



# Derby's Parenting *Strategy*

2007 - 2008

Derby City Partnership



# Partners Involved in the Production of the Parenting Strategy

Derby Primary Care Trust

Derby Children's Fund

Derby City Council

Derby Community Safety Partnership

Derby CVS

Voluntary and Community Sector represented by the Children's Network



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## Foreword

This strategy has been produced on behalf of the Children and Young People's Partnership in Derby. It sets out our proposed vision and key priorities for supporting and promoting parenting in the city, through a strong multi-agency approach. It is important that we have a clear sense of direction and a shared understanding of the challenges we face across all communities and services. This strategy seeks to provide that direction.

The consultation period for this strategy commenced on 26 March 2007 to 26 April 2007. The consultation involved a wide range of partner agencies and parent groups across the city. We hope that you will find the document interesting and will find that the final version benefits from a wide range of perspectives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Bolton', written over a horizontal line. A vertical red line is positioned to the right of the signature.

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People  
Councillor Sara Bolton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Rack', written over a horizontal line. A vertical red line is positioned to the right of the signature.

Chair of Derby Children's Strategic Partnership  
Corporate Director for Children and Young People

## **Introduction**

1. This strategy has been formulated by a Multi-agency and Partnership Steering Group.
2. Once the strategy has been formally signed off it is envisaged that this group will oversee the implementation of the strategy led by the appointed parenting lead for the Partnership.
3. In Derby, much has been achieved by Partnership working and research carried out by practitioners has identified pockets of good practice across the City. Derby sees this as an opportunity to bring together this good practice to promote effective and positive parenting across the City.
4. Consultation with parents has supported the development of this strategy and has included the view of parents as well as professionals. We welcome feedback and will continue to consult with parents, children and young people and with staff working with families in Derby, to ensure the continued development of the strategy. We will work with individual providers and practitioners to identify how the parenting strategy can reflect, strengthen and build upon their work.
5. There was a period of one month for consultation on the strategy, which showed a wide support for what we are trying to achieve across all partner agencies. Once the strategy has been signed off by the Children's Strategic Partnership it will be a working document that will be supported by an action plan, toolkit of materials and resource information that will continue to develop and change over time.

## **Background – Why do we need a strategy?**

### **National Context**

6. There are compelling arguments, both nationally and locally, for a strong, multi-agency and partnership approach to supporting parents and good parenting.
7. The role of parents in achieving these outcomes has been emphasised in a raft of Government legislation and policies, including the 2004 National Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, in the 2005 Schools White Paper 'Higher Standards, Better schools for All – More Choice for Parents and Pupils', the Cross-Government RESPECT Action Plan and the Health-Led Parenting Project.

8. In addition to these developments every authority is required to identify a single Parenting Commissioner with responsibility for assessing need, identifying gaps in services and ensuring that parenting support is appropriately reflected in the Children and Young People's Plan.
9. It is the Government's intention that greater integration of children's services will mean that parents and carers, from whatever background, will have more and better information, advice and support and have access to integrated support when needed.

## Local Context



10. Derby is a prosperous City located in the heart of Derbyshire and has developed into a thriving multi-cultural City. Derby has a rich mix of people, cultures, art and religion that presents both opportunities and challenges.
11. Derby City is now a Children's Authority. The law demands that, working with partner organisations, it establishes clear arrangements for effective joint working to make sure children and young people in the City are well supported.
12. The Children Act 2004 places a duty on Derby's Partnership to deliver these objectives:
  - Being Healthy
  - Staying Safe
  - Enjoying and achieving
  - Making a positive contribution
  - Achieve Economic well-being

The Act recognises that the bond between child and parent is the most crucial influence on a child's life.



13. The Children and Young People's Partnership is focused on the 52,000 children and young people under the age of 18 living in Derby, together with an estimated 3,140 young people aged 18-19. The Partnership aims to support all children and young people within the city to get the best from their childhood. It is our aim through this strategy, to ensure that parents and their children receive information and services appropriate to their level of need.

## Consultation with Parents

14. This is a summary of the consultation with parents who attended a "Parenting Event" on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Parents worked in four different groups according to the age of their children. The groups were as follows:

Group 1     0 – 5 years old

Group 2     6 – 12 years old

Group 3     12 – 16 years old

Group 4     17+ years old



15. Each group discussed the following questions:
- Where did/do you get your support from as a parent?
  - What do you need to know to be able to parent a child of that age group?
  - What skills do you need to be a parent of that age group?
  - What are the gaps in both knowledge or skills for you or for other parents?
16. The strategy will endeavour to reflect the consultation with parents, in supporting all parents in their role. Feedback from flipcharts of all the four groups has been incorporated in the appendices.

## Vision

17. We would like to achieve a future in which any parent in Derby who needs support will know where to turn and be able to benefit from a range of appropriate and accessible services. Seeking help will be seen as a strength, not a weakness, and will lead to better outcomes.
18. We will proactively seek ways of reaching the families least likely to ask for help.

## Definition of Parent

19. Throughout this document when we refer to “parent” this will include any of the following:

- Natural Parents – Mothers/Fathers
- Step Parents – Mothers/Fathers
- Kinship Carers
- Foster Carers
- Adoptive Parents
- Social Worker as Corporate Parent
- Private Foster Carers
- Teenage Parents

The legal definition for parenting responsibility can be found in Appendix 3.

## Definition of Parenting

20. Good parenting for the purpose of this strategy can be defined as: ‘nurturing the child’s holistic development to achieve the Every Child Matters outcomes of:

- Being healthy – helping children and young people to enjoy good physical and mental health and to live a healthy lifestyle.
- Staying safe – Protecting children and young people from harm and neglect.
- Enjoying and achieving – helping children and young people to get the most out of life and to develop the skills they need for adulthood.
- Making a positive contribution – encouraging children and young people to get involved in their community and not to engage in anti-social or offending behaviour.
- Achieve economic well-being, making sure that children and young people can enjoy a standard of living, which makes the most of their life chances.





## Principles

21. Our principles are grouped under the following four main themes:

### **Communication and Information**

- Good, accurate and easy to access information on services to parents and their families, so that they can make informed choices.
- Effective channels of communication, so that parents can contact services in ways which suit their needs.
- All agencies will give strong, consistent and non-stigmatising messages about parenting.

### **Access Services**

- Access to high quality services which meet the needs and are responsive to parents' views.
- To ensure quality is measured through mechanisms of review and evaluation.
- Support from workers who are effectively trained and responsive to parents' needs.

### **Developing Skills**

- Support that assists in enhancing parents' own development and their sense of confidence and responsibility in their parenting role.

### **Partnership**

- Ensure that in all planning, delivery and evaluation of parenting support, the needs of parents who may experience barriers to accessing parenting support provision, or are at risk of social exclusion are fully considered.
- Develop and gain multi-agency and partnership commitment at all levels in relation to parenting support and information.

## Levels of Need

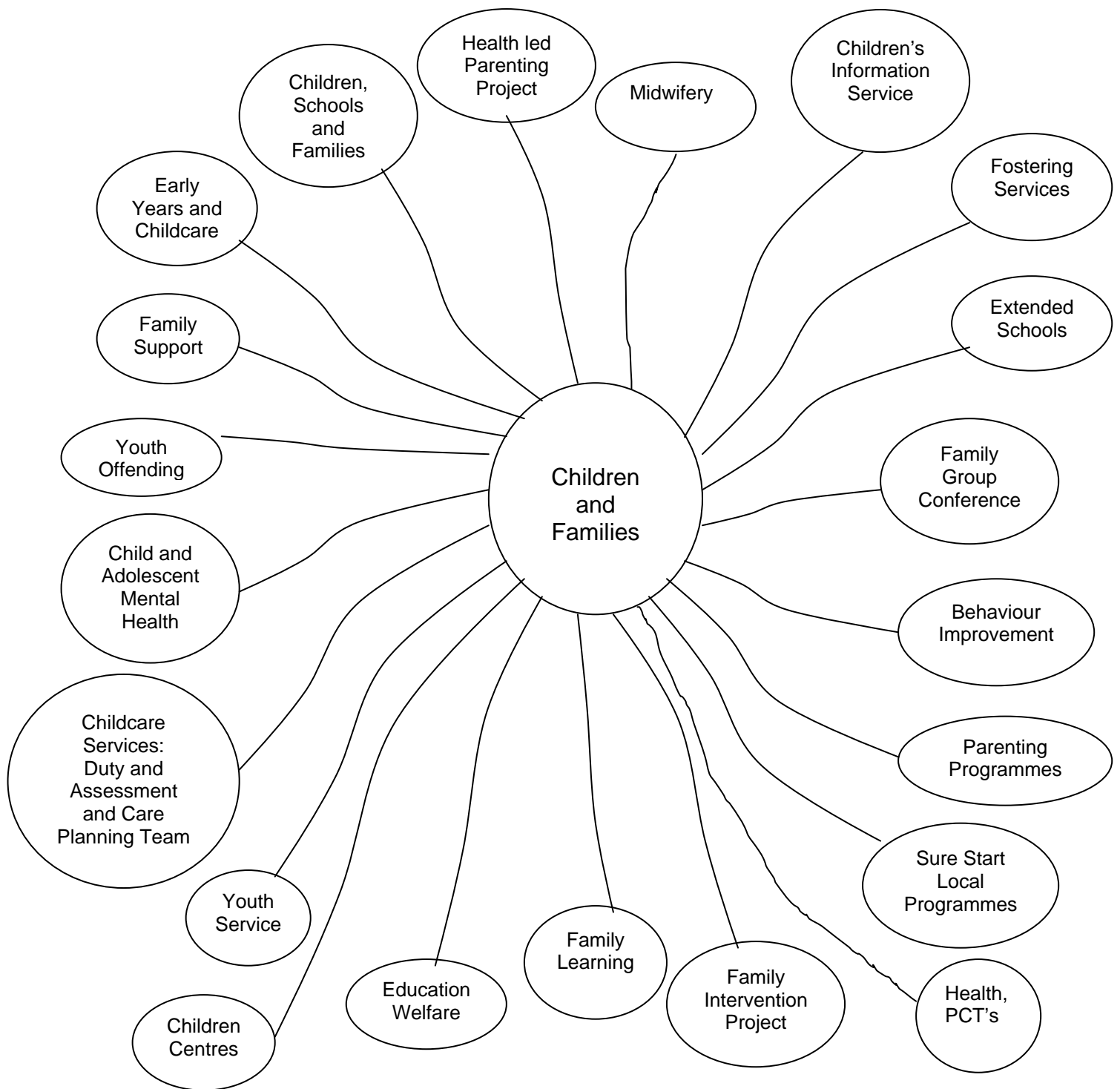
22. The Parenting Strategy aims to provide a consistent approach to supporting positive and responsible parenting levels of need. The strategy identifies four broad levels of need, and aims to provide a menu of appropriate support and intervention at each level. The levels are not exclusive - some work strands impact on more than one level. Families might use a range of services across different levels and might need different types of support at different stages of their child's life.

<b>Level of Need</b>	<b>Definition of Need</b>	<b>Type of Support</b>	<b>Provision</b>
Level 1 Access to Universal Services	All parents have access to support through Universal Services	Information, involvement and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Information Service (CIS)</li> <li>• Parenting information in a range of Public and Community Venues.</li> <li>• Access to Family Learning.</li> <li>• Access to Parenting Programmes.</li> <li>• Child &amp; Family Health Teams.</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Sport &amp; Leisure</li> <li>• Children Centres</li> </ul>
Level 2 Access to Universal Services plus Additional Targeted Support	Parents needing some additional support, either self-referred or because a service has identified the need for a targeted support	Information, involvement and opportunities plus targeted support for parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Provision</li> <li>• Referral to self-help through CIS, Service Directory.</li> <li>• Appropriate training for staff in Universal Services.</li> <li>• Family Support in voluntary, community and statutory sectors</li> </ul>
Level 3 Access to Universal Provision plus Intensive and Targeted Support	Parents in families with complex needs	Intensive family interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted support through specialist services e.g. domestic violence, drug and alcohol, mental health.</li> <li>• Multi-agency support</li> <li>• Parenting Contract</li> </ul>
Level 4 Access to Universal Provision plus Statutory Intervention	Parents who can't or won't co-operate	Statutory intensive family interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixed penalties</li> <li>• Parenting Orders</li> <li>• Threat of custodial sentences</li> <li>• Intensive Intervention</li> <li>• Multi- agency Child Protection Conference</li> <li>• Looked After Children's Team</li> <li>• Parenting Contract</li> </ul>

## Action Plan 2007/2008

Objective	Key Action	Resources	Outcomes	Timescale
Level 1/2 To identify Parenting programmes and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To carry out an audit and map provision across the City</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parenting Co-ordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parenting Support Directory</li> <li>Integrate support directory to CIS</li> <li>To create a website for parenting support</li> </ul>	July 2007  July 2008
To meet the information duties in The Child Care Act 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a brokerage service to support parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Years and Child Care Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory requirement to be universally available</li> </ul>	July 2008
To further develop support for parents through Children Centres and Extended Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to identify and assess need City Wide</li> <li>Build capacity to deliver identified services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service Teams (Extended Schools and Children Centres)</li> <li>Voluntary Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linked to targets specified in the Childcare &amp; Family Learning Business Plan and Local Area Agreement</li> </ul>	March 2008
To embed Multi-agency training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For professionals to access appropriate training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Force Development</li> <li>Voluntary Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enable professions to access and identify services</li> </ul>	July 2008
Co-ordinate Parenting Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webster Stratton</li> <li>Strengthening Families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parenting Co-ordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan of Parenting programmes available across Derby</li> </ul>	July 2008
Level 3 To offer intensive family support to engage parents and support them to be effective in their roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment</li> <li>Parenting Contact</li> <li>Targeted Parenting Programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Support Services</li> <li>Parenting- Co-Ordinator</li> <li>Youth Offending Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve parenting skills to enable families to move down the tiers</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Level 4 To support Parents in crisis, with complex needs, acute and often long term, where parents refuse or are not able to co-operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPC</li> <li>Parenting Orders</li> <li>FIP</li> <li>Looked After Children</li> <li>School Exclusion</li> <li>Adoption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Care</li> <li>Youth Offending Service</li> <li>ASB Senior Parenting Practitioner</li> <li>Social Care</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Social Care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve parenting skills to enable families to move down the tiers within a statutory framework</li> </ul>	Ongoing

## Partnership Parenting Activities



## Conclusion

23. The Children Act 2004 has enabled Children's Services to focus their priorities on improving all outcomes for children and young people. In Derby we foresee that the implementation of this strategy will help us to build upon existing work and good practice and to now focus our priorities towards promoting parenting support.
24. The strategy will be reviewed and evaluated annually by the Partnership and quarterly by the Steering Group using a set of performance measures which are based upon needs analysis, Local Area Agreement targets and locally identified priorities contained with the Children and Young People's Plan.
25. It has been identified from research that has already been carried out by practitioners that there are pockets of good practice in and around Derby. This is now the opportunity to integrate and co-ordinate these inputs to promote effective and positive parenting, to enable us to achieve our vision.





# Appendices

## Appendix 1 - Messages from our Parents and Carers

At our Parenting event on the 10 March 2007 parents were asked to share “sayings” that their parents/carers said to them as a child.

- There's good and bad in everyone
- As a minority you have to work hard to succeed!
- Remember it was me that told you so when you get into trouble
- Do you do that just to annoy me!
- “Stop annoying your brother and sister”
- If the wind changes, your face will stay like that!!
- Don't come crying to me when...
- Those that eat “most meat” get most pudding – (eat your main course all up!)
- Eat your greens
- Take your coat off or you'll never feel the benefit
- There's no such thing as can't
- I'll tell your dad!
- Only mice squeak
- When adults are talking get out the room
- Be seen and not heard
- Wait until you have children of your own
- She'll always be three years older than you!
- “I won't” never gets and may I only sometimes
- “Don't talk to strangers”
- Don't ever bring the police to our door
- Always let someone know where you are
- You'll thank me when you're older
- Is there blood? (No) get up then you're ok
- Speak when you're spoken to!
- “There's plenty of other fish in the sea!”
- Clean your room!!
- If you ever said, “it's not fair” the reply was & it's not raining either!
- “You'll get curly hair if you eat your crusts”
- “Eat your carrots you'll see in the dark”
- “There's nowt so queer as folk”
- “You'll get square eyes if you sit too close to the telly”
- Work hard
- Keep out of big people's business!
- Talk to people as you want them to talk to you
- Go and look it up in the dictionary or you'll never remember it
- It'll end in tears
- Think before we speak!
- Behave good, respect the others
- Listen to parents and to older brother

### Messages from our Parents and Carers (contd)

- Do your homework
- Brush your teeth and keep room tidy
- More eating less talking
- Have respect for other people
- I'll go down to the garden and get some cash off the money tree shall I?
- If you eat that you'll be sick
- Just wait till you get to my age!
- Never say you can't
- "It's a good job you're strong"
- If you haven't got anything nice to say don't say anything at all
- It might not be what you want but your life is what you make it!
- Treat all adults like your uncles and aunts
- "Wanty Wanty - nah get it, Getty Getty - nah want it"
- "You won't get any pudding if you don't eat all your dinner"
- Always be kind to others
- Be back on time!!
- Why are they taking funding away from groups? They are just teasing the community. Quote from Parent!
- Never go to bed on an argument
- Look after each other as your brothers and sisters are all you will have one day
- "It'll look better in the morning"
- "Stop looking so miserable" (When I didn't feel miserable)



## **Appendix 2- Parenting Event**

This is a summary of the parents discussions in their groups on Saturday 10 March 2007.

### **Question 1**

**Where did/do you get your support from as a parent?**

- Sure Start
- Oasis
- Own parents
- Family members/relative
- Friends/neighbours
- Teachers
- Partner
- Government Legislation
  - Laws
  - Policy
  - Maternity leave
  - Working families i.e. tax credits
- Doctors
- Nursery
- Through own faith group
  - Religious/non religious
- GP/Health Visitor/Midwife
- Hospital
- Social Centre
- Social Worker
- Baby/Toddler Group
- Policy – protection in case of threat
- Insurance Company – in case of accident
- Dentists
- Barnardos
- Family Support
- Connexions
- Youth Services (although this is not easy to access)
- Eating Disorders Association/Specific Voluntary Organisations
- Sporting activities

### **Question 2**

**What do you need to know to be able to parent a child of that age group?**

- Safety
  - Around the home
  - First Aid

### Knowledge of support available

- Childcare – Quality of nursery/child carer, places available, funding and flexibility e.g. week ends
- Knowledge of how to care for a child 0 – 5 years!
- Feeding  
How to make feeds and sterilising bottles  
To know when then have had enough and how to deal with hiccups
- What to do in an emergency e.g. when your child is sick?  
Who to contact?  
Where to go?  
What if this is in the night?
- More financial support for children from the Government
- Regular visits from the Health Visitor
- More information on careers advice – qualifications etc  
Connexions internet not very helpful  
Less choice for activities for the 12 – 16 year old

### **Question 3**

#### **What skills do you need to be a parent of that age group?**

- Time
- Patience
- Budgeting and Finance
- Planning and Organising Skills
- Doctor/Nurse re: health issues
- Counsellor
- Birthday party organiser
- Listener
- Assertiveness
- Homework
- Decision making skills
- Adapt to change
- Special needs, understand roles of support for our children and how to access services
- Family break up coping with children alone
- Diet issues
- Negotiator
- Unconditional love
- Understanding
- Tolerance

## Conclusion

Parents from the 0-5 years group identified gaps in the services they received and suggested the following improvements:

- Transport accessibility
- Flexible services i.e. evenings/weekends (not just Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm)
- Targeted support across the City that is consistent and not merely an add on
- Affordable childcare
- Improved health care services for the 0 – 3 years
- Universal services for everyone!
- Better training for people interested in working in childcare – more inclusive
- Better communications

Parents from the 6 – 12 years group identified gaps in the services they received and suggested the following improvements:

- One stop shop
  - Flexible hours
  - In all areas of Derby
  - Sign posting rights/benefits
- Extended Schools
  - Choice of activities
  - Parents involved in local activities
  - Flexible times to fit in with working parents
- Regular meetings with other parents

Parents from 13 – 17 years group identified gaps in the services they received and suggested the following improvements:

- Youth Service
  - Promoting clubs/activities
  - Marketing these to young people
- Advice for young people about opportunities after school
- Connexions service should :
  - Encourage more
  - Offer wider choice of what opportunities are available
- A good City centre youth club designed for you and by the older teenage group
- Information for parents to help direct young people to where the services are – good internet information



### **Appendix 3 – Definition of Parental Responsibility**

Parental responsibility means responsible for:

- Your child's well being
- Looking after your child
- Feeding and clothing your child
- Making decisions about their schooling
- Deciding whether to consent to medical treatment
- Representing them in legal proceedings
- Make decisions about where to live
- Making decisions about their religious upbringing

The Law sets out who has parental responsibility. You have it automatically if you are:

- The biological mother of the child
- The biological father of the child, and were married to the mother at the time of conception of the birth, or you married the mother after the birth of the Child.
- You are adoptive parents once an adoption order is made

Even if the marriage breaks down, both father and mother will continue to have parental responsibility.

Unmarried fathers did not have the same rights and responsibilities as a married father. However, a new Act, the Adoption and Children Act 2002, now gives an unmarried father parental responsibility where he and the mother register the birth of the child together. But the Act is not retrospective, so an unmarried father with children born before the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003 can still only get parental responsibility agreement, either by:-

- Making an agreement with the mother
- Or by applying to the court for a parental responsibility order

Unmarried couples/foster carers/family members e.g. grandparents wishing to obtain a parental responsibility agreement have to:

- Obtain a form from a Solicitor or family court
- Go in person to the local Magistrates Court or County Court to get it signed
- Send it to the Principal Registry of the Family Division

Reference: National Family and Parenting Institute (2004) Is it Legal?

# Glossary

## Abbreviation

### **ASB:**

Anti-Social Behaviour

### **CIS:**

Children Information Service

### **CPC:**

Child Protection Conference

### **CVS:**

Community Voluntary Service

### **FIP:**

Family Intervention Project

### **YOS:**

Youth Offending Service





We can give you this information in any other way,  
style or language that will help you access it.

Please contact us on 01332 716924

Minicom 01332 716709

Fax 01332 716920

#### Hindi

हम आपको यह जानकारी किसी दूसरे तरह और ढंग से या दूसरी भाषा में भी दे सकते हैं जिससे आपको इसे प्राप्त करने में मदद मिल सकेगी. कृपया हमसे इन नंबरों द्वारा संपर्क कीजिए **01332 572412**  
मिनीकाम **01332 716709**

#### Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ,  
ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ  
**01332 572412** ਮਿਨੀਕਮ **01332 716709** ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

#### Urdu

یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم **01332 572412**  
منی کام **01332 716709** پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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