioner

PROGRAMME – Thursday 23 April 2009

09.30 Registration

09.45 Chair's Introduction and Opening Remarks

BRONAGH MISKELLY, Group Editor, Community Care

09.50 **Recognising and Working with Fathers**

note address

RT HON BEVERLEY HUGHES MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families (has been invited)

- How the importance of fathers links in with the crossgovernment agenda for children's well-being, safety, protection and care
- Overview of relevant family policy
- Update on the "Think Fathers" campaign

10.20 The Role of the Father in Child Development

PROFESSOR CHARLIE LEWIS, Co-director, Centre for Research in Human Development, Dept of Psychology, Lancaster University

- What evidence is there of a benefit when children's services are more inclusive of fathers?
- Explaining father-child relationships and their significance to children's development
- The need for a cultural shift to tackle entrenched views on fatherhood
- 10.55 Tea/Coffee

11.10 The Challenge of Fatherhood: Trends and Debates in Policy and Practice

DAVID BARTLETT, Acting CEO, Fatherhood Institute

- Sharing the latest findings from relevant research
- Public policy: do we have consensus on the way ahead? What are the challenges facing us?
- Children's services: trends in service delivery where are we headed in the future?

11.40 A Father's Perspective: Question and Answer Panel Session

A panel of fathers will share their opinions and experiences with delegates on the following issues: (This session will also include a mother's viewpoint)

- Their involvement with children's services
- What could be improved?
- What is currently working well?

12.15 Fathers Matter in Children's Services

CLARE ROSKILL, Freelance Social Care Consultant *and* **Co-author of Fathers Matter 2**

A DCSF Parenting Fund-funded project on engagement of fathers in social care services

- This presentation will be based on research undertaken on behalf of Family Rights Group in two children's services departments
- Drawing on case audits, focus groups and an examination of local policies

12.50 Lunch

13.50 Examining the Role of Men who Work in Children's Services

DR JONATHAN SCOURFIELD, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, University of Cardiff

- Reviewing changing attitudes to men who work in children's services
- What will a gender balanced workforce mean for social care services?
- · Examining gender and child protection

14.25 Effectively Communicating with Non-Resident Fathers

JON DAVIES, Chief Executive, Families Need Fathers

- Practical examples of effective ways to work with fathers and paternal relatives
- Good practice guidelines for communication with fathers
- Real-life examples of successful interaction
- 15.00 Tea/Coffee

15.15 Working with Fathers from Ethnic Minorities

TRACEY BIGNALL, Policy and Practice Officer, **Race Equality Foundation**

- Challenging stereotypes
- Respecting cultural diversity
- Developing services for Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) fathers
- Sharing examples of what has worked well and useful resources

15.50 **SESSION CHOICES**

Choose from:

A) Dad's Space: An Information Resource and 1-2-1 Web Based Contact Service for Dads Who are Separated from Their Children

NEIL BLACKLOCK, Development Director, Respect

- Exploring the background to new technology mechanisms for engaging fathers
- Highlighting existing gaps in child contact services and parenting support for fathers
- Challenging and enhancing the relationship between child and non resident parent: what dads' space is teaching us
- Considering how engaging within the context of fathers' lives can contribute to stigma-free parenting support for Dads

OR

B) Supporting Young Fathers

SIMON KING, Teenage Pregnancy Advisor (Young Fathers) and YVONNE KINGHORN, Teenage Pregnancy Support Service Co-ordinator, Hull Teenage Pregnancy Support Service

- Exploring the dynamics of engaging with young fathers
- Young fathers and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process
- TPSS work with young fathers experiences and case studies

16.45 Chair's conclusion and closing remarks

17.00 Close of conference

Registration

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claim your early booking discount

Engaging Fathers in Children's Services

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Payment details	
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Exhibition opportunities

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- □ **Valuing People Now** May 2009
- ☐ Child Protection: How to strengthen practice May 2009

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To order call on 020 7347 3574 or return the booking form.

Administration

Central London. The venue will be confirmed in the joining instructions letter.

Your one-day fee includes attendance, refreshments, lunch and course documentation. Full payment, including VAT must be received prior to the conference. Please post a cheque for the full amount with your completed registration form or complete the credit card payment details. Once payment has been received a VAT invoice/receipt will be issued.

OUR CONFIRMATION OF YOUR BOOKING

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 \square Please call me to discuss my requirements in more detail.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

A certificate of attendance is available on request, following your attendance at this conference, as a record of your training and development.

DOCUMENTATION SALE

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This programme is correct at the time of going to press. However, we reserve the right to alter or cancel the programme due to circumstances beyond our control.

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^{*}The early booking discount is only available when you register before 27 February 2009