



## Update on Parenting Action Plan

The Welsh Assembly Government published its Parenting Action Plan in December 2005. It sets out the Assembly's proposals to support mothers, fathers and carers with raising their children. The aim of the plan is to raise the profile of parenting in Wales, extend the development of parenting policies and services and link with other policies and activities which are relevant to parenting.

The Parenting Action Plan has action points on developing information and advice services for parents, the promotion of positive parenting and parental involvement in schools. The Plan can be downloaded from Children in Wales' website.

The following gives an update on progress around the key action points contained within the Parenting Action Plan:

### Bilingual telephone helpline

**Action:** The Assembly Government will develop a bilingual helpline for parents in Wales.

**Progress:** The Welsh Assembly has been talking to Parentline Plus and NCH Cymru - NCH Cymru will manage the service with back up from Parentline Plus. The helpline will use the existing Parentline Plus telephone number. The new service would be funded by a transfer from the DfES Strengthening Families Grant fund. The amount to be transferred in 2006-07 should provide start-up costs, with the service becoming fully operational from June 2007. Further discussions are taking place with DfES about continuation funding from 2008-09.

### Booklets for parents

**Action:** The Welsh Assembly will develop and distribute a series of booklets for all new parents in Wales supplementing the existing 'Pregnancy Book' and 'Birth to Five' books.

**Progress:** 100,000 copies of "From Breakfast to Bedtime" (for parents of children 0-5 years) and "Over the Top Behaviour in the Under-10s" (5-10 years) have been printed. BTB is being distributed by health visitors to all new births from April 2006. OTTB was distributed via Year 1 pupils in primary schools in April 2006 and will be distributed again in March 2007. There are enough booklets to distribute to parents for two years. The remaining booklets have gone to Children's Information Services and other relevant stakeholders to distribute to interested parents on an ad-hoc basis.

Both booklets are available to download on Children in Wales' website.

The first draft of a booklet on alternatives to physical discipline has been prepared by Children in Wales and Children are Unbeatable! Cymru and will be piloted during the winter. This too will be distributed via health visitors.

### Grandparenting

**Action:** The Welsh Assembly will set up a Working Group to consider the Beth Johnson Foundation report on grandparents in Wales and propose an outline Programme of Action.

**Progress:** A small Working Group on Grandparenting has met three times, and has produced a short report with recommendations. The report is with Ministers for consideration. It is assumed that some of the Group's recommendations will be incorporated into the updated version of the PAP

in November. Others would be taken forward as part of the Older People's Strategy and the intergenerational work that was being taken forward under it.

### **Incredible Years**

**Action:** In 2006 –07 the Assembly will fund a training programme at University College Bangor to extend the scope of the Incredible Years programme. The training is funded through top-sliced Cymorth funds.

**Progress:** The original package was 10 places for 12 Partnerships (120 places in all). Due to initial levels of interest, it is likely that further packages will be on offer in 2007-08, so that all Partnerships that want to can benefit. The Assembly Government has also purchased the packs for delivery of the training for each Partnership, which will be given out as people are trained.

### **SCIE/ Communities that Care**

**Action:** The Welsh Assembly will commission SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) to produce information on evidence-based programmes used in Wales that will inform decisions on future investment in parenting programmes.

**Progress:** An initial meeting with SCIE has been held. SCIE have agreed to make this a priority in 2006-07, with a special focus on practice in Wales. In addition, Communities that Care were commissioned to update "Promising Approaches" in connection with Flying Start, which is included within Flying Start Guidance.

### **Practice Guide on Parent Participation**

**Action:** The Welsh Assembly will commission a practice guide to be produced for Partnerships on parental participation and empowerment.

**Progress:** Jayne Isaac was seconded from NCH Cymru to the Children's Strategy Division to produce the practice guide which will be distributed mid September 2006.

### **Parental involvement in schools**

**Action:** The Welsh Assembly will continue to work with Local Education Authorities, Estyn and school governing bodies to promote parental participation in schools.

**Progress:** This is the weakest part of the PAP at present, largely because there was no identified lead within the Assembly to take this forward - several divisions had specific responsibilities in relation to parental involvement. Creation of the new Children and Schools Group within the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning (DELLS) should help to bring the agenda together.

#### ***For further information contact:***

Lucy Akhtar Development Officer for Parenting – [lucy.akhtar@childreninwales.org.uk](mailto:lucy.akhtar@childreninwales.org.uk)  
Tony Ivens, Development Officer for Fatherhood – [tony.iven@childreninwales.org.uk](mailto:tony.iven@childreninwales.org.uk)