

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	8.
Date:	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2010	Status	Open
Category	Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Parenting Strategy		
Report by:	Senior Parenting Officer		
Other Officers Involved	Housing Enforcement Manager Head of Community and Street Services Head of Housing		
Director	Director of Neighbourhoods		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety		

#### **RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY** – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure by reducing anti-social behaviour.

**CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES** – Providing excellent customer focused services. The Place Survey suggests that ASB is important to the residents of the District, the parenting roles helps to tackle ASB.

**REGENERATION** – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities. Parenting help to developing sustainable communities by providing help to parents of children who are involved in ASB.

#### **TARGETS**

The production of a Parenting Strategy is a specific target within the Corporate Plan.

The draft Corporate Plan refresh also has a target to ensure that 90% of parents accepted onto the Parenting Skills course successfully complete the course by March 2011.

#### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

The government funding of parenting is based on a belief that an investment in parenting will reduce longer terms costs associated with Anti-Social Behaviour.

## THE REPORT

The enclosed report sets out the Bolsover District Council's approach to parenting provision and the vision for supporting and promoting good parenting skills across the District.

Bolsover is one of only nine authorities across the East Midlands with a dedicated parenting expert. The work to date has been highly valued and has gained national recognition.

During the development of the Strategy there has been a change in emphasis and the strategy revised to strengthen the link between poor parenting and reducing anti-social behaviour.

The Strategy recognises that whilst most parents have good skills there are a number who need additional support to ensure they are able to provide positive parenting.

The Strategy also recognises that poor parenting increases the risks of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour. The Strategy also recognises that an effective approach to positive parenting will involve other stakeholders, in particular the Family Intervention Project.

The underpinning values of the Strategy are outlined in the Strategy, these are:

- The Council will encourage parents to take responsibility for managing their child's / young person's behaviour.
- The Council will encourage agencies working with parents to have a role in supporting positive and responsible parenting.
- The Council will provide access to or develop a range of interventions to meet different family circumstances and levels of need.
- The Council will develop or provide access to targeted interventions to address the needs of those who most need parenting support but may be either unwilling or unable to access. All interventions should have clear justification, ideally a significant evidence base and should be carefully evaluated.
- The Council will work actively to break down barriers and build trust with parents who are disengaged and put enforcement measures in place if these families are engaged in anti-social behaviour.

The Strategy contains an action plan to deliver parenting classes where these are needed and to build on the excellent work carried out so far.

## **ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Whether to accept the draft strategy.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: - None directly, however, the funding for the Senior Parenting Practitioner expires in 2011 and the Council will need to consider longer term options

Legal: - None directly

Human Resources – None directly, but see comments under Financial.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Council adopts the enclosed document as the Parenting Strategy for the District.

## **REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION**

In order that the Council's approach to intervening with parents is clearly and publicly set out.

ATTACHMENTS:	<b>Y</b>
FILE REFERENCE:	<b>Draft Parenting Strategy</b>
SOURCE DOCUMENT:	

**BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Parenting Strategy**

**2009 - 2011**

**This Strategy addresses the following Corporate Aims (show those which are appropriate to the Strategy only):**



## **The District of Bolsover Equalities Statement**

The District of Bolsover is committed to equalities as an employer and in all the services provided to all sections of the community.

□ The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminate all forms of discrimination in compliance with the Equality Strategy.

□ The Council also has due regard to eliminate racial discrimination and to proactively promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups when performing it's functions.

This document is available in large print and other formats from any of the Council Offices or by contacting the Chief Executives Directorate on 01246 242323. Please bear in mind we will need a few days to arrange this facility.

If you need help to read this document please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our Equality and Diversity Officer can be contacted via [Email](#) or by telephoning 01246 242407.

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<b>Details of Document</b>	<b>Comments / Confirmation</b>
<b>Title</b>	Parenting Strategy
Document type – i.e. draft or final version	Draft
Location of Strategy	
Lead Author of Strategy	Senior Parenting Practitioner
Member route for Approval & Cabinet Member concerned	Executive Cllr Brian Murray Carr
Reviewed by Director of Strategy	12-02-08
Date Risk Assessment completed	09-06-09
Date Equality Impact Assessment approved	06-04-09
Consultation Undertaken (Internal or External) if required	SMT, Customer Focus Group, Heads of Service, ASB Team, Derbyshire County Council Parent Steering Group, Parent Groups.
Partnership Involvement (if applicable)	Derbyshire County Council, Members of ASB Team, Derbyshire PCT.
Strategy Approved by	
Date Approved	
Strategy Review Date	March 2011
Date forwarded to CSPD (to include on Intranet and Internet	

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## **Parenting Strategy**

### **Principles**

This strategy has been produced on behalf of and states Bolsover District Council's commitment to parenting provision. It sets out our proposed vision and key priorities for supporting and promoting parenting in the District, through a multi-agency approach.

This strategy's main focus will be parenting provision for families at risk from / or engaging in anti-social behaviour. Primarily to deliver the Community Safety aspects of the District Council's Corporate Plan 2007-2011 and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

### **Vision**

Bolsover District Council would like to achieve a future in which any parent within the District who needs support will know where to turn and be able to benefit from a range of appropriate and accessible services. Improving parents' skills, taking preventative measures and using enforcement action to reduce anti-social behaviour will contribute to strengthening communities.



## **Introduction**

Bolsover District Council recognises that the majority of parents in the District do a good job, often in challenging circumstances. This strategy sets out the overall objectives of parenting provision and the levels of support that are or will be available. These range from general information through to specialist services including access to evidence based parenting programmes. Because this strategy will help deliver the Community Safety aspects of the District Council's Corporate Plan it will have an anti-social behaviour focus. Services identified will include both early intervention and targeted or enforcement measures to address the findings from the Mori Survey 2006. This strategy identifies the commitments, the way forward and the team that will be responsible for delivering all this.

For the purposes of this strategy 'good / positive parenting' is defined as "caring for a child in such a way to ensure that they achieve their maximum potential against the 5 outcomes from Every Child Matters". Contributing to being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, achieving economic well-being.

In this strategy "Parents" has been defined to include mothers, fathers, carers and other adults with responsibility for caring for a child, including looked after children.

## Background and Policy Context

The background to this strategy is informed by the Government's Respect agenda, a campaign designed to address some of the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour and to challenge problem families in order to change behaviour. Dedicated parenting experts was established in nine areas across the East Midlands, to ensure that those parents who are worried about their children's behaviour can get the help they need to put an end to the bad behaviour and bring up happier, better behaved children. Bolsover was one of these areas given a parenting expert to provide help to families through evidence based parenting classes or sometimes on a one to one basis.

Bolsover is ranked 55 out of 354 local authorities in the Indices of Deprivation 2007 (1 is most deprived, 354 least deprived). This is a better ranking than in the 2004 Indices, however Bolsover is still one of local authorities who falls in the top 20% most deprived local authorities, nationally. Areas that rank high on measures of deprivation, such as high unemployment, low levels of income and poor quality accommodation, are often characterised by high levels of crime and disorder. There is strong evidence from the Government that parenting has a major impact on a child's life chances. Strong and loving relationships with parents, praise, parental interest and involvement in education are all linked with better outcomes for children. Careless parental supervision, parental abuse or neglect of children, inconsistent or violent discipline, and children having a poor or no relationship with one or both parents are linked with higher chances of negative outcomes. Poor parenting also increases the risks of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour.

Findings from the Ipsos MORI Survey October 2006 shows that the public think that parents not bringing up their children properly is one of the main causes of anti-social behaviour. The key findings of people surveyed in the East Midlands are:

- 42% of those in the East Midlands in the survey see 'parents not bringing up their children appropriately' as a main cause of anti-social behaviour today.
- Just under half of those surveyed in the East Midlands think that 'better parenting' would do most to reduce crime (46%).
- 85% of those in the East Midlands in the sample think that 10 year olds should be indoors and off the streets by 8:30pm or earlier on a school night whereas 77% think that they should be indoors by 8:30pm or earlier on a weekend.
- Respondents in the East Midlands are clear about 10 year olds being in bed by 9:30pm or earlier on a school night with 90% thinking this. 42% think that they should be in bed by 9:30pm or earlier at the weekend.
- Almost all of those in the East Midlands support the police's powers to return anti-social under-16 year olds home after 9pm (96%).
- Four out of five, as nationally, agree that parents should be made to take responsibility for their children's anti-social behaviour (80%) and made to take help if need be (82%).
- If they had to deal with their child's troublesome and difficult behaviour,

a third (35%) of parents in the East Midlands would go to friends and family for help. A further 20% would go to their school and 9% would go to their health visitor. However, 63% would find help from outside friends and family useful.

The recognition from the Government of the important role parents play in the life of a child has seen expression in a number of policy, guidance and review papers to name a few:

- The Children Act 2006
- 2006 Government Respect Action Plan
- 2007 Every Parent Matters Agenda
- 2007 Aiming Higher
- The development of Children's Centres, extended services in schools and healthy schools
- Targeted youth support plan
- The Children and Young People's Plan.

In October 2006 the Department for Education and Skills, now the Department for Children Schools and Families published "Parenting Support: Guidance for Local Authorities in England". This Guidance required them, among other things, to:

- develop a strategic and joined up approach to the design and delivery of parenting support services, ideally through a parenting support strategy that informs the Children and Young People's Plan and takes account of parents' views
- see support for parents as a continuum, from early intervention and preventative services through to the use of enforcement measures, using whole range of services as appropriate;
- identify a single commissioner of parenting support services, and commission parenting support programmes that are evidence based, drawing on relevant guidance and the Commissioners Toolkit
- establish a Multi –Agency Steering Group to develop the Parenting Support Strategy

This strategy must also be seen within the wider context of County wide plans and strategies currently being developed. As with other plans and strategies, this parenting strategy is intended to cover services delivered by the District Council and those delivered by our key partner organisations, including Derbyshire County Council (DCC), Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (DPCT), Voluntary and Community bodies.

## **Underpinning Values**

### **What we are trying to achieve:**

The Council is committed to a twin-track approach to anti-social behaviour, putting prevention and support work on an equal footing with enforcement action, where appropriate as set out in the Council's ASB policy.

To address the issues found in the Mori Survey and contribute to reducing anti-social behaviour, this is how the Council intends to do this:-

- The Council will encourage parents to take responsibility for managing their child's / young person's behaviour.
- The Council will encourage agencies working with parents to have a role in supporting positive and responsible parenting.
- The Council will provide access or develop a range of interventions to meet different family circumstances and levels of need.
- The Council will develop or provide access to targeted interventions to address the needs of those who most need parenting support but may be either unwilling or unable to access. All interventions should have clear justification, ideally a significant evidence base and should be carefully evaluated.
- The Council will work actively to break down barriers and build trust with parents who are disengaged and put enforcement measures in place if these families are engaged in anti-social behaviour.

## The Way Forward

### Levels of need and type of support available to address this.

Level	Definition of Need	Type of Support
1	All parents – universal support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information accessed by signposting to mainstream services countywide</li> </ul>
2	Parents needing some additional support, either self-referred or because mainstream services have identified a requirement for targeted support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Targeted or Specialist support for parents.</li> <li>▪ Parenting Programmes</li> </ul>
3	Parents in families with complex or additional needs identified by Common Assessment Frameworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intensive family interventions</li> <li>▪ Parenting Programmes</li> <li>▪ Statutory Parenting Interventions (Anti-Social Behaviour teams or Youth Offending Service)</li> <li>▪ Safeguarding services (refer to Council's Child Protection Procedures)</li> </ul>
4	Parents who can't or won't co-operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intensive family interventions</li> <li>▪ Statutory Parenting Interventions (Anti-Social Behaviour teams or Youth Offending Service)</li> <li>▪ Safeguarding services (refer to Council's Child Protection Procedures)</li> </ul>

#### **Level 1: Information.**

- Every parent will need support at some stage in their child's / young person's life where they will be able to access universal resources and information on all aspects of parenting. These are widely available in Schools, Children's Centres, Libraries, Health centres, Community centres, Councils and via the internet.
- Introductory parenting courses, family learning opportunities and routes into employment countywide.

## **Level 2: Targeted or specialist support for parents**

- High-quality, evidence-based parenting courses will be widely promoted in a multi-agency approach. There will be a clear approach to engage with parents of children with behaviour problems at the earliest signs of difficulties, and to work to ensure that they access parent training courses and other support. This can be accessed on a self-referral basis or by agencies working across Bolsover District and Derbyshire.

## **Level 3: Families with complex or additional needs**

- Families who have been identified by the Common Assessment Framework\*
- Referral to Intensive Family Intervention services
- Targeted statutory interventions for families presenting to Youth Offending Services and Anti-social Behaviour Teams (following the Council's ASB Policy and Procedures)
- Referral to Safeguarding services following the Council's Child Protection Procedures.

## **Level 4: Statutory and Intensive Family Interventions**

- There will be a resilient and assertive key working approach for families unwilling or unable to co-operate. Staff will be committed to the twin-track approach, and legal powers will be used to ensure parents co-operate in the interests of the child or young person as well as the community. Staff working at this level will be trained and supported in effective interventions with this group.
- Making use of the Family Intervention Projects, Anti-Social Behaviour (following the Council's ASB Policy and Procedures) and Youth Offending Teams and in extreme cases Safeguarding (following the Council's Child Protection Procedures).

\* The Common Assessment Framework is an essential part of the Government's strategy to ensure that every child is able to meet the 5 outcomes identified as part of the Every Child Matters agenda. The Common Assessment is an assessment of a child within the context of the family and the community. This is to improve the way services are delivered, shifting the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children's lives to preventing things from going wrong in the first place.

## **Action Plan 2009 - 2011**

### **Priorities - To tackle anti – social behaviour and its causes (Community Safety Strategy and Corporate Plan)**

- To provide parenting support for families with young people engaging in / or at risk from anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.
- To provide a parenting support service for all families living in the Bolsover District area type and level of intervention will be varied depending on their identified need.

### **Objectives**

#### **Target**

- Identify families with young people engaging in / or at risk from anti-social behaviour and criminal activity making use of the enforcement tools such as Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders for non-engagement.

#### **Preventative**

- To deliver a minimum of three parenting programmes per year. This will include Webster / Stratton Incredible Years courses and Living with Children/Teenager courses.
- Ensure that 90% of parents, accepted onto the Parenting course, successfully complete the course.

**Target - Initiative 1.** To provide parenting support for families with young people engaging in / or at risk from anti-social behaviour and / or criminal activity.

Location	Action	Timescale	Lead Officer
District Wide	Identify the number of families with young people engaging in / or at risk from anti-social behaviour and / or criminal activity making use of the enforcement tools such as Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders for non-engagement.	Monthly	Melanie Ellis

**Preventative - Initiative 2.** To offer Parenting Programmes for all families living in the Bolsover District area and specifically target families with young people engaging in / or at risk from anti-social behaviour and / or criminal activity.

District Wide	To deliver a minimum of three evidence-based parenting programmes per year. This will include Webster / Stratton Incredible Years courses and Living with Children / Teenager courses.	Annually	Melanie Ellis
	Ensure that 90% of parents, accepted onto the Parenting course, successfully complete the course.	By March 2011	Melanie Ellis



## **Implementation - Developing the teams to deliver the Strategy**

Bolsover Parenting Services are made up of a Senior Parenting Practitioner based within the anti-social behaviour team for Bolsover District Council. Two Family Intervention Project Key Workers and a Team Leader for the Family Intervention Project based at Bolsover delivering services for Bolsover District and employed by Derbyshire County Council.

The Senior Parenting Practitioner is responsible for the delivery of parenting programmes across the District and working with families whose children are at risk of / or exhibiting anti-social behaviour. This will involve signposting to universal parenting services at Level 1, delivering parenting courses and one to one targeted support for intervention at level 2, 3 and 4. Intervention at level 3 and 4 for the Senior Parenting Practitioner will involve being responsible for enforcing parenting sanctions for families not engaging or not responding to voluntary interventions. A voluntary intervention would be in the form of a Parenting Contract if this was not adhered to it could lead to applying to the court for a Parenting Order.

The Family Intervention Project Key workers are designed to work with families who have multiple issues and are causing extreme anti-social problems within the community and will be involved at levels 3 and 4. Families may be at risk of eviction due to anti-social behaviour, people in the household are subject to enforcement action for anti-social behaviour, family has a history of homelessness due to anti-social behaviour or children in the household are at risk from being taken into care because of anti-social behaviour. The Family Intervention Project Key workers are responsible for working with the whole family, challenging all unacceptable behaviour and co-ordinating access to other local services both statutory and specialist. This is in the form of a contract with the family it sets out changes in behaviour, support and identifies sanctions which will happen if the contract is broken.

Derbyshire County Council have responsibility for Childcare, Parents and Carers Strategy, Family Support (Social Care), Family Dimensions with Children's Centres, Parent Partnership and Parenting services all of which are involved at all levels of intervention. Derbyshire County Council also co-ordinate and deliver Webster/Stratton Incredible Years parenting courses in Bolsover and across Derbyshire and can be accessed at any level of intervention.

In addition to this Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust co-ordinate and deliver the Living with Children / Living with Teenager parent courses across Bolsover and the rest of North Derbyshire. All courses can be accessed at all levels of intervention.

Derbyshire Youth Offending Service also deliver parenting provision for parents of young offenders with identified needs but intervention is mainly involved at levels 3 and 4.

Both Bolsover and Derbyshire Parenting Services form part of Derbyshire Parenting Steering Group which has responsibility for co-ordinating parenting services across Derbyshire and will be key player in helping to deliver elements in this strategy.

### **To find out more.....**

This document gives an overview of our approach to supporting positive and responsible parenting in Bolsover. The strategy is a working document that will continue to change and develop over time. A copy of the strategy is available online at [www.bolsover.gov.uk](http://www.bolsover.gov.uk) . The Council welcomes feedback, and will continue to consult with parents, children and young people, as well as with services working with families in Bolsover and across Derbyshire, to ensure the continued development of the strategy.

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