


The Challenges Social Exclusion and Parenting

Lynda Ince: Regional Development Officer
South East

 The national umbrella body for
people who work with parents



Parenting & Social Exclusion

- Cycles of deprivation and poverty
- Hard to reach parents – victims & perpetrators
- Drug abuse, alcohol, domestic violence
- Ecological factor – Poor housing, poor health, poor education and unregenerate communities
- Hopelessness and helplessness
- Oppression and Discrimination



Parenting and Social Exclusion – What helps?

- Parenting education
- skills Building – inclusion & empowerment
- Citizenship – sense of belonging
- communication and negotiation - are also the basis of good parenting



The parents are the children

- Give me a child and I'll show you the parent
- Desforges & Colleagues: Good parenting has a positive effect on achievement
- Breaking the cycle “The most important influence on a person’s level of self-esteem are their parents.”
- Low expectations/ levels of self-belief
- Reluctance to set boundaries
- No habit/skills for expressing feelings or responding positively
- Parenting project – life long learning



Social Exclusion & fathers

- Where would they learn fathering?
- Father figures model – Evaluation: Sheffield Hallam
- Father involvement better relationships and educational achievement for boys and girls (Flouri and Buchanan)
- Fathers can sometimes discourage school achievement for boys – images of our society
- Work positively with men to avoid them being socially excluded from parenting



Addressing Social Exclusion in BME Communities

- Challenges – over and under-representation
- Inability to access services – Day Care Trust
- PUK – Evaluation listening to B&ME Parents
- Using process that are inclusive – Asking people what they think



Multi-agency work to address multiple problems

- “A world class workforce”
- Actual practical help with disabled children, housing, debt, violence, physical or mental illness, substance misuse
- Common Generic Transferable Units for Children’s Workforce - multi-agency training for better referral
- Referral to one-to-one parenting help can be less threatening - poor experience of group-based
- Type and quality of services
- Stopping the cycle of poverty –and ending social exclusion.



The workforce they deserve?

- “Potential impact inhibited by quality of service provision. These problems will not be solved by a one size fits all approach”
- “How we work with parents is as important as what we do” Quinton 2003
- Careful recruitment, training and supervision;
Trained to work with parents
- National Occupational Standards
- Raised self-esteem from parenting help often leads to further education, training and employment