

Working together to reach your goals



Buckinghamshire **Children**
and **Young People's** Trust



Buckinghamshire Parenting and Family Support Strategy

2009 – 2011



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Buckinghamshire Parenting and Family Support Strategy 2009 – 2011

I am pleased to present Buckinghamshire's Parenting and Family Support Strategy. It builds upon our existing good practice and addresses recent Government initiatives around 'Think Family' which recognises that issues which affect adults in families also influence the wellbeing of children and young people and is one of the key activities in the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan.

The strategy aims to deliver a co-ordinated approach to parenting and family support through positive engagement and involvement of all local partners, including parents and carers.

Parenting can be a complex and sometimes lonely role, as well as being the most rewarding we may ever have. Parents and carers require information and support at different stages of their child's life. However, not everyone's needs are the same; some need extra support during uncertain or difficult times in their own lives whilst others may need more intensive help over a longer period of time.

Strong and positive parenting has a far more significant impact upon children's outcomes than any other socio-economic and education factors. Supporting parents and carers not only improves the life chances for children and young people, but can have wider benefits for communities and society as a whole.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Imbriano".

Sue Imbriano
*Strategic Director Children and
Young People's Services*

01. Introduction and Purpose

This document builds upon the Buckinghamshire Parenting Strategy of April 2008; it takes into account recent developments in the national and local parenting agenda as well as broadening the scope of the original document.



Parents have a great influence on their children's lives with a significant effect upon how they fare in adulthood. Whilst most parents / carers in Buckinghamshire manage this important role well, there is potential for supporting families to build resilience, particularly during times of difficulty or change.

The aim of this strategy is to ensure that all partners from statutory and voluntary agencies, parents and carers understand the impact of positive parenting. This includes managing children in a consistent, loving and warm way whilst setting clear limits and teaching children to behave maturely whilst being aware of their needs.

The strategy includes effective early interventions on reducing anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder as well as enhancing the health and well-being of children and families in Buckinghamshire with regard to universal and targeted provision.

This is intended as a working document, it will be supported by an action plan that will develop and change over time.

This strategy is intended to strengthen the links between services at all levels through:

- Stronger parent, carer, child and family involvement in service planning and development
- The identification of a Single Commissioner of Parenting Support Services with responsibility for assessing the need for parenting support, identifying gaps in provision and ensuring that parenting support is appropriately reflected in the Children and Young People's Plan and related strategies
- The further development of multi agency locality working across Buckinghamshire's eight Local Delivery Area
- The establishment of clear care pathways to support families with particular identified needs as described by the Government's 'Think Family' initiative and as they come on stream in Buckinghamshire including Parent Support Advisors (PSA), Parenting Experts, Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) and Family Intervention Project (FIP)
- The use of agreed evidence based parenting support programmes evaluated through the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) Commissioning Toolkit which will replace the Buckinghamshire Quality Standards Framework for Parenting. Thus improving controlled interventions with a clear rationale in order to secure better and more consistent outcomes
- The strengthening of service integration at key transition points particularly in regard to more robust communication and joint planning between Children's Services with Adult Social Care, Adult Mental Health Services and Adult Substance Misuse Services
- Establishing the governance arrangements for parenting and family support through the setting up and development of the Buckinghamshire Parent Support Team based in the Achievement and Learning Division of Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Services
(see Appendix 2 for structure chart)



02. The Strategy

This strategy is one of a suite of strategies developed through the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust. The Trust Board's membership includes partners from statutory and voluntary sectors who are committed to improving the outcomes of all children and young people from birth to nineteen years (to twenty-one years for Children in Care unless in further or higher education and to twenty-five years if the child or young person has a disability). This strategy is part of the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan which is the single, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people in the county.



03. The Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan 2009 – 2011

The Buckinghamshire Children & Young People's Plan 2009 – 2011 includes a summary of consultation with children, young people and adults on key priorities for provision of services.



The results of the consultation are:

- **Closing the Gap** – working with those children and young people that need extra support – to improve their learning at school / college, and their understanding of how to be healthy and where to get help if they need it
- **Family Focus** – providing individual help and support to a family to help them provide the best home for their children. Ensure that services are working together to support the whole family to achieve outcomes
- **Early Intervention and Secondary Prevention** – help is provided to children, young people and their families as soon as problems begin, to stop things getting worse or out of control. A strong focus on prevention and providing early support for those at greatest risk so that problems do not get out of control
- **Transitions** – children and young people are given extra support at the time of change in their lives. Support for children, young people and adults at key stages in their lives
- **Children and Young People and Decision Making** – the opinions and ideas of children and young people are used to make sure the services provided for them are what they really want

All the priorities detailed above are relevant to the delivery of Parenting and Family Support in Buckinghamshire.

04. The Government Agenda – ‘Think Family,’ Parenting and Family Support

The Government has placed a high priority upon positive parenting as an effective tool to improve community cohesion and the reduction of crime and disorder.

As a result of the Government’s Family at Risk review a new Government initiative called ‘Think Family’ was developed to achieve better outcomes for families most at risk. ‘Think Family’ is an integral part of delivering a continuum of services and means of reforming systems and services provided for vulnerable children, young people and adults to ensure services work together to:

- Identify families at risk to provide support at the earliest opportunity
- Meet the full range of needs within each family they are supporting or working with
- Strengthen the ability of the family members to provide care and support to each other

The expectation is that all local authorities will deliver a range of services that meet the continuum of needs that families might experience. This includes multi-agency universal services, the availability of early intervention and preventative services and targeted services for parents experiencing significant problems. The services funded through the Think Family Grant should be joined up both in terms of planning and delivery fully involving children’s centres, schools and their extended services and associated funding streams.

In order for ‘Think Family’ to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people and their families it is necessary for collaborative working between partner agencies including health services, mental health services, youth offending services, housing departments, community safety, substance misuse services, education services, voluntary agencies including adult services with clients who are parents / carers.

The Think Family Grant is managed through Buckinghamshire Children and Young People’s Services Joint Commissioning Unit.

There is a requirement to develop dedicated roles and services to deliver parenting and family support in every local authority, these are:

- **Parenting Experts: their role is:**
 - To ensure delivery of targeted evidence-based parenting support programmes to the parents of children and young people that local authorities agree to be at risk or those parents with problems that are known to put their children at risk
 - To provide support to the single commissioner for parenting in order to improve the co-ordination of local parenting support and the targeting of existing parenting support activity

Parenting Experts (known as Senior Parent Practitioners in Buckinghamshire) are managed through the Parenting Support Team based in the Achievement and Learning Division of the Children & Young People’s Services. (*Appendix 2*)

- **Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP):**

An initiative to target and deliver support to parents of 8-13 year olds at risk of negative outcomes (particularly anti-social behaviour) and ensure they receive an earlier, more effective, co-ordinated package of support through specified evidence-based parenting programmes.

The PEIP is managed through the Parent Support Team based in the Achievement and Learning Division of the Children and Young People's Services. (*Appendix 2*)

- **Family Intervention Project (FIP):**

Family intervention projects work to turn around the behaviour of families and reduce their impact on their community. In so doing, they also bring stability to families' lives, prevent homelessness and improve opportunities for children. They combine intensive support with focused challenge – a twin track approach. For these projects, it is not a question of either / or – support and enforcement are systematically linked to provide families with the incentive to change.

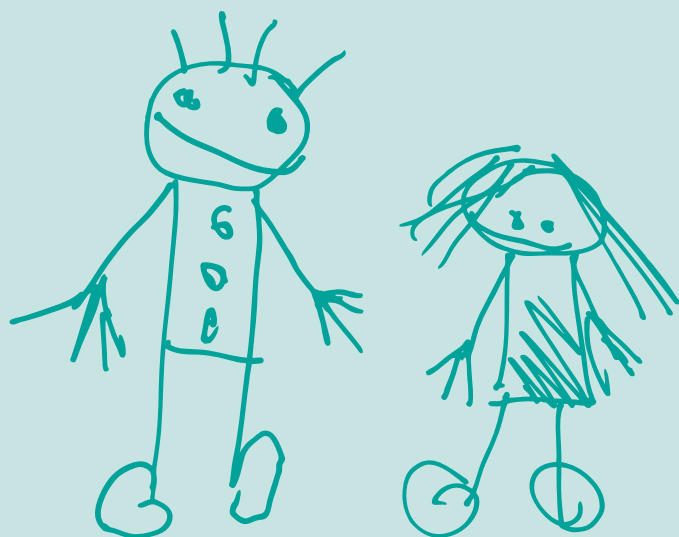
The FIP will be managed through the Families Support Services Safeguarding Division of the Children and Young People's Services. (*Appendix 2*)

In addition to the above there is designated Extended Services funding for **Parenting Support Advisers (PSA):** a parent focussed role to support schools with the delivering of the parenting element of the Extended Services core offer. This is a parent focussed role using the school as the means of engaging parents with their child's learning, school attendance and exclusions (through identifying parental / family issues which may impact upon children's non-attendance and poor attainment). It also includes general parenting information and signposting to specialist parenting and family provision. (*Appendix 2*)



05. Parenting and Family Support in Buckinghamshire

Parenting and family support is an inter-agency issue which has an impact across all children and young people's statutory and third sector services and adult services where clients are parents or carers of children and young people. Different targets are 'owned' by different agencies – examples include: education attendance and attainment targets, health service 'healthy lifestyle' targets, community safety anti-social behaviour targets, adult services mental health and substance misuse targets.



In order to address the need for governance of the parenting and family support agenda in Buckinghamshire the following arrangements are in place:

Buckinghamshire Parenting Commissioner: whose role is to co-ordinate parenting and family support in Buckinghamshire to ensure that it is achieving the best 'fit' between identified needs and the most effective and efficient ways of meeting these through the use of available funding. There is also a responsibility to ensure that parenting / family support is sustainable through identifying additional and ongoing funding streams and commissioning services accordingly. The parenting commissioner is part of the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Unit which reports to the Joint Commissioning Group, a sub group of the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust.

Buckinghamshire Parenting Reference Group: is a multi-agency partnership forum which provides information, support and guidance to the development and delivery of the Parenting and Family Support Strategy.

(Appendix 1: Parenting in Buckinghamshire Diagram)

Buckinghamshire Parent Support Team: a new team based in the Achievement and Learning Division of Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Services. The team will work in partnership with colleagues and services that provide parenting and family support in a wide variety of settings across Buckinghamshire. *(Appendix 2)*



They will:

- Establish referral pathways to universal and targeted parenting / family support services within the Think Family agenda
- Develop robust working relationships with existing providers of parenting support including PCT Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN), Children's Centres, Youth Offending Service (YOS) and voluntary agencies to co-ordinate processes
- Develop referral pathways to existing and new parenting programmes
- Promote parenting programmes and training / support for parenting practitioners
- In regard to referral pathways to existing and new parenting programmes, promoting parenting programmes and training / support for parenting practitioners
- Develop close links with the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (FIS) to ensure wide dissemination of information on Buckinghamshire parenting support programmes as well as information on local and national family resources
- Develop and manage training for practitioners to deliver targeted evidence-based parenting support programmes
- Monitor attendance and outcomes of parenting programmes providing reports when required
- Act as a resource for colleagues across all sectors

Examples of Current Parenting and Family Support in Buckinghamshire

Children's Centres

Children's Centres client group are families with children under 5yrs old. Parenting support is the core component of the work they deliver through modelling appropriate adult / child interaction through a variety of activities. They also signpost parents to specialist support services.



Buckinghamshire PCT Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN) Service

The core work of health visitors and the school nurse service includes provision of parenting and family support through one to one and group work.

The service is working towards developing the Solihull Approach Parenting Support Model in Buckinghamshire. The aim is to help parents develop a way of relating to their child that promotes child development and effective behaviour management.

The core concept is of emotional containment and the presence of a reciprocal relationship. The facilitators help parents to think about what is being communicated through the child's behaviour and their relationship with the child. To support this approach the programme does not start with behaviour management techniques, but rather sets them within the context of learning about the parent / child relationship.

Holding Hands Project (HHP)

The (HHP) has been specifically designed and developed in line with evidence-based practice and a strong theory base of attachment and social learning theories. It addresses the following key priorities: Closing the Gap, Family Focus, Early Intervention and Secondary Prevention and Transitions.

The Holding Hands Project is:

- Targeted at families with children 2-5 years of age, who are presenting with externalising and / or internalising challenging behaviours and have no known medical or complex learning need
- A time-limited home visiting intervention (6 weeks minimum, 1 hour a week). Each session is delivered via one of six themed play boxes
- Delivered by a Family Support Worker (who comes from the same community as the parents)
- Aimed at providing an opportunity for the child and parent / carer to spend time re-connecting with each other through the delivery of planned activities

Family Learning

Family Learning is about parents / carers, children and grandparents learning together. Other venues formally or informally, at school, in a children's centre or, Family Learning run a range of targeted activities to raise self-esteem and build confidence in a relaxed and fun way. The main aims are to increase the child's and adult's skills in a particular area and the adult's confidence to support their child; there are a number of soft outcomes from these sessions to support parenting skills. Many of the sessions concentrate on the importance of play to help children learn.

Case Example:

A mother and her two year old son had been reluctant to join in with group activities at their local Centre because of her concerns that he can be disruptive. A Family Learning team member suggested that they might like to attend one of his activities but to stay outside and listen and observe. They could then talk again if she wished.



Parents as First Teachers (PAFT)

PAFT is an early learning intervention programme which works with parents through outreach, including home visiting and group work to support parents in their children's early learning.

Supporting Parents Around Kids Schooling (SPARKS)

The Sparks project is based on the 'Spokes' project (Scott and Sylvia, 2002), an innovative community project aimed at supporting parents, whose children had just started school, to support their child's education and progress in school. The original project was based in London and ran for twenty-eight weeks; it has now been adapted to a sixteen week programme – twelve weeks based on the Webster-Stratton 'Incredible Years' programme and four weeks of literacy.

Support 4 Parents

The service provides targeted befriending and support to parents and children within the home. The trained volunteer home visitors work towards improving parent's self esteem and the well-being of parents to enhance parent – child interaction.



Further Parenting Support in Buckinghamshire

The Youth Offending Service (YOS): provides parenting programmes and support for parents whose children are in the criminal justice system.

The Education Welfare Service: has a responsibility to ensure that parents who receive parenting orders engage with appropriate parenting programmes.

Young Addaction Family Support Service: provides support for families with members who have substance misuse issues.

Parenting programmes and one to one parenting support is also delivered through other statutory and voluntary agencies across the county.

See Section 13.1 for examples of specific evidence based parenting programmes delivered in Buckinghamshire.



06. Consultation with Parents and Young People

The Buckinghamshire Parenting Strategy April 2008 included results of consultation with parents conducted in 2007 which built on earlier consultation conducted in 2004 by the Parenting and Education Forum.

The following is an extract (in italics) from the Parenting Strategy of April 2008:

A sample of answers when parents were asked what they needed support with:

- *To help me understand my children more*
- *I want to understand how he is developing and how this is going to change*
- *I want more help in how to cope as a single mother, when there is no one else to help*
- *I want to be able to talk to her better*
- *I want to be able to get them to do something without shouting all the time*
- *I like to know how to cope with his behaviour*
- *I want to know where I can go to get some help before it gets too bad*
- *I want to know how to say no*
- *I want to know how to get them to listen to me*
- *I'd like different sessions that I could go to to learn about different things*
- *I'd like to learn how to stop my son drinking*
- *I'd like to learn about drugs, what they do and how to know if my children are taking them*

When parents were asked how they would like to receive support their response was:

- *We don't want to feel bad, or have others think we are bad parents if we ask for help*
- *I'd like support for mums and dads if they have several children as I've coped with my first few well and my fifth is really difficult*
- *I'd like to have some leaflets on how to deal with different things*
- *I want to get support nearby during the day, with a crèche for the kids*
- *I want to get support in the evening after work*
- *I'd like all women groups*
- *I'd like a group with mums and dads so we both do the same thing*
- *I'd like a group just for dads, and how to cope as a single parent*

When young people were asked what they thought that their needs as future parents would be they responded:

- *Ways to access information on parenting and through a website with parenting strategies and scenarios would be very effective. They also wanted information on the normal development of children, what they should be doing at what age, what to expect and what is normal*
- *They also said that their parents needed some information on what it is like to be a teenager today. They wanted their parents to be helped to understand the drug and alcohol culture, how they can help their children cope with exams and stress, and how they can listen to their child*
- *They also wanted lessons in school to help them to become better parents when they have children. Several said that they had not come in touch with a baby and wouldn't know what to do with it. They said it would be useful to have some lessons in school for girls and boys on child development, how to communicate with children and how to manage difficult behaviour*

Overall the consultation showed that parents in Buckinghamshire want (in no particular order):

- *Choice in the type of parenting support they can access*
 - *Mums groups*
 - *Dads groups*
 - *Mums and dads groups*

- *Range of support methods*
 - *Leaflets*
 - *Web based*
 - *Phone line*
 - *Groups*
 - *One to one*
 - *Drop in sessions for various subjects*

Support for parents that is easily accessible, local and available at different times of the day and evenings, with crèche facilities if possible.

- *Support for parenting is available for parents of children at all ages, starting from when the baby is born*
- *No stigma when they ask for support*
- *Support to help them:*
 - *Communicate with their children*
 - *Manage difficult behaviour*
 - *Understand the developmental needs of their child and what is normal behaviour*
 - *Understand their own emotions, responses and needs*
 - *Understand the teenage environment and how they can help their teenager cope with it*
- *Support and practical strategies to help them become and feel they are better parents*
- *Young people are supported in developing their potential role as parents*

These comments are still valid and provide a basis on which to develop ongoing parenting and family support in Buckinghamshire.

07. Key Principles

Support for parents and family life is one of the most important investments for the future. It will be important to maintain and develop a pro-active approach to the provision of parenting support which reflects a seamless service; tailored to meet individual need. It is important to maintain respect for parents, understand the challenge of parenting responsibilities and acknowledge that the majority of parents want to be actively involved in their children's learning and development.

Together with partners and parents we will build on existing strengths and work together to achieve positive outcomes.

The primary strategic objective is in line with the national Every Child Matters (ECM) vision:

That children will be safe, healthy, able to enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

It is also in line with Buckinghamshire's Children and Young People's Trust Vision Statement which was created by professionals working with children, young people and families:

'In Buckinghamshire we want all our children and young people to have the best start in life and to be able to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives, and to be able to make a positive contribution to their communities and to society. Our aim is to ensure access to a range of universal services as well as developing more targeted services to meet their specialist needs.'



7.1 The Key Principles for Parenting and Family Support in Buckinghamshire

1. Support for parents is reflected through the Children and Young People's Plan. This ensures support for parents becomes routine and integrated with other plans and strategies.
2. Use of a positive rather than deficit models of parenting support – starting with what parents are doing well.
3. Parents and carers of children and young people are the key contributors to sustaining positive health and well-being for themselves and their families.
4. The role of fathers is acknowledged and creative methods are employed to engage fathers of children of all ages.
5. Active involvement of parents (including fathers / significant males) in the shaping of services and formulation of policy at all levels to ensure a sense of ownership and collaboration and ultimately provision of support which is appropriate and makes sense to service users.
6. The culture of working in partnership with children, young people and families ensures that local support services are developed in a way that is responsive to their evolving needs, building on strengths as well as offering support when needed.
7. There is support for the further development of parenting forums and encouragement for them to have a strategic role.
8. Inclusion of ante-natal parenting education as part of the continuum of parenting support as intrinsic motivation around parenting is high during pregnancy and early post natal period.
9. Building on parent's strengths helps to build confidence and skills in parenting.
10. Different levels of support are available to parents from preventative and early intervention services through to compulsory engagement with the use of enforcement measures.
11. Recognition of the impact of parent's couple relationship/s upon the welfare and outcomes for their children.
12. Recognition of the impact of extended family members upon children and young people's welfare and outcomes.
13. All agencies acknowledge, understand and respect diverse family patterns and arrangements.

08. Anticipated Benefits

The anticipated benefits of this strategy are that:

- Parents take responsibility for managing their child's behaviour, with recognition that parents are not the only influence on a child's behaviour, but effective parenting is one of the strongest protective factors for a child
 - Interventions have a clear rationale and ideally, a significant evidence base and are rigorously evaluated and quality controlled through the development of care pathways which include robust assessment and review processes
 - Vulnerable families are identified as early as possible through the development and implementation of effective prediction tools
 - The impact of parent's couple relationship/s is considered during the assessment and support process
 - The role of fathers is acknowledged and systems are in place to engage fathers of children of all ages
 - The influence of extended family members is considered during the assessment and support process
 - Targeted interventions address the needs of those who require most parenting support but who may also be unwilling or unable to access it
 - Support is readily available for parents at critical times through the CAF / Early Intervention Panel process
 - Parenting with complex needs are recognised and their particular requirements are thoroughly considered to support their parenting role
 - Parents of children and young people with complex needs are recognised and their particular requirements are thoughtfully considered
 - A move towards locality working develops an increased knowledge and awareness of the experiences and needs of parents and families at a local level in order to develop appropriate services
 - There is clarity about the process of voluntary sector representation, involvement and engagement. (They are often the providers of 'universal' and preventative work with parents and tend to be seen as offering services that are less stigmatising). They are therefore recognised as crucial partners in multi-agency work with parents
 - Better resourced and more support for the parents of teenagers by identifying the needs of parents of teenagers separately and coordinating work adequately
- The above support for parents, carers and families will lead to a contribution to the measurable positive impact on improved outcomes for children, young people and families in the following areas:

Outcomes used to monitor the strategy

Local authorities, and partner adult and children's services including health services, education, police, probation and housing are monitored through a series of performance measures. The following table details the National Indicators (NI) and Public Service Agreements (PSA) upon which a fully integrated approach to parenting in Buckinghamshire will have an impact.



Indicator	Outcome
NI 2	% of people who feel that they belong to a neighbourhood
NI 4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime
NI 17	Perceptions of antisocial behaviour
NI 19 / PSA 23	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
NI 21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
NI 22	Perception of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area
NI 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
NI 30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders
N 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence
NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment
NI 41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem

Indicator	Outcome
NI 42	Perceptions of drug use or dealing as a problem
NI 43	Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody
NI 45	Young offenders engagement in education, employment or training
NI 50 / PSA 12	Emotional health of children
NI 53 / PSA 12	Prevalence of breast feeding at 6-8 weeks from birth
NI 55 & 56	Obesity among primary age children in Reception & Year 6
NI 64	Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more
NI 65	Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time
NI 69	Children who have experienced bullying
NI 71	Children who have run away from home / care overnight
NI 72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social & Emotional Development and Communication, Language & Literacy
NI 81	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19

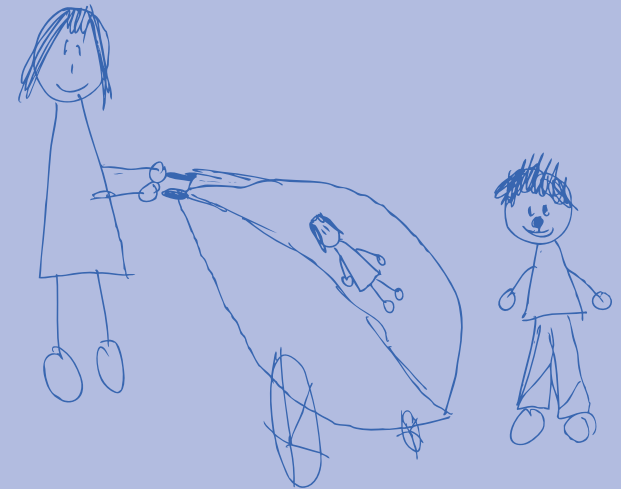
Indicator	Outcome
NI 87	Secondary Schools persistent absence rates
NI 92 / PSA 11	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest
NI 102 / PSA 11	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2 and 4
NI 106 / PSA 11	Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education
NI 110	Young people participating in positive activities
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth justice System
NI112 / PSA 14	Under 18 conception rate
NI 114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school
NI 115 / PSA 14	Substance misuse by young people
NI 116 / PSA 9	Proportion of children in poverty
NI 117 / PSA 14	16–18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
NI 118	Take up of formal child care by low income working families

09. Priorities for Action

A set of priorities needs to be established in order to deliver this strategy.

These are:

1. A fully integrated approach to commissioning parent support services.
2. Information and publicity about positive parenting methods and parenting support services is widely available across Buckinghamshire.
3. Parents / carers are involved with development and evaluation of parenting and family support services.
4. A framework of training, accreditation and support is developed for the parenting and family support workforce.
5. Improving communication, systems and services for supporting vulnerable adults who are parents / carers of children and young people.
6. Working with and engaging fathers.



10. Elements of Effective Parenting

Effective parenting is loving, firm and consistent, and includes:

Giving love and attention:

- Love, warmth, caring, nurturing
- Early attachment
- Consistency
- Praise
- Play and enjoyable time together
- Communication, listening
- Negotiating

Keeping children safe and healthy:

- Early feeding and weaning
- Sleep
- Healthy eating
- Hygiene
- Exercise
- Protection from danger

Regular school attendance and support for learning:

- Quality early learning and play experiences in the home and pre-school settings
- Regular school attendance, punctuality and completion of homework
- Parents work in partnership with school

Teaching right from wrong and giving clear rules to live by:

- Setting a good example
- Providing a moral framework
- Clear limits and boundaries
- Effective and consistent consequences

(Adapted from Manchester Parenting Strategy 2005)

11. Parenting – the Challenges

11.1 Protective factors

Parenting is challenging; it has a major impact on a child's life chances. There are a number of protective factors related to the role of parents; all are linked with better outcomes for children:

- Strong and affectionate relationships with parents
- Strong and respectful parental couple relationships with a consistent approach, whether or not both parents are resident
- Recognition
- Praise
- Parental interest and involvement in education

However, inconsistent and poor parental supervision, parental abuse or neglect of children, inconsistent and violent discipline and children having poor or no relationship with one or both parents are linked with higher chances of negative outcomes.



11.2 Transition points

Parents and carers, regardless of background, may feel there are times in the lives of their children when they need access to additional information or support. Parents may require extra support at transition points, these include:

- The birth of a child or sibling
- When a child starts a new school
- Illness or disability of a family member
- When there are problems or changes in adult relationships and / or personal circumstances

11.3 Vulnerable families

The quality of care that babies and toddlers receive from their parents is the most important influence on their future life chances. Parental interest and involvement in children's learning boosts cognitive attainment. Authoritative positive parenting improves children's confidence and self-esteem. Supporting mothers and fathers in bringing up their children can therefore make a significant difference to children's outcomes. Mothers and fathers need to feel confident in their ability to bring up their children in a positive way. All parents should feel they are able to ask for support at any time.

This applies particularly to those families who, although they may be the most vulnerable to poor outcomes, find it hardest to access the services they need. Such families include those where parents or other family members:

- Have poor physical or emotional health
- Feel isolated or depressed
- Have problems with substance misuse
- Have had poor experiences of statutory services
- Have experienced profound personal loss i.e. bereavement / separation
- Are living in poor environments, with very limited financial resources, poor housing or temporary accommodation and / or limited means of transport to enable them to access services
- Are bringing children up on their own
- Are non-resident parents
- Are teenage parents
- Are young parents who have been in the care system
- Are experiencing domestic abuse
- Feel discriminated against because they are from Black and Minority Ethnic communities, or because they are refugees or asylum seekers
- Were poorly parented themselves and so have few models of good parenting
- Are experiencing particular difficulties with a child with behavioural problems
- Are caring for a disabled child or are disabled themselves
- Family members are in the criminal justice system / in prison

11.4 Perceptions of services

How parents perceive services will influence the likelihood that they will ask for help. Families in need may not want to use the services that are on offer, for a variety of reasons:

- They may consider that asking for help is a sign of failure and that they will be judged as unable to cope
- They may not see themselves as needing services or not know that there are services that could help them
- They may find the attitudes of professional staff in the services off-putting or not feel that services are relevant to their needs
- They may be worried about possible interference in their lives, about their control being undermined, about being patronised, or that their privacy will be invaded

High quality parenting and family support services with appropriate outreach can help to overcome these barriers and ensure that all parents have access to the support they need to get involved in their children's learning and development and give them the best possible start in life. Such services are central to helping children's progress and to narrowing the gap in children's outcomes associated with disadvantage and / or multiple risks.



11.5 The effect of parent's couple relationship/s upon their children's outcomes

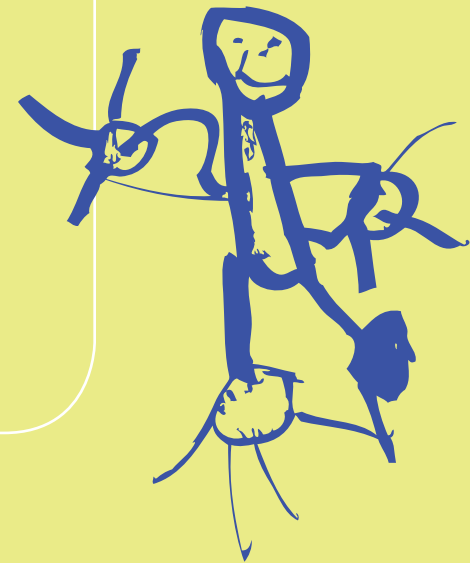
Family life has changed greatly over past decades. Separation of parents has become common, so too have reconstituted and stepfamilies. Children and young people are acutely aware of parental difficulties, even when parents attempt to shield them from witnessing negative couple interactions.

Children and young people have to cope with a series of transitions when growing up. They may find themselves having to manage these alongside transitions experienced by adult family members (e.g. relationship breakdown, new relationships, employment changes, bereavement, illness, relocation). These changes for adults also have a profound affect upon children and young people too.

Good parental relationships, whether or not both parents are resident, are significant protective factors for children's well-being.

Practitioners who work with families need to have appropriate skills to identify underlying parental relationship difficulties and apply early intervention techniques to enable parents to work through normal 'pinches' in relationships before they reach crisis point which may result in family breakdown.

If family breakdown does occur both parents may require support in recognising and ensuring the welfare of their children throughout the process by maintaining a positive parenting approach and modelling respectful relationships.



11.6 Supporting parents to talk about difficult issues

– Sex and relationships, alcohol and substance misuse

Children and young people want to talk with their parents about sex and relationships and their behaviour around alcohol and drug use is influenced by parental attitudes. When parents have the confidence and correct information to discuss these difficult issues openly with their children they can increase their children's resilience to outside pressures. Parenting support programs in Buckinghamshire therefore need to take this into account through providing age-appropriate information and resources in order to address a parent's needs to be better informed so that they feel confident to deal with these issues.

Courses such as the fpa Speakeasy programme which gives parents and carers the confidence to talk with their children openly about sex and sexuality may be considered.



12. Supporting Parents / Families at Different Levels of Need

The aim is to provide a consistent approach across all levels of need. The Buckinghamshire Parenting Strategy of April 2008 suggests three Tiers of parenting support, however it is helpful to broaden this to four levels from universal to co-ordinated intensive intervention for those families in the most need.

The Tiers of Parenting support Triangle provides an outline for each level. The levels are not exclusive; some work strands will impact across more than one level. Parents / families will also need different types of support at different stages of their own or their children's lives and stages of development. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and decisions made through the Buckinghamshire Early Intervention Panel and Team around the Child (TAC) process will also influence the level of parenting support required.

It is important to note that although families may require targeted, specialist and intensive support they can also access the full range of universal services for themselves and their children.

Tiers of Parenting Support in Buckinghamshire

Diagram 1

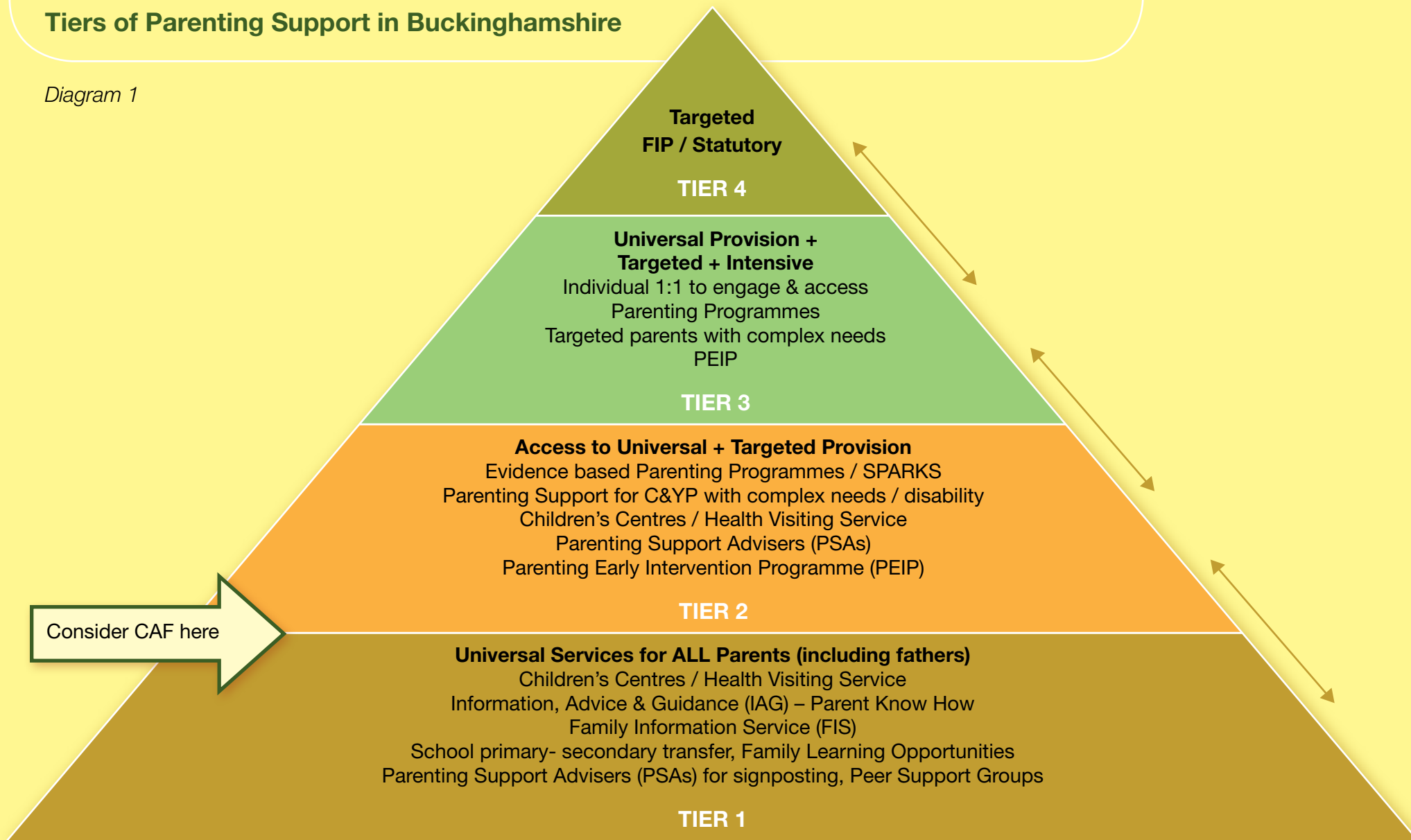


Table of Tiers of Parenting Need and Provision

Level of Need	Definition of Need	Type of Support
<p>Tier 1 Universally available preventative support</p> <p>Children & young people who are achieving each of the 5 ECM outcomes</p> <p>*Buckinghamshire Parenting Strategy Tier 3 – Universal</p>	<p>All parents – universal support, information and guidance before any problems have been identified.</p> <p>Support for parents at key transition points e.g. pre-school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Advice and Guidance • Parent Know How • Family Information Service (FIS) • School primary-secondary transfer • Family learning opportunities • Children’s Centres • Health Visiting Service • Parent Support Advisor (PSA)
<p>Tier 2 Universal provision plus targeted early intervention</p> <p>Children & young people who may need extra support in order to achieve the 5 ECM outcomes</p> <p>*Buckinghamshire Parenting Strategy Tier 3 – Universal / Tier 2 Targeted Support</p>	<p>Parents needing some additional support either through self-referral or because a service has identified the need for targeted support.</p> <p>Consider completion of a Common Assessment Form (CAF) at this stage – may lead to a Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored support to meet parental need through evidence-based parenting groups • Parents support groups for children and young people with complex needs and / or disability • Children’s Centres • Health Visiting Service • SPARKS • Parenting Support Adviser (PSA) • Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP)

Level of Need	Definition of Need	Type of Support
<p>Tier 3 Universal provision plus targeted specialist support – primarily short term</p> <p>Children & young people who have complex needs and who require co-ordinated support in order to achieve the 5 ECM outcomes</p> <p>*Buckinghamshire Parenting Strategy Tier 3 – Universal / Tier 2 Targeted Support</p>	<p>Parents in families with complex needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervention with families through individual work to engage parents to support them to access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence-based parenting groups • Targeted and personalised support for parents with complex needs • Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP)
<p>Tier 4 Universal provision plus targeted specialist support – post care / statutory</p> <p>Children & young people who have not achieved and who will not achieve the 5 ECM outcomes without intensive support</p> <p>*Buckinghamshire Parenting Strategy Tier 3 – Universal / Tier 2 Targeted Support and Tier 1 Specialised Parenting Support</p>	<p>Parents who for whatever reason, do not have the skills / motivation to carry out their parenting role effectively without intensive / statutory intervention and support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted and personalised support for parents with complex needs • Family Intervention Project (FIP) • Statutory intervention

Tier 1: Universally available preventative support

Tier 1 work will ensure:

- All agencies give strong and consistent messages that parents are valued partners and that they are the most important influence on their child's future
- High quality resources and information on all aspects of parenting will be widely available in early years and childcare settings, schools, children's centres, family centres, libraries, health centres, community and youth provision and via the internet, Buckinghamshire Children's Information Service (BCIS) / Family Information Service (FIS)
- There is open and honest communication with parents and carers through a variety of channels to reach parents and carers from all ethnic, cultural and social groups, and all kinds of family or partnership
- Childcare settings, schools and services take active steps to support and encourage parents' and carers' involvement in their child's learning and development
- Suitable and affordable childcare is available across the County in line with the Childcare Act 2006
- There is a range of learning opportunities targeted at parents and carers, including introductory parenting courses, signposting to peer support, family learning opportunities and routes into training and employment
- Parents' skills are recognised and parents consulted about service provision and enabled to actively engage and contribute to this developing work
- The role of fathers is highlighted and celebrated
- Ways of engaging fathers with parenting / family support services is addressed creatively
- Support for parents at key transition points, e.g. transfer between school phases and key stages, is well co-ordinated and of consistent quality



Tier 2: Access to universal provision plus targeted early intervention

Tier 2 work will ensure:

- High quality, up-to-date information on family support, community groups and self-help provision is available through an online service directory
- Staff in universal agencies and services will effectively fulfil their role in communicating with and supporting parents and signposting them to further help as appropriate
- High quality, evidence-based parenting training will be widely promoted through early years and childcare settings, children's centres, schools and a range of other organisations and services. In addition, families that would benefit from this preventative support but may not choose to access it are identified early and given appropriate encouragement to access services. In particular, there will be a clear strategy to engage with parents and carers of children with behaviour problems at the earliest signs of difficulties and to work sensitively to encourage access to support courses
- Training for parents and carers of older children and teenagers will be available across the County and may be accessed through self-referral as well as professional referral
- A core menu of effective preventative family support services will be available across the County, though there may be variations in delivery according to local need
- Staff in all agencies will use the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and ContactPoint, when established, when referring families to Tier 2 parenting support. There will be shared understanding of the risk factors, which should trigger a preventative intervention
- Parenting support will be available for parents and carers of children with learning difficulty, disability or special educational need (LDD / SEN) and for disabled parents
- A Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) is considered





Tier 3: Access to universal provision plus targeted specialist support – primarily short term.

Tier 3 work will ensure:

- There will be robust multi-agency case planning processes with clear lead professional and key worker roles. Assertive key working will assist families in accessing universal and Level 2 services, as well as family support interventions that have a strong evidence-base and are known to improve outcomes for children and young people
- Services working with vulnerable adults, including those with drug and alcohol problems, mental health problems and domestic abuse issues, will consider the impact of the parent's problems on the family as a whole. There will be targeted parenting interventions for these vulnerable groups which 'think family'
- Staff in mainstream services will be trained to work with specialist services to meet the needs of vulnerable families
- A Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) is considered

Tier 4: Access to universal and targeted provision plus statutory intervention

Tier 4 work will ensure:

- There is a robust and assertive key working approach for parents / families who do not have the skills / motivation to carry out their parenting role effectively
- A clear system of support for schools and within the Local Authority for the use of Parenting Orders for families with children excluded from school
- Legal powers will be used to ensure parents and carers co-operate in the interests of the child or young person. Staff working at this level will be trained and supported in effective interventions with this group
- The work of the Youth Offending Service is supported
- A Family Intervention Project (FIP) is considered



13. Developing the Buckinghamshire Parenting Workforce

Buckinghamshire's Children and Young People's Workforce Development Strategy aims to ensure that practitioners who work with families across the statutory, voluntary and private sectors are trained and supported to meet the demands of the Every Child Matters and Every Parent Matters agendas.

The National Academy of Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) and the Teaching Development Agency (TDA) are developing national parenting practitioner's training standards. Parenting practitioners working with families in the voluntary, statutory, independent and faith sectors will have the opportunity to come together to exchange information, ideas, best practice and to provide peer support.

In order to ascertain current parenting support activity across the county it will be necessary to carry out an audit of trained parenting practitioners and current parenting courses to identify gaps in provision and practitioner training requirements.



NAPP also has a research role in evaluating parenting programmes these can be found on the NAPP Commissioning Tool website:

www.commissioningtoolkit.org

It is anticipated that all parenting support programmes in Buckinghamshire, which are within the remit of this strategy, will have undergone evaluation through the NAPP commissioning toolkit.

13.1 Examples of parenting programmes currently delivered in Buckinghamshire

The parenting programmes below are evidence based and have been evaluated by NAPP:

Incredible Years (Webster Stratton)

Promotes protective factors such as positive and nurturing parenting, school involvement and positive family and peer support, reduces risk factors such as harsh discipline and neglect. For children, reduces aggressive and oppositional behaviour. Increases social and academic competence.

Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities

Increases parent's self-esteem, increases parental confidence and achieves positive change in family relationships. In addition the programme aims to reduce child behavioural difficulties and help parents build child self-esteem.



14. Joint Needs Assessment and Commissioning

Many families will need different kinds of support and interventions at different times. A wide variety of parenting support services are provided through the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Services, Health Services, and the community, voluntary, independent and faith sectors. These services currently vary in quality and quantity across the County and across different community groups and areas of need.

It is therefore necessary to include a strand of work on developing the commissioning of parenting support services. The work will include audits and mapping exercises to clarify and describe what parenting support is currently available and will form part of the wider children' and young people's services by:

- Building on existing work to describe the range and type of parenting support interventions currently available
- Identifying each type of intervention on a continuum of need from universal through to targeted and statutory services to support the commissioning of universal and targeted /specialist parenting services
- Comparing the mapped provision against Local Delivery needs analysis work on met / unmet need taking into account national standards, good practice models and professional standards in order to commission appropriately

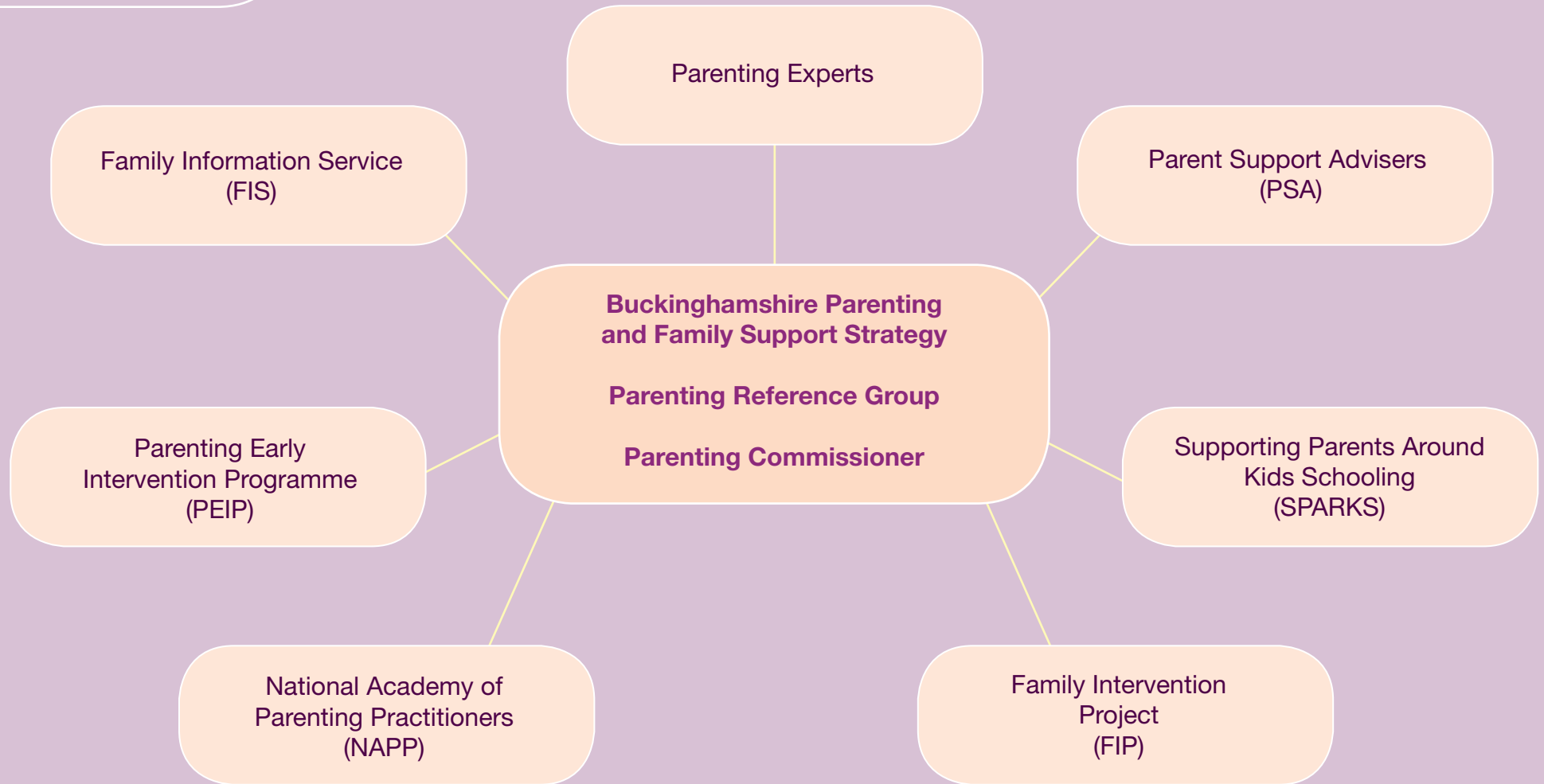
- Agreeing the core programme of parenting support services from Tier One to Tier Four that should be available for children, young people and families, recognising that there may need to be variations according to local need and commission such services from the most appropriate provider
- Identifying any new strands of work to improve support
- Ensuring parenting support is quality assured and governed by legislative requirements and operational practice standards
- Ensuring that parenting interventions are evidence-based and / or have a clear rationale and evaluation methodology and that they are either programmes which have been evaluated through the National Academy Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) Commissioning Toolkit or will be submitted for evaluation
- Working towards the alignment and pooling of budgets where agencies allocate monies against jointly agreed parenting support priorities and initiatives to ensure sustainability

It is recognised that delivery of parenting and family support will be an ongoing process of development and refinement and that the analysis of need and delivery of appropriate parenting interventions will become more sophisticated and effective over time.



Appendix 01.

Parenting in Buckinghamshire Diagram



Appendix 02.

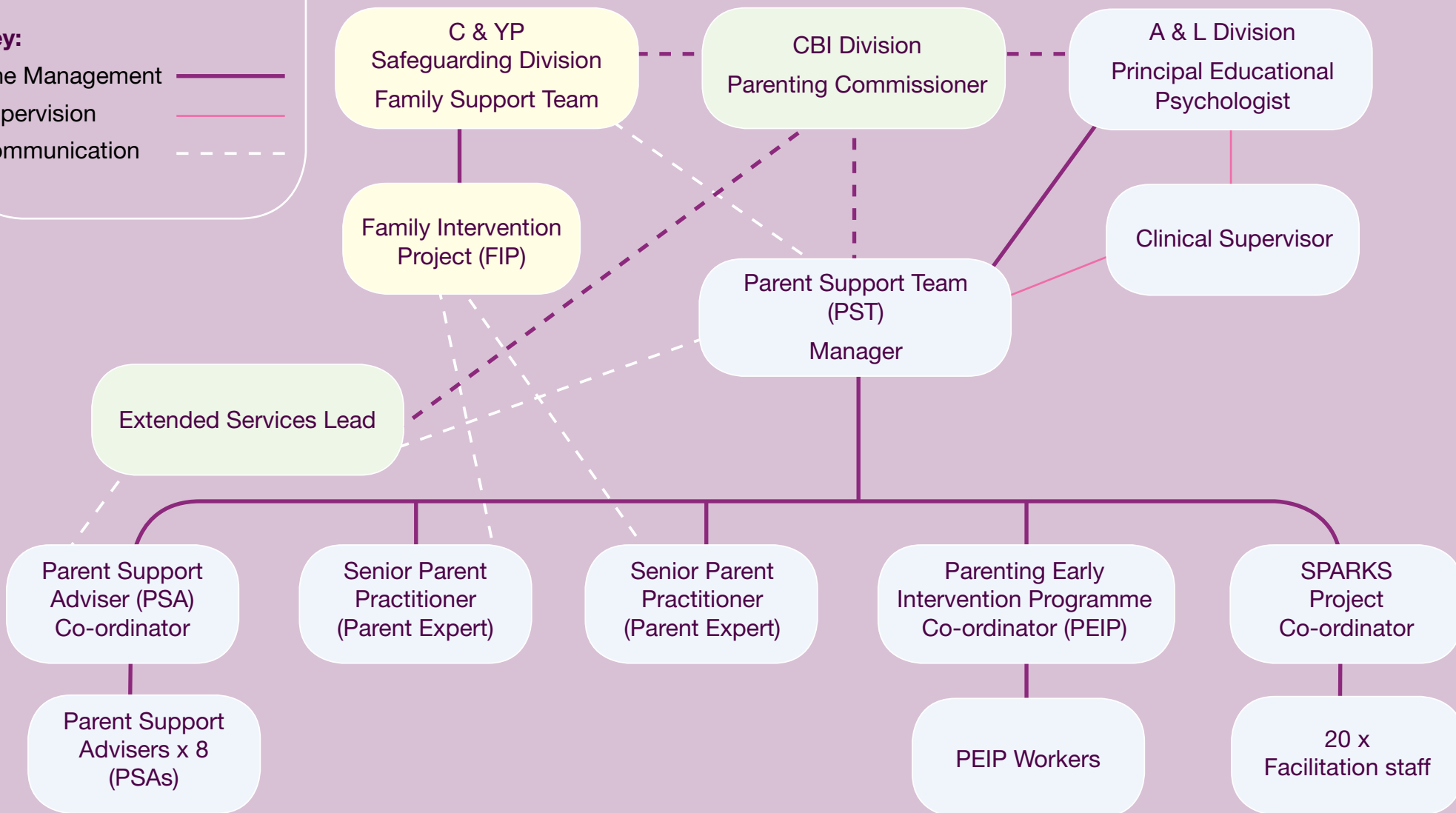
Key:

Line Management ———

Supervision ———

Communication - - - - -

Buckinghamshire Parenting Support



Appendix 03.

Glossary of Terms

Throughout this document the term:

'Parents' has been used to include all those who provide significant care for children in a home or family context, including biological parents, step-parents, foster carers, residential workers, adoptive parents, grandparents or other relatives.

'Parenting Programmes' are focused and short term, aimed at enhancing the quality of the parent – child relationship by improving family functioning, parent confidence and mental health and the emotional and behavioural adjustment for children. They include training parents in parenting skills usually through group work, although the skills and techniques used in parenting programmes (e.g. Webster Stratton Incredible Years & Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities) can be used on one-to-one basis too.

'Parenting Support' covers a wide spectrum of services such as those that act as advocates for families, mediating between parents and universal services, this may include home visiting services that use highly trained professionals and / or volunteers. Families 'at risk' who do not access Children's Centres or structured parenting programmes may benefit from support that is sustained over a longer period than that offered by parenting programmes. However, parents who receive flexible and sensitive support may be encouraged to engage with more formal parenting programmes at a later stage.

'Parent Support Services' are defined as any activity or facility aimed at providing information, advice where appropriate and support to parents and carers / family members, to help them in bringing up their children and aimed at reducing risks and / or promoting protective factors in relation to children's social, physical and emotional well-being.

Abbreviations

CAF	Common Assessment Framework
FIP	Family Intervention Project
NAPP	National Academy for Parenting Practitioners
PEIP	Parenting Early Intervention Programme
PST	Parent Support Team
SCPHN	Specialist Community Public Health Nurses
TAC	Team Around the Child
YOS	Youth Offending Service

Appendix 04.

Useful Contacts

Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire County Council
0845 370 8090
www.buckscc.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire Family Information Service
0845 688 4944
familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire Parent Partnership
01296 383 754
parentp@buckscc.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire Youth Services
01296 382 583
www.buckscc.gov.uk/youth

Buckinghamshire Libraries
0845 230 3232
www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries

Buckinghamshire Adult Education
0845 045 4040
www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk

Buckinghamshire Public Transport
0871 200 2233
www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport

Buckinghamshire School Admissions
01296 383 250
admissions@buckscc.gov.uk

Vale Volunteers
01296 337 456
www.valevolunteers.org.uk

Buckinghamshire Adult Services
0845 370 8090
www.buckscc.gov.uk

Explore Buckinghamshire
01296 585 183
www.visitbuckinghamshire.org



Appendix 04.

Useful Contacts

National

Advisory Centre for Education
0808 800 5793
www.ace-ed.org.uk

Parentlineplus
0808 800 2222
www.parentlineplus.org.uk

Relate
0845 130 4010
www.relate.org.uk

National Family Mediation
01392 271 610
www.nfm.org.uk

Families need Fathers
0300 030 0363
www.fnf.org.uk

Fatherhood Institute
0845 634 1328
www.fatherhoodinstitute.org

Pinkparents UK
0870 127 3274
www.pinkparents.org.uk

FFLAG (Families and Friends
of Lesbians and Gays)
0845 652 0311
www.fflag.org.uk

National Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 200 0247 (helpline)
www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

NSPCC
0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk

NHS Direct
0845 4647
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

NAPP Commissioning Toolkit
www.commissioningtoolkit.org

Contact a Family
0808 808 3555
www.cafamily.org.uk

National Association of Citizens
Advice Bureau
0844 499 4714
www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Parents Centre
www.parentscentre.gov.uk

Childcare Link (national and
local childcare information)
0800 096 0296
www.childcarelink.gov.uk

Safekids
www.safekids.com

Sexual Health
www.sexualhealthbucks.com

Got a teenager?
0808 800 2222
www.gotateenager.org.uk

One space – Single Parent
Action Network (SPAN)
www.onespace.org.uk

The Couple Connection.net
www.thecoupleconnection.net

Dad's Space
www.dads-space.com

Dad Talk
www.dadtalk.co.uk

Netmums Parent Supporters
www.netmums.com



Appendix 05.

References / Supporting Documents / Links

References:

National Academy of Parenting Practitioners –
www.parentingacademy.org

Buckinghamshire Parenting Strategy 2008 –
www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/schools/cyp_trust/Buckinghamshire_Parenting_Strategy.pdf

The National and Statutory Framework

1. Every Child Matters

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

‘Every Child Matters: Change for Children’, sets out the national framework for local change programmes to build services around the needs of children and young people so that we maximise opportunity and minimise risk. The services that reach every child and young person have a crucial role to play in shifting the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children’s lives to preventing things from going wrong in the first place.

Underpinned by the Children Act 2004 the Strategy recognises that the realisation of this ambition for improved outcomes required radical change in the whole system of children’s services, including:

- The improvement and integration of universal services – in early years settings, schools and the health service
- More specialised help to promote opportunity, prevent problems and act early and effectively, if and when problems arise
- The reconfiguration of services around the child and family in one place, for example, in children’s centres and extended schools and the bringing together of professionals in multi-disciplinary teams
- Dedicated and enterprising leadership at all levels of the system
- The development of a shared sense of responsibility across agencies for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm
- Listening to children, young people and their families when assessing and planning service provision, as well as in face-to-face delivery

Five outcomes for children were clearly set out and given legal force in the Children Act 2004.

These are:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution and
- Achieve economic well-being

2. Building Brighter Futures – The Children’s Plan

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/managersandleaders/planningandcommissioning/cypp/cypp/

The Children’s Plan sets out plans for the next 10 years under each of the Department for Children, Schools and Families’ (DCSF) strategic objectives.

The following principles underpin the Children’s Plan.

These are as follows:

- Government does not bring up children – parents do
- Government needs to do more to back parents and families
- All children have the potential to succeed and should go as far as their talents can take them
- Children and young people need to enjoy their childhood as well as growing up being prepared for adult life
- Services need to be shaped by and responsive to children, young people and families, not designed around professional boundaries
- It is always better to prevent failure than tackle a crisis later

The Children's Plan – Priorities for 2020

- Enhance children and young people's well-being, particularly at key transition points in their lives
- Every child ready for success in school, with at least 90 per cent developing well across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile by age 5
- Every child ready for secondary school, with at least 90 percent achieving at or above the expected level in both English and Mathematics by age 11
- Every young person with the skills for adult life and further study, with at least 90 per cent achieving the equivalent of five higher level GCSEs by age 19; and at least 70 per cent achieving the equivalent of two A levels by age 19
- Parents are satisfied with the information and support they receive
- All young people participating in positive activities to develop personal and social skills, promote well-being and reduce behaviour that puts them at risk
- Employers are satisfied with young people's readiness for work
- Child health improved, with the proportion of obese and overweight children reduced to 2000 levels
- Child poverty halved by 2010 and eradicated by 2020
- Significantly reduce by 2020 the number of young offenders receiving a conviction, reprimand, or final warning for a recordable offence for the first time, with a goal to be set in the Youth Crime Action Plan

3. Every Parent Matters

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00219/

This document acknowledges that parents and the home environment are the single most important factor in shaping children's well-being and sets out for the first time in one place what the government is doing to promote both the development of services for parents, as well as their involvement in shaping services for themselves and their children.

Every Parent Matters sets out the Government's role in the following main areas:

- Parents and their babies (supporting parents before and around the birth of their child)
- Parents as educators
- The importance of engaging with early education and child care opportunities
- Support for parents whose children are starting school (pre-school to reception) or moving on to secondary school (support at transition points) through information sessions and the help of choice advisors for the transition between primary and secondary
- Engaging fathers (in Children's centre and schools)
- Enabling parents with school choice
- Parents as partners, who are directly involved in schools
- Extended Schools (Services)

- Parents responsibilities
- Parents who have strong relationships with Young People
- Parents who can talk about sensitive issues
- Good home / school relationships
- Support for young parents
- Support for parenting teenagers
- Parents being able to influence Service and Choice
- Parents having information about Quality of Service
- Improving access to advice and support through the Parent Support Advisors
- Supporting families to stay together
- Promoting contact between children and their separated parents
- Children in care

4. Think Family: Improving the Life Chances of Families at Risk (Cabinet Office January 2008)

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/families_at_risk.aspx

Reaching Out: Think Family 2007 – this represents the first part of the Families at Risk Review. It confirms that the primary responsibility for a family’s welfare will always rest with the parents, and that the task of public services is to provide the best support to enable parents to fulfil that responsibility.

It analyses the problems faced by vulnerable families and looks at the systems and services that have contact with these families, arguing that in order to improve services further a ‘think family’ approach should be developed. This involves greater integration and multi-agency working, particularly with adults’ services, in order to shape provision around the multi-faceted needs of families. It states that excellent children’s services and excellent adult services are not enough in isolation. To transform life chances and break the cycle of disadvantage, services must go further.

Services would:

- Have no wrong door
- Look at the whole family
- Build on family strengths
- Provide support tailored to what families need

‘Think Family’ puts families at the centre of planning and empowers parents and practitioners to shape the package of support that families need.

Quality Matters: Think Family 2007

<http://archive.niace.org.uk/Publications/Q/QualityMatters.asp>

A guide to support all those working with families in group learning situations. It provides a single quality framework to ensure that all families, especially the most vulnerable, receive a good quality learning experience at every family learning and parenting skills session. This will apply irrespective of whether they are developing skills relating to their children's learning, managing their child's behaviour or developing their own literary, numeracy and language skills.

The Quality Framework is constructed around seven key 'building blocks of quality':

- Quality in learning / teaching / facilitating
- Quality in curriculum development and planning
- Quality in working in partnership
- Quality in leadership, management and organisation
- Quality in continuous improvement
- Quality in consultation and involvement
- Quality in equality and diversity

5. Key National Strategies and Frameworks

- Aiming high for young people: a ten year Strategy for positive activities July 2007 – http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=PU214&docs/cyp_
- Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families May 2007– www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00222/
- Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 – www.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2003/20030038.htm
- Care Matters: Time for Change White Paper – <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=Cm%25207137>
- The Children Act 2004 – www.dcsf.gov.uk/childrenactreport/
- Childcare Act 2006 – www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/childcare/childcareact2006/childcareact/
- Ten Year Strategy for Childcare: Choice for Parents, the Best Start for Children – www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/surestart/aboutsurestart/strategy/10yearstrategy/
- Children’s Centre’s Guidance – <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/research/publications/surestartpublications/1854/>
- Extended Schools – www.tda.gov.uk/remodelling/extendedschools.aspx
- Higher Standards, Better Schools for All: More Choice for Parents and Pupils – White Paper – <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=Cm%25206677>
- Duty to provide information, advice and assistance: Guidance for local authorities February 2008 (Child Care Act 2006 Section 12) – http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060021_en_2#pt1-pb3-l1g12
- National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services – www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4089101
- The Parenting Support Guidance for Local Authorities 2006 – www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00169/
- The RESPECT Action Plan – www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/respect-action-plan
- The Action Plan on Social Exclusion ‘Reaching Out’ – http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/social_exclusion_task_force/assets/think_families/think_families_full_report.pdf
- Think Family Toolkit – Improving Support for Families at Risk – <http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00685-2009&>
- Youth Green Paper ‘Youth Matters’ – www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/
- Youth Justice Legislation – www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/News/YouthJusticeLegislation.htm?area=Corporate

Appendix 06.

Acknowledgements

This strategy has been developed with thanks and reference to:

- **Kent Children's Trust:** Strategy for Supporting Parents in Kent 2008 – Thinking Family
- **Supporting Parenting:** A Strategy for Surrey – 2007 – 2010
- **Re-thinking Parenting and Family Support:** Cheshire Parenting Support Strategy – 2007