

Fatherhood Champions in family & children's services

Three-day training with portfolio

Fatherhood Champions are Fatherhood Institute-trained practitioners equipped with the knowledge and skills to champion father-inclusive practices and systems within their service. They lead the way in promoting, advocating for and building sustainable strategies that make a real difference to father-engagement in their localities. With training and support, they can become powerful advocates, driving change and thus improving fathers', mothers' and children's outcomes.

Our transformative three-day training equips professionals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to embed father-inclusive practice within their organisation and local community. Designed for local authorities and frontline services, the programme turns practitioners into skilled advocates who champion the role of fathers and support colleagues to engage them effectively.

Grounded in the latest evidence, research, and national policy, this training is designed for **anyone working in family and children's services**, including health visitors, managers, social work and early years staff, maternity and outreach practitioners, and students on placement.

What participants gain:

- * A strong understanding of why fathers matter, and the evidence of their impact on children, mothers, and men themselves
- * Insight into the relationship between children's outcomes and co-parenting dynamics
- * Practical strategies to engage fathers and overcome "mother-centric" approaches in practice
- * Skills to recognise and respond to the diverse needs of different fathers
- * Tools to support fathers through separation and other challenges
- * Practical techniques in signposting and collaborative working
- * The confidence to act as a Fatherhood Champion - able to inspire, mentor, and lead colleagues in father-inclusive practice.

By the end of the course, participants will be equipped to drive meaningful change across their service, ensuring fathers are engaged, supported, and recognised as vital to family wellbeing.

Empower your service and make a lasting impact

Anyone within your service can become a Fatherhood Champion. No specific prior experience or management role is required – just an interest in father-inclusive practice and a willingness to learn. Champions turn evidence into action and often become long-term advocates for engaging fathers.

What support do Champions receive?

Fatherhood Champions are supported by the Fatherhood Institute team to complete the course and gain access to valuable tools, case studies, and resources. They receive expert guidance from a dedicated trainer or mentor throughout your training, helping to put learning into practice. Plus, they'll join a growing national network of Champions, gaining access to publications and research that are often not readily available.

Does this mean more work?

After the initial training and portfolio commitment, how much time Champions invest in their advocacy role is up to them and your service. Some take on the role of the "flag waver" within their team, while others lead multi-agency task groups and drive system-wide change. The beauty of being a Champion is that you get to define what it looks like for you—based on your interests, goals, and the needs of your service.

Course content overview

Day 1:

- Explore stereotypes, beliefs, assumptions and embedded practice
- Understanding fatherhood – research evidence reviews

Day 2:

- Creating father-inclusive practice
- Supporting couples through systematic engagement
- Becoming a Fatherhood Champion
- Portfolio Q&A and planning

Day 3 (delivered about four weeks after day two):

- Portfolio presentations
- Action planning
- Cascading and supporting others
- Being a Fatherhood Champion

- **Example costs:** For groups of up to 16 people (minimum)= from £6,000 to £8,000 plus VAT, depending on the level of support required, the number of participants, and the degree of programme customisation

Please contact our Head of Training, Jeszemma Howl, j.howl@fatherhoodinstitute.org with any queries or booking requests.