

Harrogate and Rural District Parenting Support Forum

Parenting Support Practitioner Survey 2009

This survey was undertaken by Harrogate and Area CVS
In autumn 2009



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Introduction

In the autumn of 2009, when this survey was undertaken, there were 109 individuals on the forum mailing list. This survey sought to take a snap shot of the parenting support workforce in the area to better understand their roles, needs, skills and some of the barriers they may encounter in delivering parenting support. If you have any feedback or queries relating to this survey then please contact Mark Hopley at Harrogate & Area CVS on 01423 504074 or by email mark@harrogate.org

We hope that parenting support practitioners and anyone with an interest in delivering improved outcomes for children and young people will find the results of this survey helpful in informing future practice and commissioning

Harrogate & Area CVS
March 2010

Harrogate and Rural District Parenting Support Forum Parenting Support Practitioner Survey 2009

The Parenting Support Forum is facilitated by Harrogate and Area CVS and was established in spring 2009 with financial support from North Yorkshire County Council.

The aim of the forum is *to enable partners to work together to co-ordinate and strengthen the delivery of multi-agency support for local parents and families within Harrogate and the rural district*. The objectives of the forum are:

- 1) To facilitate awareness-raising on issues relating to parental support and the delivery of the Parenting Support Action Plan for Harrogate and rural district.
- 2) To promote a multi-agency approach to the delivery of the local Parenting Support Action Plan
- 3) To enable forum members to network and learn more about the work of other agencies, local developments and opportunities to work collaboratively in the local delivery of parental support
- 4) To ensure the best use of resources through a multi-agency approach.
- 5) To identify what level of need is being met through both universal or targeted provision within the area and what gaps exist.
- 6) To ensure best practice is shared and utilised across the area and within North Yorkshire.
- 7) To maximise the potential for pooled resources and training
- 8) To keep a simple voluntary record of workers (both paid and voluntary), who have received parenting training, which parenting package and their parental support offer
- 9) To ensure parents and families know how and where to get appropriate support when needed.
- 10) To ensure the views / involvement of children, young people, parents and families are taken into account when services are being designed and delivered.
- 11) To provide a local perspective on parenting support issues which can be used to influence decision making at the County level.
- 12) To provide feedback to the Harrogate and rural district Parenting Support Steering Group

In the autumn of 2009 when this survey was undertaken there were 109 individuals on the forum mailing list.

Background information

49 practitioners from 15 different service areas responded and completed the survey, giving a response rate of 44%. Table 1 gives a breakdown of respondents by service area:

Table 1

Service	Response Percent
Childrens Centres Services	16.3%
Health Visitor Services	6.1%
School Nurse Services	8.2%
Voluntary sector organisation	12.2%
Representative of a parents group	0.0%
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	6.1%
Community Development or Youth Worker	0.0%
Children's Social Care Service	2.0%
Adult Learning	2.0%
Pastoral Care in schools	4.1%
Extended Schools	12.2%
Behaviour support service	2.0%
Speech and language therapy services	2.0%
Education welfare services	4.1%
Other (Voluntary sector and schools)	22.4%

The 49 respondents fulfill over 17 different job roles with the majority fulfilling a role in a school or children's centre setting. Table 2 sets out the roles. The 'other' section predominately covers voluntary sector and other roles in schools:

Table 2

Roles	Response Percent
Clinical Psychologist	2.4%
Counsellor	2.4%
Education Welfare Officer	2.4%
Extended Schools Worker	4.9%
Family Support Worker	7.3%
Health Visitor	7.3%
Home / School Link Worker	14.6%
Learning Mentor	4.9%
Primary Mental Health Worker	2.4%
Parent Support Advisor	7.3%
Parent support worker	7.3%
School Nurse	7.3%
Social Worker	2.4%
Speech and Language Therapist	2.4%
Teacher	2.4%
Youth Worker	2.4%
Other	39.0%

Understanding Our Parenting Support Practitioners

Commitment: Here we asked practitioners what is the commitment to deliver parenting support? This survey question explored whether parenting support was an integral part of a practitioner's job role or where it was not, whether their involvement in parental support was because of the individual practitioner's interest and commitment. Here 36 people answered the question and 13 skipped the question.

For 61% of respondents it was an integral part of their job description; a further 28% responded that they had developed an interest in parenting support however it was not written into their job description. The remainder of respondents (19%) did not answer either question but gave the following feedback:

"Parenting support is an integral part of my job role, but not specified in the job description"

"I offer support to parents through the Families Information Service. Part of my role is to signpost parents to the right people who can support them".

"I need to ensure parents have access to parenting support, rather than giving the support myself."

"I have previous experience with parenting support and lead on CYP issues in my role at CVS in working with the Speech and language concerns of the child we directly work with parents and so support them to support their child"

"I have in the past and past roles developed parenting support delivered parenting programmes (Strengthening families, strengthening communities). My role is to support and enable my team to deliver programmes and support"

Training: When practitioners were asked what parenting support training course have you attended? 22 people answered the question and 27 skipped the question. This is useful baseline information as the 27 who chose not to answer had probably not attended a course, which is 55% of practitioners whom participated in the survey.

Of the 27 who did respond the attendance was as follows Positive Parenting (36%); Incredible Years (27%); Riding the Storm (23%); Family Links (9%) and Mellow Parenting (5%).

Respondents also reported attending additional course such as: the Child Development Programme, Share Plus, Diploma in Support Work in Schools, Family Caring Trust resources, a range of Child Protection courses and Family matters.

Follow through from Training to delivery: Practitioners when asked had they used the skills and knowledge acquired on the courses to deliver local parenting support? 10 people responded yes, 19 responded no and a further 19 skipped the question.

When asked when did you last deliver a parenting support course? 18 practitioners answered the question and 31 skipped the question. Of the 18 respondents 8 had delivered in 2009, 1 in 2008 and 4 in 2007.

When asked what were the barriers to you using the skills you acquired to deliver parenting training course locally 37 people responded and a minority of 12 skipped the question. Table 3 below gives an overview of the response:

Table 3

Perceived barriers to delivery	Response Percent	Response Count
Lack of time within the core hours of my job	45.9%	17
Lack of preparation time within core hours	18.9%	7
Lack of support from my line manager to release me to deliver	5.4%	2
Lack of support from my line manager to release me to prepare	2.7%	1
Lack of confidence to deliver the course	2.7%	1
Lack of other people to deliver course with	8.1%	3
Lack of budget to buy books for parents on training courses	0.0%	0
Lack of funds to hire a venue for training courses	0.0%	0
Lack of freedom in my organisation's contract to deliver parenting support training to groups of parents	10.8%	4
Other	54.1%	20

People who fall into the other category gave the following comments:

- "Not yet fully trained, but time will be made in future"*
- "Funding, especially for creche facilities though I have been fortunate in being able to find this funding to date". "This may become more and more difficult".*
- "Lack of space within school due to reorganisation of premises"*
- "Offering courses is not part of my job"*
- "Suitable creche workers"..... "Not part of my job description"*
- "My job role does not require me to deliver courses"*
- "Did not feel qualified to deliver as only learnt as a student health visitor"*
- "Not had the opportunity yet"*
- "I work with the hard to reach parents who would not attend a parenting course I do home visits and deliver parenting on a 1:1 basis"..... "This is not part of my role"*
- "Difficulty linking with others to run the course"*
- "One day programme only undertaken with Positive Parenting"*

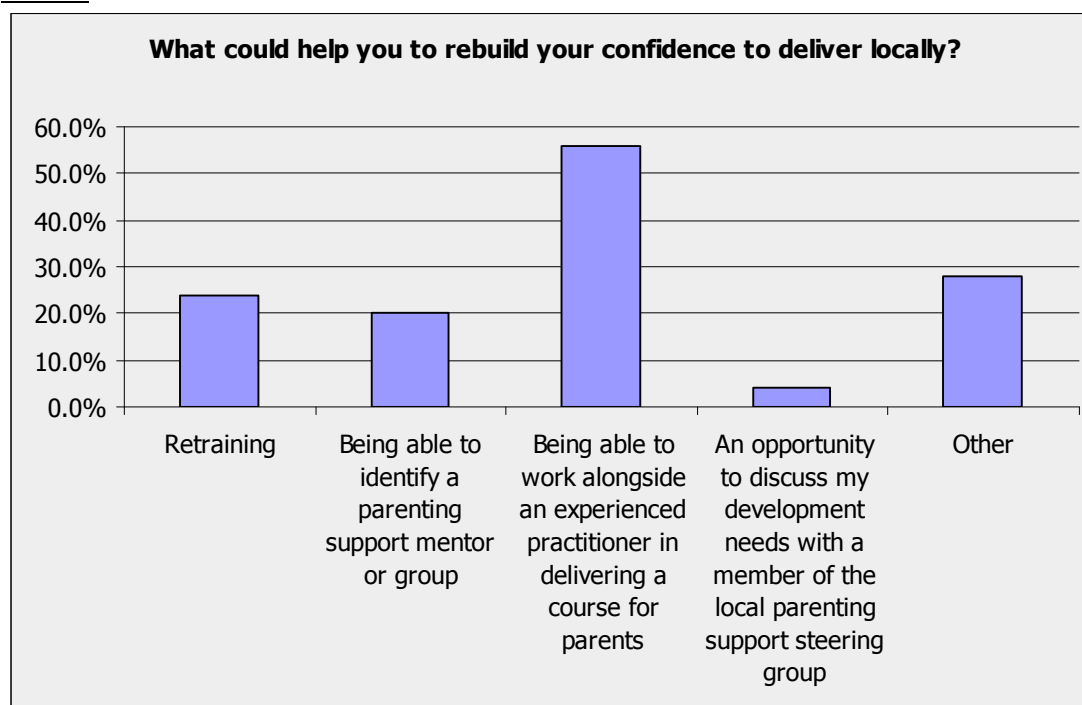
Confidence to deliver parenting support: This question was about how confident people felt in delivering parenting support direct to parents and carers. Here 29 people answered the question and 20 skipped it. Of the 30 respondents 49% were either confident or very confident however almost 40% of respondents were not confident.

The following comments were made:

- "would be confident if i refreshed my skills and observed others first"*
- "Didn't work through the material for teenagers in any depth. I am an experienced and confident facilitator and trainer"*
- "only able to deliver a module related to our speciality"*

Rebuilding confidence to deliver parenting support locally: The survey then explored what could help rebuild your confidence to deliver locally. Here 25 people answered the question and 24 skipped it.

Table 4



Access to professional support and supervision: People were asked if they needed professional support and supervision beyond attending a training course and which is not available through your employer. Thirty one people responded and 18 skipped the question. Of the 31 respondents 10 felt they needed professional support and supervision whereas 18 did not a further three people gave the feedback below:

- "Unsure where this part of my role lies in relation to others"*
- "I have delivered parenting courses in the past as a FSW but it doesn't reach the hard to reach and that is where there is more need"*
- "My employer does not have the funds to pay me to deliver training for others"*

Improving parenting support locally: Practitioners were asked what could be done locally to help improve parenting support. 34 people answered this question with 15 skipping it. The responses are summarised below in Table 5:

Table 5

Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
Parenting Support Forum meetings	55.9%	19
E mailed information for parenting support practitioners	70.6%	24
Guest lectures from parenting experts	50.0%	17
A directory of venues for parenting support training locally	61.8%	21
An opportunity to deliver training in other areas of North Yorkshire	8.8%	3
Peer support	47.1%	16
Other	14.7%	5

The following comments were made under the other category:

"Funding for face to face workers"
"E-mailed information for parents"
"Clear communication and information"
"A central point of correlation of which courses are running where and when"
"Supervision groups"
"To know who in your area has had the training also"

What topics would you like to see covered at future forum meetings?

The following comments were made:

*"Information to signpost parents to relevant training or training opportunities for practitioners
Teenagers communication & supporting through transitions"*
*"Some anecdotal feedback re: successes and things to be aware of from recently run
courses"*
"Information on courses for special needs, especially autism"
"Networking is a very important aspect of the parenting support forum meetings"
"Collaboration with parents and schools"
"Other authorities practitioners/managers – e.g. of good practise-funding opportunities"
"Programme updates.....Attachment"
*"The importance of those early years in relation to cognitive development and subsequent life
course development"*
"Managing challenging behaviour"
*"Being based in a secondary school anything to do with often challenging behaviour displayed
by teenagers"*
"Attachment and the implications for children in school and what to advise the parents"
"Young peoples' mental health especially regarding eating disorders"
"Behaviour"
"Child behaviour. Social and emotional wellbeing . Drug abuse"
"Internet safety"
"Parenting for parents of teenagers"
*"Low level guidance and signposting of Specialist areas to equip generic parenting support
practitioners to be able to support parents effectively even if they can't deliver the actual
training or support required for that particular need"*
"Life with teenagers"

"One to one work with parents of teenagers - tips and advice"
"Anger management for teenagers and parents"
"How to communicate more effectively with your teenager"
"Outcomes"
"Updates on programmes for specific targeted areas"
"Sharing of experience delivering groups"
"Some practical aspects of parenting support"

Working with socially isolated groups of parents: Here a question was asked about practitioner's experience of working with some specific groups of parents who can be the last to take up services. This can include parents from minority ethnic, rural and travelling communities in addition to single parents and teenage mothers.

34 respondents replied yes and 15 replied no. When a further question was asked about the nature of the parents worked with the response in descending order was:

Table 6

Nature of parents worked with	Respondents with experience
Single parents	16
Teenage mothers	11
Parents in isolated rural communities	8
Minority ethnic parents	7
Parents of homeless young people	4
Homeless parents	2
Gypsy and traveller parents	2

The following comments were made:

"In individual family settings where numbers/parental preference not wanting group work"
"Parents escaping domestic violence"
"All individually not in groups as all these may present at Drop in for open access to our SALT service"
"Parents whose children were in the looked after system or on a Child Protection Plan"

Commitment to delivering parenting support in 2010: Practitioners were asked what commitment they felt they could give to parenting support in the next 12 months. A total of 34 answered this question and 15 people skipped the question. The responses are summarise below in Table 7:

Table 7

Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
I can provide 1:1 support to parents	52.9%	18
I can help deliver one parenting support course for parents	14.7%	5
I can help deliver up to two parenting support courses for parents	8.8%	3
I can help deliver up to three parenting support courses for parents	0.0%	0
I can lead one parenting support course per year	11.8%	4
I can provide peer support to another parenting support practitioner	20.6%	7
I can attend parenting support forums	44.1%	15
Other	29.4%	10

The following comments were made under the other response:

"As I am only just going through Family Links training I am not available yet, and also I am expecting to co-deliver a course through my workplace in the first instance, though my manager may be open to inter-agency working in the future. Any courses will have to be scheduled through work in order to put relief cover in place for my regular caseload"
"In terms of careers advice etc"
"I can only deliver 1:1 support to families I work with, due to funding restrictions and targets set by funders"

"As part of current role leading on approx 2 parenting courses per year"
"In our area we have a matrix of Parenting groups to which multi-agency commitment provides courses"
"unfortunately due to family and work pressures am unable to commit at present but wish to in the future"
"this is not part of my role"
"I deliver parenting support though my full time employment as a PSA and deliver the above options as part of my team"
"I can support networks and forums to feed information relating to parenting support into strategic arenas"
"Maybe I could be trained in delivering parent support?"
"Support for parents of teenagers who are potentially homeless. Limited funding is available in SALT sessions"
"Not sure at present. I would like to deliver at least one programme next year"

Investing in peer support for parenting practitioners locally: Here the key question was would you be interested in forming a peer support group based on a locality or around a theme for example parents of teenagers? 24 responded and 25 skipped the question. The results are summarised in Table 8:

Table 8

Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
Peer support for practitioners based on Harrogate Town	16.7%	4
Peer Support for practitioners based on Ripon & rural areas	41.7%	10
Peer support for practitioners based on Knaresborough Town	12.5%	3
Peer support for practitioners based on support for parents of under fives	29.2%	7
Peer support for practitioners based on support for parents of teenagers	20.8%	5
Peer support for practitioners working with groups of parents who can be the last to access services	25.0%	6
Peer support for practitioners working with groups of parents of children with challenging behaviour	20.8%	5
Other	20.8%	5

The following comments were made under the other response:

"Think the peer support could be more flexible and less specific than the above at least in the first instance then smaller groups could naturally form from them"
"We already have one in Ripon"
"Peer support for the nurturing programme"
"peer support Boroughbridge"
"would need more info before committing"
"This is not part of my role"
"Time and staffing to do all this is a crucial factor and within the NHS we are constrained by meeting targets primarily for seeing new referrals and following up then on what are usually fairly long term cases. To do any of these extra activities means compromise elsewhere which makes it very difficult"

This report has been compiled by researchers at Harrogate & Area CVS – Registered Charity No. 701266. If you would like to know more about the work of Harrogate & Area CVS then visit www.harrogate.org or email cvs@harrogate.org