

BRIEFING REPORT FOR SCRUTINY BOARD

The Project - The ‘all relative’ project delivers Incredible Years (Webster Stratton) parenting programmes to parents of 8-13 year olds at risk of anti-social behaviour. These programmes are theoretically grounded and have a strong evidence base in improving family functioning by increasing parents’ skills and confidence. Incredible Years programmes have been well researched and are validated by NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence). All staff are trained in the approach and their practice is supervised. Initial funding in 06 came from the DfES early parenting pathfinder initiative, with additional funding from the Respect Task Force in 07. All funding ceases in March 08.

The project delivers effective 18 week programmes and removes barriers to attendance for ‘hard to reach’ parents mainly in the lowest 10% super output areas of the city. This has resulted in good records of attendance, completion and parental satisfaction although many families need additional support from workers between group sessions to hold them in the project. A clinical psychologist provides expertise where this is needed. In addition to project funded staff a range of partnerships provides additional personnel to support the programme delivery. These include, for example, colleagues from Early Years, Anti-social Behaviour Unit, CAMHS, Education Leeds and all staff are trained in Incredible Years thus building capacity within the city. Governance for the project is via a Steering Group comprising the key agencies involved in referral and delivery and the project is hosted within the Youth Offending Service.

Parents ‘graduating’ from the first round of groups received certificates in August and the second round of groups is well under way including an evening group which is city wide. A regular ‘drop-in’ facility has been developed for ongoing support and some of the parents are becoming volunteers within the project to support and encourage other parents attending groups. The project was featured on Sky News earlier this year and showed parents speaking out about how the project is helping them and their families.

Outcomes - ‘all relative’ is meeting its aims and objectives and achieving outcomes against its targets. Targets for attendance and completion at the groups by parents have been exceeded and significant reductions in first time entrants (young people) to the criminal justice system many from the super-output areas covered by the project have been evidenced. Comprehensive measures used with attendees at the first round of groups have been analysed by University of Bangor. This report – which is available to members, concludes:-

From the results we can conclude that although the participating families were mainly socially deprived, and had suffered many negative experiences and problems, the parenting course reduced depression and helped parents to manage difficult child behaviour by improving their parenting skills. We know that it is parent behaviour that has modified child behaviour as only the parents attended the group; the children were not seen.

Child behaviour was much improved after parents had participated on the parent course and teachers reported some positive outcomes for children in their learning and behaviour at school.

Further Information - Wendy Gledhill, Project Manager (2474835) is happy to provide any further information and details.

Nov.07

