

Newsletter

Summer 2010

Family & Parenting
Institute



PARENTING FUND ROUND 3



Welcome to the Summer 2010 edition of the Parenting Fund newsletter!

We are now over halfway through Round 3 of the Parenting Fund, and there are some great stories coming in from the 90 projects.

To capture how diverse the projects are this edition includes a number of case studies which show the kinds of work they're doing. There is also a round-up of news from across the country and a feature about two projects you may have recently seen on Channel 4's *Secret Millionaire*!

“ Two of our consultants, Jill Shaw and Aliona Laker, have been travelling around the country over the last couple of months delivering evaluation workshops to Parenting Fund projects. These workshops have been a great chance for projects to share ideas and get together, so I hope those of you who attended enjoyed the day. ”

Mick Morgan, Parenting Fund Senior Manager

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Spotlight: Fairbridge

Fairbridge (pictured below) work with some of the hardest to reach young people in the West Midlands who are not in education, employment or training.

Their Parenting Fund project works with young fathers aged 16-25 who are either absent, estranged or struggling to build positive relationships with their children.

The fathers take part in an initial intensive induction programme which includes a residential element. Fairbridge use engagement and self-evaluation techniques to help the young men identify their areas of need, then help them tackle those attitudes and behaviours which create barriers to maintaining positive relationships. They equip them with basic parenting skills which include communication, child safety, food and nutrition, active play and managing difficult behaviour.

The young fathers also receive one-to-one support, which encourages them to access specialist parent support services to help them build on these basic parenting skills.



Case study

Barnardo's Liverpool

Barnardo's Liverpool are running a project called Parenting in Prisons, working with offenders in three prisons across the city to improve their parenting ability and family links.

One of their service users is a single parent whose partner died following a terminal illness, leaving him with the care of their three year-old child. Life as a single father struggling with grief was challenging and he turned to crime in order to provide for his child. Following prosecution he was extremely distressed about being separated from his child and worried that he "may not be able to parent" upon release.

He took part in a session which encouraged fathers to be proactive in their children's lives whilst in custody. Following this he began writing to his child regularly and was pleased to receive pictures back.

He then progressed onto the Triple P parenting programme. On completion of this his child attended a family learning day at the prison and they had a "fantastic" day together. His child really enjoyed seeing the dad and said it was nice to get a "proper hug". The family learning days will continue until the father is released, at which stage Barnardo's will provide additional support.

Snippets

A round-up of some of the exciting news from Round 3 projects across the country:

LOOK – The National Federation of Families with Visually Impaired Children

have produced their first ever audio magazine, written by children and young people across the country with visual impairments. It includes two tracks about the launch of their Norfolk project which is receiving funding from the Parenting Fund. To listen to the tracks, or the full audio magazine, [click here](#).



Croydon Supplementary Education Project have finished training their first set of fathers to become Super Dads. After completing a range of courses, workshops and seminars (pictured above), the fathers attended their graduation ceremony in March.



African Families Support Services held the graduation ceremony for their Just4Fathers parenting course in Croydon in April (pictured above). There was a great turnout and the fathers had T-shirts made saying "I am the Dad" to celebrate!

Sound bites

Just a sample of what service users are saying about the 90 projects:

“ Family Action motivated and encouraged me psychologically, thinking about solutions and my strengths. It affected my parenting positively to get over difficult moments and anger ”

Parent accessing support from **Family Action Hackney**

“ It let my mind open up ”

Young carer attending an art therapy course run by **Young Carers Project @ Off the Record**

“ I was scared of going to group but because I managed to go it has taught me that I can go to other groups or projects without so much fear ”

Service user of **Southampton Women's Aid**

“ I found the course really inspiring, it has helped me to look at myself and the way that my actions have affected the family unit ”

Service user of **Child Action Northwest**

Awards and Achievements

Sunderland Athletic Football Club Foundation have been shortlisted for a national Sports Industry Award. Their Family Learning through Football project was one of only six shortlisted for the Community Programme Award, sponsored by Sport England.

One 25 have been awarded a GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Award. They work in Bristol supporting women to break free from street sex work, and they were one of only ten organisations to receive the award this year. The Parenting Fund is funding their residential mother and baby home (pictured below) which provides intensive support to women who have escaped the cycle of sex work and substance misuse.



“ *One25 is an outstanding organisation. It provides more than a ‘package’ of care, offering integrated health and holistic support services to get vulnerable women off the streets. The dedication of its staff and volunteers is impressive* ”

GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Award judges

Case study

Leeds Counselling

Leeds Counselling are running a project where families from disadvantaged areas are supported by counsellors and a family therapist.

They recently worked with a 12 year-old girl who had experienced a violent dog attack three months earlier. While she was recovering physically, and had returned to school, she was experiencing increasing difficulty in leaving the house by herself. She experienced terror at the sight of certain dogs and had nightmares several times a week.

The girl's GP was willing to refer her to the Child and Adult Mental Health Service but there was a four-month waiting list. As her mother felt her daughter's condition was deteriorating Leeds Counselling were asked to provide interim support.

The girl responded very well to post trauma work. After two sessions she reported the cessation of her nightmares. After five sessions she was less anxious about going out and was able to look at the scars resulting from the attack. The deterioration had been halted and she was feeling much better. The girl's family all benefited from the reduction in her anxiety. The counsellor was also able to do some useful work with the girl's mother on understanding post traumatic stress disorder.

Parenting Fund in the Media

Two Parenting Fund projects in Bristol were featured on Channel 4's *Secret Millionaire* in March. The projects were **One25**, which helps women engaged in street sex work break free and build new lives, and **Hartcliffe and Withywood Ventures**, which provides support for teenage parents. Both were awarded money by multi-millionaire Dawn Gibbins MBE (pictured below with staff from Hartcliffe and Withywood Ventures) in the joint venture between Channel 4 and Big Lottery Fund.



Family Action Slough were included in a programme called *Supporting Parents Across Communities*, shown on Teachers TV in February during Involving Parents Week. It aired as part of their series on Working with Parents, and showed the impact of the project's work with local Muslim parents.

Parentline Plus North East are running a project which supports parents who are in prison. *The Times* published an article about the project in February, showing its success and impact. The full article can be read by [clicking here](#).

“ I don't shout any more, I don't use negative language. It's already making a world of difference. I don't want to make the same mistakes again ”

Parent accessing Parentline Plus North East's project

Case study

The Children's Society Newcastle

The Children's Society Newcastle provide support for children and young people who go missing or are at risk on the streets.

A recent case involved the parents of a 15 year-old girl, who were extremely concerned about her behaviour within the family home and wider community. Although the young person was refusing to engage with the service, her parents began to work with the Family Support Worker. Over a period of months they were enabled to identify and assess their concerns about their daughter and her behaviour. They put into place a family agreement and structure that gradually began to show results.

Positive family expectations and relationships developed as they worked on what was originally a volatile and fraught situation. As the family dynamics improved, the parents' feelings of despair and isolation reduced.

Although the current situation is still not without difficulty, a change has occurred in the parents. They are now confident and competent in their style of parenting, as a result of their increased awareness and understanding of their daughter.

The future now looks brighter for the whole family.

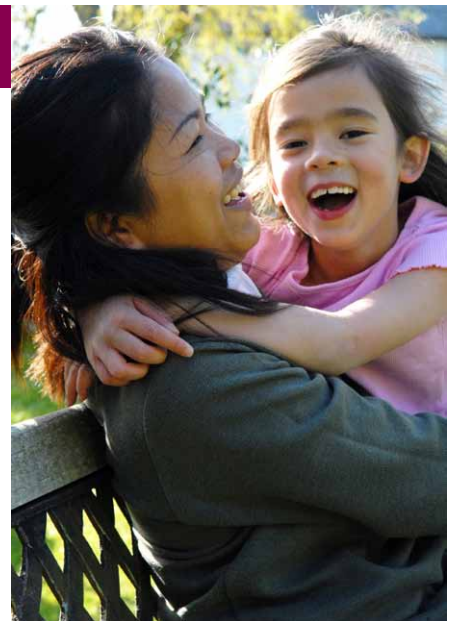
Parenting Fund News

The Parenting Fund is working with C4EO (the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services) to find and disseminate examples of best practice. We are particularly keen for Parenting Fund projects to submit examples of local practice to C4EO and we are discussing ways of supporting projects with the application and the validation process. If you wish to find out more look at the C4EO link on [the Parenting Fund website](#) and/or talk to your Grants Officer or consultant.

We are now well into the second year of the Parenting Fund Round 3, and many projects are starting to think about their exit strategy. We regularly post details of funding opportunities on our website, and coming soon there will be a new section where you can find fundraising tools and help to plan your exit strategy. We will email you when this goes live, but in the meantime you can access the other useful resources available by visiting [our website](#). Pictured below: an event held in Bristol by **Hartcliffe and Withywood Ventures** in June to raise awareness and funds, with guest speaker Dawn Primarolo MP (centre).



If you would like to use the Parenting Fund newsletter to advertise anything such as Trustee positions or for any other brief requests, please contact Tess Rallison: tess.rallison@familyandparenting.org. The newsletter is distributed to all 90 projects, so it is an easy way of reaching other voluntary sector organisations.



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