

Parenting Experts and Practitioners

This note describes the role of Parenting Experts and Practitioners in delivering evidence-based parenting programmes to the parents of children and young people at risk of poor outcomes including behaviour problems at school, truancy, anti-social behaviour or youth offending.

Funding for Parenting Experts and Practitioners

1. In December 2007 the Children's Plan announced funding for Parenting Experts in addition to Parenting Practitioners already operating in 77 areas as part of the action to reduce anti-social behaviour. This means that every local authority now receives funding to employ at least two Parenting Experts or Practitioners.

What are Parenting Experts or Practitioners?

2. Parenting Experts and Practitioners are responsible for the delivery of evidence-based parenting programmes to parents of children considered to be at risk of poor outcomes. They also work closely with the commissioner for parenting support in the area to improve the co-ordination and targeting of existing parenting support activity.
3. Parenting experts and practitioners support parents both in groups and on a one-to-one basis. The majority of parents attend support sessions on a voluntary basis although a small minority are required to do so as a condition of a Parenting Contract or Order. The programmes provided must be structured interventions with a sound evidence base (recommended by the National Academy of Parenting Practitioners).
4. The National Academy of Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) is an independent charity funded by the Government to transform the quality and size of the parenting workforce across England. Support and training provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families' (DCSF's) Family Delivery Team and NAPP is intended to help LAs develop or increase the provision of evidence-based parenting programmes and encourage parents of families at greatest risk of poor outcomes to attend.
5. Parenting Experts and Practitioners specifically target the parents of children and young people whom local agencies (for example schools, Sure Start Children's Centres, housing, health services, anti-social behaviour teams, etc) agree are at risk of poor outcomes. Research has shown that the children of parents who are offenders

(including those in prison), have experienced domestic violence, or have mental health or drug and alcohol problems, are particularly likely to experience poor outcomes.

6. The work of Parenting Experts and Practitioners should also be co-ordinated with other 'Think Family' provision, for example, Parent Support Advisers and Family Intervention Projects, where improving parenting skills may form an important part of wider support being provided for the family.
7. There is more information about these posts at:
www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/thinkfamilygrant

Case study: Respect Parenting Practitioner

A referral was made to Sally, the Respect Parenting Practitioner, from the local policeman who described these children as the "ASBO's of the future". Lone parent K (33 years) had five children: three boys aged, 13, 8, 6, and two girls aged 11 and 2. The eldest children were 'running riot' on the estate and becoming involved in low level crime and anti-social behaviour. All children were known to the police. Sally's main concern was that the 8-year-old boy J, who has an attention deficit disorder, was regularly being sent home from school for disrupting his classes by climbing onto the school roof. K asked the Police for some help because she felt that she was not in control of her children and could not cope. Sally began to visit K using the 'Triple P' parenting programme and working closely with her children's schools to develop support mechanisms for K. As a result of this:

- K's teachers have managed to stop J from climbing onto the school roof and when he feels stressed he now goes to an allocated school room.
- J's teachers have said they can see a big improvement in his concentration and reasoning.
- K has gained much more confidence and is using all of the strategies discussed with Sally. She has recently fed back to say that she now feels in control of her family.
- K's relationship has improved with all of her children and her mother reports that K is much calmer and her children seem a lot happier.