



Guidance

Information about the Reducing Parental Conflict programme

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The Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) programme has been developed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

The programme will:

- work closely with local authorities and their partners across England, to support them to integrate services and approaches to reduce parental conflict into their local services for families
- fund training for frontline practitioners and strategic leaders in local areas
- build an evidence base by testing 8 face-to-face interventions to reduce parental conflict in [4 local areas](#) across England (31 local authorities in total)
- deliver a joint £6 million package of support, developed with the Department for Health and Social Care and Public Health England, to improve the outcomes of children of alcohol-dependant parents
- fund innovative projects to gather learning on what works to reduce parental conflict digitally and for families where the children face disadvantages, through a £2.7 million RPC challenge fund
- work closely with the Early Intervention Foundation to build and share the evidence base

Evidence

The [Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families](#) policy paper included analysis

showing exposure to frequent, intense and poorly resolved parental conflict can affect children's:

- emotional and social development
- educational attainment
- later employability
- physical and mental health

Budget

Up to £39 million has been allocated to run the RPC programme.

Important statistics

Where a child lives with both parents in the same household, more than 1 in 10 (11%) of children have at least one parent who reports relationship distress.

Children living in workless families are 3 times more likely to experience parental conflict than in families where both parents are in work.

Children in workless families are almost twice as likely to live with at least one parent reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression. They are also nearly twice as likely to fail to reach expected levels at all stages of their education.

Cross-government work

The government wants every child to have the best start in life. Parental conflict, and the poorer child outcomes which stem from this, is an issue which affects departments across government.

To effectively deliver the RPC programme, DWP is working with a range of external organisations, including these government departments:

- Department for Education
- Department for Health and Social Care
- Ministry of Justice
- Cafcass
- Public Health England
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Home Office

- Local Government Association

Geographical areas covered by the local authority

Local authority	Geographical coverage
Westminster	Westminster, Brent, Croydon, Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea, Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham
Gateshead	Gateshead, Sunderland, South Tyneside, Middlesborough, Redcar and Cleveland, Newcastle, Northumberland, Hartlepool, Durham, Stockton
Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Southend, Essex, Buckinghamshire, Peterborough
Dorset	Dorset, Somerset, Bournemouth, Plymouth, Devon, Wiltshire, Poole, Torbay

More information

For more information about the RPC programme, email rpc.programme@dpw.gsi.gov.uk.

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