

# Newsletter

Winter 2009

Family & Parenting  
Institute



## PARENTING FUND ROUND 3



### 90 parenting projects across England successfully up and running!

**From over 400 applicants, 90 organisations across England have been selected to run parenting projects by the Parenting Fund.**

Since its inception in 2004 the Parenting Fund has disbursed over £30 million in grants to 265 organisations. The Fund has helped them provide information on many challenging subjects such as coping with bereavement and managing children's behaviour to over a million parents. In addition projects have been able to offer advice or information to over 60,000 practitioners.

From now until March 2011 Parenting Fund Round 3 is funding 90 projects in 23 priority areas throughout England. Mick Morgan, Senior Parenting Fund Manager (pictured right) recognises how significant the impact will be.

**“These projects represent some of the best practice in parenting and we are very proud to be supporting them.”**

Mick Morgan, Senior Parenting Fund Manager

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The Parenting Fund

## Spotlight



**Leeway** are a registered charity based in Norfolk, providing specialist support and advice to women and children who have experienced or are still experiencing domestic abuse.

Leeway's new parenting service will provide parenting advice and support to 76 women who have children across Great Yarmouth, North Norfolk and Norwich. The service will focus on coping strategies and any behavioral difficulties the children have, in order to strengthen family relationships.

Leeway have been nominated for the Charity of the Year Award for Local Sainsbury's and have also recently been visited by Harriet Harman, MP for Camberwell & Peckham and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.

“It is important to tackle violence of all sorts and domestic violence accounts for about one third of all violence. The work done at Leeway is absolutely fantastic. The facilities are great and so is the work that goes on. The way to tackle domestic violence is by bringing prosecutions through the courts. If there isn't a prosecution women will often carry on suffering attack after attack. But in order to bring successful prosecution you also need to offer the support to give a woman the confidence to go through with it.”

Harriet Harman, MP for Camberwell & Peckham, and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party (quoted in the *Eastern Daily Press*, Friday 10 July 2009)

## The icing on the cake

The **Women's' Work** project in Derby, mark the successful launch of their service by inviting families and workers to share a mouthwatering cake! **The Link Work Project** aims to close the gaps in support for families with drug and alcohol problems. Work is well underway – 100 individuals will improve their health and wellbeing, strengthen the family unit by sharing positive experiences, and improve parenting skills. This will be delivered through a range of activities from informal workshops, family outings, exercise sessions and one-to-one support.



## Case study

### National Autistic Society, Croydon

Following one-to-one home visits with our Family Support Worker a family affected by autism has been able to introduce a successful bedtime routine.

Over the years, bedtime for this family had become very traumatic with it sometimes taking hours to encourage their child to get to sleep. After discussing this problem with the parents, the worker introduced a picture timetable tailored to meet their needs. By reinforcing verbal instructions with clear pictures the parents are now able to get their child settled in bed in around half an hour.

This simple routine has made a huge difference to the parents' lives as they are now able to spend quality time together in the evenings, and are not suffering from fatigue.

## Snippets

**Grants Officer, Luzia De Almeida (pictured right), highlights some of the work underway in the Midlands:**

In Leicester, the **Bangladeshi Youth & Cultural Shomiti** have launched their Parenting Support basic skills course with many parents signing up on the spot! Parents will learn the basic skills that will allow them to be effectively involved in their children's education.

**My Time**, in Birmingham, are already supporting 17 families, through the Family Action Choice Tomorrow project, providing support to fathers primarily from refugee and BME families. The men can receive counselling, training for employment, family learning through horticulture and sports coaching. Yasr Turkay, an Eritrean refugee who attended the My Time programme and now works as an Engagement Worker, has just won the West Midlands Learner of the Year award from the Open College Network.



## Breaking news

Our Grants Officer, Luzia De Almeida, has left the Family and Parenting Institute after nine years, four of which were spent working for the Parenting Fund. She has a new job with the London Borough of Camden, but she has sadly had to leave FPI at short notice to attend to a family matter in Angola. We would like to thank her for her valued contribution to the Parenting Fund and we wish her every success in the future. We will be putting in place temporary arrangements while we recruit to the vacant Grants Officer post.



**Barnardos Derby Dads R Us** project (pictured above, photo courtesy of *Derby Telegraph*) have successfully recruited a Dads Development Worker, with a group of dads helping out with the interviews.

The 'Ten Pin Group' (pictured, right) played at the North Staffordshire YMCA **Families Staying Connected** launch in June 2009.

This programme will support families who are experiencing separation or divorce where this is directly affecting their children's (aged 0-18) ability to learn, behave appropriately in school, and cope within their social and educational environment.



## Islamic Values and The Parenting Puzzle

**Family Action** and **Family Links** have recently launched *Islamic Values and The Parenting Puzzle*, at the House of Commons. This ground-breaking booklet demonstrates for Muslims how the Family Links' Nurturing Programme parenting course is very much in tune with Islamic religious beliefs. Support from the Parenting Fund has enabled this work to happen.

Together with parents in a mosque in Slough, the work has been pioneered by Arifa Naeem (pictured, on the left), a family and youth development worker who wrote the booklet, and Zahida Isfaq (pictured, on the right) an Islamic counsellor. It is a brilliant example of how highly-skilled support workers, being sensitive to their own community, can bring services to families who might otherwise be wary of them.



“Following a successful meeting with the Secretary of Jamia Masjid Mosque in Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, work began there in June 2008. Feedback from those who attended courses, the mosque committee, the Imam and the wider Muslim community has been excellent. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and warmth of the many Muslim families who have helped us to fine tune our programme. Some of these are now volunteers with our organisation and have gone on to complete parent group leader training with Family Links; they are now involved in rolling out the Nurturing Programme in the community.

We have just begun our fourth course at the mosque, this time aimed at couples, and we have eight Muslim men attending the sessions. We could never have expected to come so far in such a short time. We believe that we are still at the beginning of a journey, which will be stimulating and exciting, with the ultimate aim of bringing communities together. The most important thing we have learned is that the Family Links Nurturing Programme needed no changes in order to provide suitable support to Muslim families. We have simply linked all the principles in *The Parenting Puzzle* to the Qur'an in an effort to prove that it does not clash with religious teaching relating to Muslim family life. We have produced this booklet to make it possible to involve more Muslim communities in what we have found to be a successful piece of work.”

Arifa Naeem, Family Support & Youth Development Worker,  
Family Action, Slough.

“This is a valuable and innovative initiative. Family Action values diversity and the services we provide reflect this ethos. Wherever possible, our staff and volunteers are recruited from the communities they serve to enable all families to access the support they need. 40% of our staff and service users come from Muslim communities; this will be a helpful resource for us in supporting these families, and I'm sure others will find it equally useful.”

Helen Dent, CEO, Family Action

## Awards and achievements

Two Cornish projects funded by the Parenting Fund have been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary service, which recognises the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. The prestigious National Honour, which is equivalent to the MBE, sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, and the activities of those awarded have been judged to be of the highest standard.



**The Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre** held a garden party in August to celebrate their award. The other winners, the **WILD Young Parents Project** provides services for young parents in partnership with Cornwall College. The project offers young mothers the opportunity to obtain the advice and guidance necessary for them to progress into further education or vocational training, through Cornwall College, or into voluntary work and enables them to escape the spiral of economic disengagement and poverty.

*“We were ecstatic when we found out we'd won. It's a really prestigious award and it's great to know that the project is value in the community. The project is really worthwhile as it enables young parents and their children to meet up, enjoy activities and learn new skills.”*

Jo Davies, Project Manager

The **Cornwall Dyslexia Association** has passed their Matrix Assessment and was recommended by the assessor to apply for the Matrix Excellence Award. The Matrix Standard is the national quality standard for any organisation that delivers information, advice and/or guidance on learning and work.

**One25** has been working for 14 years in Bristol, benefiting women who are abused and socially marginalised through involvement in street-based sex work. Their lives are characterised by chronic ill-health, life-controlling addictions, homelessness and the daily threat of extreme violence.

One25 have recently opened Naomi House, a new residential family unity. One user of Naomi House said “The parenting groups are really useful and I love learning skills like baby massage. I'm so happy that I can be with my baby girl, there's nothing better than that”.

Another user states “The best thing about Naomi House is being able to keep my baby. I love her more than anything in the world. Last Christmas I wouldn't have dreamed I'd be here, caring for my baby and learning new things. I'm in control now and making life better for both of us.”

## Who's who at the Parenting Fund



Back row (left to right): Luzia De Almeida, Grants Officer; Mick Morgan, Parenting Fund Manager; Tim Burdon, consultant; Jill Shaw, consultant; Kendra Massey, Grants Officer; Juliette Chatterton, consultant; Trevor Sharman, consultant; Harry Marsh, consultant.

Front row (left to right): Rukhsana Hussain DCSF; Dee Jethwa, consultant; Hilary Seal, consultant; Bev McDowell, consultant; Honor Rhodes, Director, Development & Innovation, FPI; Caroline Millar, consultant

Inserts: Allan Watson, consultant; Tess Rallison, Grants Officer; Jacqueline Clay, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Clare Parslow, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Aliona Laker, consultant; Siobhan Lanigan, consultant.

### What do the Parenting Fund consultants do?

In addition to a 2 year grant for parenting work, each organisation has access to a pool of consultants who advise on how this work can become more sustainable. On offer is a wide range of support, for example, ICT advice, business planning, sharing best practice in monitoring and evaluation techniques and enabling projects to team up with their local Parenting Commissioners.

**“The intention is that all PF3 funded projects get a hugely valuable free gift! This is an integrated package of consultancy support, access to FPI & PricewaterhouseCoopers expertise and IT consultancy and in addition, access to free training workshops. The intention is not that this is a burden, rather an opportunity to organisationally ‘spring clean’ and decide which kind of cleaning lady (or gent) would be most helpful.”**

Trevor Sharman, Parenting Fund consultant with Croydon projects

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