



A Parenting Support Strategy for Redcar and Cleveland

1. Introduction

This strategy aims to provide a consistent approach to the planning, design and delivery of parenting support services in Redcar and Cleveland.

All parents need support at some time, from practical advice on tax benefits and available childcare, to specialist support for particular circumstances, such as parenting of children with disability.

Issues for parents may include:

Parenting styles

Discipline

Setting boundaries

Worries and concerns about outside influences

Adapting to characteristics associated with adolescence, including risk-taking behaviour

As a local authority, which is spread over a mix of urban and rural areas, there is also a need to be mindful of the entitlement of all parents and children to services when and where they are needed.

“The most important influence on a person’s level of self esteem are their parents: once parents have had their say, little else in life is able to modify the opinion of self thus formed”

Prof. Nicolas Elmer, Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2001

“For children of primary school age, parental involvement-particularly in the form of good parenting in the home-has the biggest impact on their achievement and adjustment. Parents continue to have a significant impact through secondary school years. Parental support is also an important factor for young people making a successful transition to adulthood and independent living.”

Desforges DfES Report 433 (2003)

It is particularly important then, to have in place a comprehensive strategy to ensure all agencies offering support to parents work together to make sure the right level of support is available, and is underpinned by a suitably qualified workforce, funded at an appropriate level and offering evidence based advice and support.

2. Background

In June 2005 a workshop –“Passionate about Parenting” was held. This came about as a result of joint planning between Sure Start Children’s Centres and the South Tees Youth Offending Service.

The aims of the session were:

- To carry out an audit of parenting support across the South Tees area
- To identify gaps and duplications in existing service
- To identify examples of good practice
- To address issues of quality, training and printed material
- To provide a forum for discussion, better coordination and support in order to provide a comprehensive service across sectors and localities

Over 40 individuals from 30 agencies attended the first session on 30.06.05 and the broad aims of the group were affirmed.

A steering group has been set up to set the agenda and a Parenting Forum has developed. (A list of current members appears as appendix 1).

Both the forum and steering group meet bi monthly.

It is through the forum that this strategy has been developed.

3. Some definitions of parenting and parenting support

Parenting is a complex process. The following are examples of local and national definitions:

“Positive parenting is -unconditional care, consistent, nurturing, promoting the child’s individuality, emotional, psychological, social development, instilling a moral code.”

Redcar & Cleveland Sure Start Managers 2005

“...supportive activities to enable parents, prospective parents and those in a parenting role to better understand their own and their children’s personal, emotional, social, intellectual and physical needs and the social context in which family life takes place. This enhances family life and the contribution which families make to society.”

Parenting Education and Support Forum (now known as Parenting UK)

“Parents and carers are enabled to receive the information, services and support which will help them to care for their children and equip them with the skills they need to ensure that their children have optimum life chances and are healthy and safe”

Children’s NSF Standard 2

“Parenting is a challenging job. Research suggests that 75% of parents and carers, regardless of background, feel there are times in their lives or the lives of their children when they need access to additional information or support.... The Quality of care that babies and toddlers receive from their parents is the most important influence on their life chances.

Sure Start Children’s Centres Practice Guidance 2005

“Parenting support...(includes) any interventions for parents or carers aimed at reducing risks and/or promoting protective factors for their children, in relation to their social, physical and emotional well-being”

*What Works in Parenting Support? A review of the International Evidence
DfES Policy Research Bureau*

“Parenting is a challenging task. For some, the everyday challenges of bringing up children are made more difficult because they have other things to contend with. Domestic violence, substance misuse, serious mental health problems; problems with housing, immigration and debt are serious challenges when they come as single issues. In some families, these challenges come in bundles, and although the labels used are the

same, the detail and the meaning of such things as 'domestic violence' or 'mental health problems' are as varied as the families concerned."

Supporting Parents, safeguarding children CSCI February 2006

4. Purpose and vision-Why do we need a strategy?

Children's Trusts need to include parenting services in their work. The Government Inspectors' benchmark for Every Child Matters requires that;

- Parents are offered a range of services before there is perceived to be a danger to the child
- Parents are helped to ensure their children are healthy
- Children and young people's mental health is supported
- Children and young people are encouraged to participate in decision making and to support community
- The broad range of family needs is addressed in an integrated way

The first Children and Young People's Plan for Redcar and Cleveland was published in 2006. This is a strategic plan developed by the local authority with all partners who contribute to provision, or whose service impacts upon the lives of children, young people and their families. This parenting strategy, developed through inter agency cooperation, should inform the Children and Young People's Plan and the future commissioning of services to support parenting.

Parents need...

- A coordinated, seamless service
- One point of contact-the right person, at the right place and the right time
- To feel empowered and not stigmatised
- To be involved in the planning and design of services
- To have local community support

A local vision and key principles were developed at a workshop on 12.10.06.

All children, parents and carers in Redcar and Cleveland are entitled to:

- locally accessible family support at the first point of contact
- a range of parenting services in all areas
- training and support sessions for all parents who ask for it
- no barriers or stigma
- easy access to information
- simple and inclusive referral routes
- be involved in planning and evaluation of services

5. National policy context

Every Child Matters

“The Government recognises the crucial role of parents, carers and families in improving outcomes for children and young people and the need to provide support for parents, carers and families in order for them to do so.”

The importance of the role of parents is described under each of the five outcomes:

- Be healthy
Families, parents and carers promote healthy choices
- Stay safe
Parents, carers and families provide safe homes and stability
- Enjoy and achieve
Parents, carers and families support learning
- Make a positive contribution
Parents, carers and families promote positive behaviour
- Achieve economic wellbeing
Parents, carers and families are supported to be economically active

Extended schools

Parenting support is one of the elements of the core offer. To fulfil this aspect schools should;

- Provide access to parenting groups using structured manual-based parenting programmes as well as more informal opportunities for parents to engage with the school and each other
 - Provide family learning sessions to allow children to learn with their parents where there is demand as shown through consultation with parents
 - Offer information sessions for parents of pupils joining reception class and on transfer to secondary school
 - Offer information about nationally and locally available sources of information, advice and support.

Parenting support does not need to be provided on the school site or directly by the school. Access to parenting support can be provided through other schools or voluntary, community or private providers.

Children's Fund

The Children's Fund provides a responsive approach to developing services that address the difficulties faced by some children and their families. It encourages voluntary organisations, community and faith groups to work in partnership with local statutory agencies, and children, young people and their families, to deliver high-quality preventative services to meet the needs of communities.

The Children's Fund has three underlying principles:

- **Prevention**
To address the gap in preventative services for children and young people at risk of social exclusion, by providing increased and better coordinated preventative services for 5-13-year-olds and their families
- **Partnership**
To take responsibility at local level for the delivery of the Children's Fund plan, involving partners from the statutory and voluntary sectors, community and faith groups, and ensuring that the views of children and young people are represented
- **Participation**
The voices of children and young people are at the heart of the Children's Fund, with children and young people being involved in the design, operation and evaluation of the programme

Sure Start Children's Centres

Parenting and family support is central to the services offered through Children's Centres. This includes universal and targeted services -

Information and advice for parents
 Signposting to other services, available childcare, benefits, careers in childcare etc,
 Informal support
 Outreach services and home visiting
 Structured parenting programmes
 Targeted support
 Ante and postnatal health
 Positive parenting strategies
 Children's emotional and physical development
 Children's play and learning
 Child and family nutrition
 Services to meet the needs of disabled children
 Access to employment and training

National Service Framework

The Children's NSF, published on 15 September 2004, sets standards for children's health and social services, and the interface of those services with education.

The standards include

- Promoting health and well being, identifying needs and intervening early
- Supporting parenting
- Child, young person and family-centred services
- Growing up into adulthood
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people

RESPECT

"Respect is about central government, local agencies, local communities and ultimately every citizen working together to build a society in which we can respect one another – where anti-social behaviour is rare and tackled effectively, and communities can live in peace together."

The Respect Action Plan has six main strands

- Supporting Families
- A new approach to the most challenging families
- Improving behaviour and attendance in schools
- Activities for children and young people
- Strengthening communities
- Effective enforcement and community justice

Youth Matters

“Our approach recognises that parents are the strongest influence in young people's lives. However, publicly funded services also have a key role to play. Services for teenagers need to expand opportunities for all young people while helping to tackle the range and complexity of problems faced by the minority who are at risk. We need to provide the right mix of challenge and support to young people who are involved in anti-social behaviour and crime, and to their parents. We need to respond to young people as they are today, with their greater expectation of autonomy and control, not as young people were a decade ago.”

Youth Matters Green Paper

Parenting Fund

The government's goal is to support parents in delivering these outcomes and the Parenting Fund is one of a number of ways in addressing this goal. Through the Parenting Fund, the DfES expects to:

- do more for parents who have been less well served in the past. For example: Black and Ethnic Minority parents, parents with mental health problems, families living with conflict, parents with disabilities or who have children with a disability
- Strengthen the network of services, in the voluntary sector, that support parents in bringing up their children
- Highlight and promote good practices so that they can be used by all family and parent support services.

Reaching Out: Think Family Cabinet Office June 2007

This is part of a review from the Social Exclusion Task Force which sets out the intention to develop a more family-focused approach from agencies that work with adults and those that work with children.

It looks at the most excluded 2% of families who have not been lifted by the rising tide of living standards and increased opportunity, and who remain in poverty with complex needs, multiple problems and low aspiration.

The report recognises that substantial change is needed in the way we work with these most at-risk families who need a targeted, specialised, whole-families approaches. It is also about making sure the different parts of the system around families work together.

It is about early intervention – breaking the cycle that is passed down the generations, by tackling the drivers in the wider family environment that contribute to poor outcomes for the children and for child poverty. It is also about never giving up on families and looking for every opportunity to support them.

It's about joined-up working – getting agencies to talk together, sharing information and concerns about a family, making sure that where wider problems show up services work together effectively in the best interests of the family. Particularly agencies that may not have a history of working together like prisons and children's services to ensure the family gets the support it needs when a parent goes into prison.

It's about tailoring support, and making sure that the families are treated according to their individual needs, rather than expecting one-size-fits all universal services to find these families. It's about getting all agencies working with individuals to instead 'think family'.

Every Parent Matters March 2007

Sets out the entitlement for parents to access:

- Good quality universal support, in the form of information, advice and signposting to other services, is available to all parents. It is important that support can be accessed in places where, and ways in which, parents and carers feel comfortable, such as early years settings, schools, primary healthcare services, and through childcare information services, telephone helplines and the web.
 - More specialised targeted support is available at the local level to meet the needs of families and communities facing additional difficulties. Types of support offered could include structured parenting education groups, couple support, home visiting and employment or training advice.
 - All schools actively seek to engage parents in children and young people's education, helping parents to understand what they can do at home to work with the school.
 - Children's centres and extended schools develop a coherent set of services both to support parents and to involve them properly at all stages of a child's learning and development.
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- ***Parenting Support-Guidance for Local Authorities in England***
October 2006

Sets out the responsibility of Local Authorities to: -

- Develop a strategic, joined up approach to the design and delivery of parenting support services through a parenting support strategy that informs the Children and Young People's Plan and takes account of parents' views
- See support for parents as a continuum from early intervention and preventative services through to the use of enforcement measures
- Identify a single commissioner of parenting support services and commission parenting programmes that are evidence-based. The post should work in the context of Children's Trust joint commissioning unit to: -
 - Champion parenting support across the authority
 - Commission parenting support services based on local need
 - Consider where services need to be reconfigured/decommissioned
 - Co-ordinate work on parenting support across agencies
 - Consider how best to develop early intervention and prevention whilst still coping with remedial work
 - Consider how services can best be delivered, including through third sector and ensure appropriate services for range of children and needs
 - See how parenting support services inter relate to other services

Workforce Development

Parenting UK has been commissioned to support the development of a 'National Academy of Parenting Practitioners'. This will become a centre of excellence, providing training for those who support parents in the community through the National Occupational Standards for Work with Parents. These are a nationally agreed set of competencies which link with the National Occupational Standards for Family Learning. The standards define the competence, skills, knowledge and understanding required by those who work with parents.

The standards can be used to:

- Recognise previously acquired competencies
- Identify knowledge and skills gaps
- Benchmark practice against the standards
- Ensure training is relevant to job roles
- Facilitate self assessment
- Help to develop and retrain a more effective workforce
- Support organisational review and planning
- Improve recruitment
- Enable staff to achieve

6. The Local context

Facts about being a child in Redcar and Cleveland:

- The total population of children 0-17 years is 31,119 with 7,200 under 5 years
- 23% of school age children are in receipt of free school meals
- 2.2 % children 0-19 years have special educational needs
- 6% live in a household where no one is earning
- 31% children live in families in receipt of key benefits

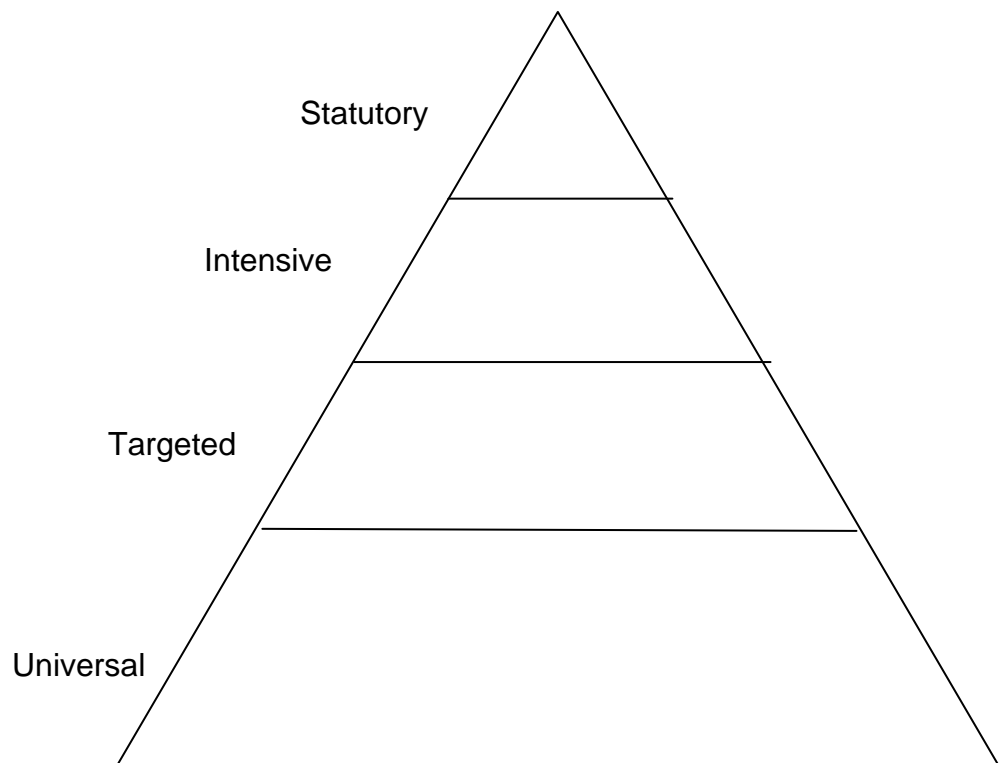
- 7.5% of the population are unemployed compared to 2.4 % nationally
- 31% of 0-15 year olds live in low income households
- 1.1% of the total population are of black and ethnic minority background
- 198 children are on the Children’s Act register of disabled children

7. Mapping of current provision

An audit of services and activities available locally to support parenting has been undertaken. This has led to the development of a Directory of Parenting Support Services, which includes a range of existing services to support varying levels of need.

A diagrammatic model of child wellbeing has been agreed which defines levels of need. This will provide a robust framework to support decision-making and the application of thresholds for services to vulnerable children and families.

Services fall into four broad categories:



Level of need	Definition of need	Type of support
Universal	Open to all parents Universal support- before specific difficulties have been identified	Information and advice, structured and 'drop in' sessions Open access and often self referred
Targeted	For parents who need additional support-self referral or identified by another service	Support for parents Self referred or signposted by another agency
Intensive	Parents and families with intensive needs	Interventions with individual families
Statutory intervention	Parents who can't or won't cooperate	Statutory intervention

Universal services are those that all families have access to. Resources and advice should be consistent throughout the borough and across agencies and parents not made to feel stigmatised by accessing the help they need.

Support is available at neighbourhood level from schools, clinics, children's centres, libraries, youth and community centres and via mobile units.

High quality information and advice on parenting is available from these local settings. A new web based Service Directory is being developed which will hold information, accessible to parents, young people and professionals. One Stop Shops, libraries and children's centres will allow parents to access web based information if they do not have internet access at home.

A consultation and communication strategy is being developed to ensure parents and carers' views on provision are actively sought and are taken into account when new services are being commissioned.

Universal support		
Agency	Type of support	Where delivered
Sure Start Children's Centres	Parent and toddler groups-informal advice and support Play and learning-crèche provision, stay and play, 1 to 1 outreach and home visiting service Library outreach service Training courses –Parent survival Family Literacy, Lets Talk, BLAST training for parents Dads Zone Refugee support service Child health-feeding/weaning, child development, speech and language Parent craft (ante and postnatal) Emotional health-maternal mental health, child mental health, attachment	From 10 Children's Centres and link sites across all 3 localities, many on school sites

Sure Start Partnership	Children's Information Service- provides advice on childcare, training opportunities, activities for children through children's centres, play development etc. Childminder networks offering training and support to childminders.	Telephone and web based through RCBC website
Health visiting service PCT	Health Visitors focus on health issues in families with pre school children. They offer a core service at key times in a child's life and have contact with families in a variety of settings eg Child Health Clinics and family's homes. Additional information and support on specific health issues i.e. Infant feeding, behaviour issues, post natal depression, accident prevention, child development, stopping smoking, immunisation. Health Visitors work with other professionals and refer to appropriate agencies if necessary. Community nursery nurses work with identified families to offer services such as baby massage, health promotion, healthy eating advice, and child health promotion and support families with some behaviour issues.	Universal entitlement across R&C
School Nursing Service PCT	Advice to parents on all health related issues including:- Health questionnaire at school entry Advice/signposting on specific issues eg enuresis, head lice All school nurses trained in Solihull Approach-behavioural and emotional issues	Each school in R&C has a named school nurse
Psychological Service	Parents Advice Service Drop in service for parents and carers	REDC Locality service being developed
Healthy Schools Programme LA Children's Services and PCT health promotion	Parents evenings for advice around sex and relationships education, drugs awareness, food in schools information	All schools in R&C working towards Healthy Schools status
Redcar and Cleveland Adult Learning Service Family Learning	Range of family learning opportunities delivered in partnership with schools, voluntary and community sectors. Courses accredited and non accredited Tailored in response to identified need	R&C REDC, Local Learning Centres and Community venues
Extended Services in	Parenting Support as part of the 'Core Offer'	All schools in R&C

schools	Support at particular times of transition. Swift and easy referral to services for children with particular needs	
Homestart	Peer support for families using trained peer support volunteers	Training via Children's Centres

Targeted Support for parents and families where some additional need has been identified by the family or an agency working with the family. High quality, evidence based training will be promoted through children's centres and schools. One example of this is a pilot programme 'Mellow Parenting' which is now being recruited to by the sure start children's centres.

Implementation of the child wellbeing model and universal use of the Common Assessment Framework will ensure consistency and entitlement to additional services. The following services are offered to families who need this level of support.

Targeted		
Agency	Type of support	Where delivered
BEST	Support for families where there are concerns in relation to behaviour, attendance, emotional wellbeing, health, and family difficulties. School referrals Key Stages 1-3	Freeborough Community College Gillbrook Technology College Redcar Community College Feeder primary schools
Cleveland Family Mediation Service (Registered charity)	Support for families suffering family breakdown Parenting Apart Specialist counselling for children 5-18	Tees valley wide
Designated nurse for Looked After Children Primary Care Trust/Children's Social Care	1 to 1 advice and support for children, carers, family members. Holistic health assessments, training. Response to what is needed.	All of R&C
Education Welfare Service	Attendance/truancy pupil behaviour Parenting contracts and voluntary parenting classes	All of R&C
Eclipse Project	1 to 1 support for parents around drug/alcohol use by young people. Advice/information sessions and signposting to other services.	Middlesbrough
Face2face	Emotional support for families of (recently diagnosed) children with a disability.	R&C
Inclusion Services Pupil Inclusion Team	Identification of vulnerable pupils through early intervention, preventing deterioration in pupils' behaviour by	R&C

(Children's Services)	supporting schools through Pastoral Support Programmes (school led target-based multi-agency) The team works closely with the Parent Partnership Officer to support families. A current development is the use of Parenting Contracts to help parents improve their skills and confidence in supporting their children within the Pastoral Support Programme process.	
Behaviour 4 Learning Inclusion Support Service	In school support for individual pupils Home visits Signposting/support for parents Advice and information for parents Family learning opportunities Workshops for parents run in school	R&C
Justice Support	Home Visits: To parents and or child(ren) mentoring/ life coaching service. Aimed at working with parents to have a more positive relationship with children. Main work is with children/ young people 8-18 years old, mentoring support for those who are at risk of offending/ re offending or on the boundaries of criminal activities.	Teesside
KARA Parenting The KARA Family Project	Parent support groups 1 to 1 support grief/relationships/money management Health advice After school group for 5-9 year olds	Grangetown and South Bank
Outreach Children's Social Care	Individual and family sessions to prevent family breakdown	R&C
Paediatric Physiotherapy Service	Service for school age children 4-19 years	South Tees
Parent Partnership Service	Independent advice, information and support to parents/carers of children with special educational needs as outlined within the SEN Code of Practice.	R&C
Pre school Physiotherapy Service	Advice and treatment to promote motor development-gait assessment clinics, neo natal follow up clinics. Advice and support for parents at Clinics and at pre school assessment units at Dormanstown, Cleveland Assessment Unit, Joint Education and Therapy group	South Tees

	Support for parents of premature babies	
Portage Service Psychological Service Support for parents/carers of children with a diagnosis of ASD	Advice and key working outreach service for families with a child with significant learning, sensory or developmental difficulties. EarlyBird and EarlyBird+ training and support for families and professionals	R&C
Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid	Support for women and children who have been affected by domestic violence	R&C
Relate North East Registered Charity	Relationship counselling Time to Talk counselling for young people Family counselling	Tees Valley
Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Support Service	Support for young parents-to -be and young parents Sexual health information to young parents Supporting young parents to continue their education Young Mums to be course Contraceptive advice	
The Junction	Open access service for information and advice on housing, benefits, training, work, and health. Counselling project Young Carers Project-emotional, social and practical support for young carers	Tees valley R&C
Behaviour Support Service	1 to 1 and small group support for children with behavioural issues	Service delivered in schools

Intensive support is that which supports families with particular and complex needs. Families' needs will be assessed using Common Assessment and, following a multi agency panel meeting with the family, a lead professional identified to support the family in accessing appropriate and timely support.

Intensive		
Agency	Type of support	Where delivered
Psychological Service	1 to 1 intervention with children and intensive work with families	R&C
Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust	Child Disabilities Service	
Children's Social Care	Family support	R&C
Bridgeway	Training and awareness raising to carers – could be extended to parents	South Tees

	and offer one to one support/counselling for parents who have themselves experienced sexual abuse of her child or the impact of domestic violence has constrained their parenting.	
South Tees Youth Offending Service	Partners in Parenting (PiP) is a section of South Tees Youth Offending Service offering a support and guidance for parents and carers whose young people are offending or are at risk of offending. The aim of PiP is to work with families in an effort to make changes within the family and increase awareness of the services open to them when their young people are experiencing problems.	South Tees

Statutory Intervention

Statutory Intervention		
Agency	Type of support	Where delivered
Youth Offending Service	Parenting Orders	South Tees
Children's Social Care	Where the parents are not meeting a child's needs, the child's name may be placed on the child protection register. An action plan, supported by a multi agency plan, would be put into place.	

8. Evidence based practice

There are many examples of evidence-based programmes. The following are being delivered in Redcar and Cleveland:

Webster –Stratton

Aims to identify, intervene and support families of young conduct problem children.

Solihull

Designed as a brief intervention, delivered by health visitors to families of pre school children Offers advice on sleeping, feeding and behaviour.

Mellow Parenting

A whole family approach to address family relationships for families under severe stress, enabling parents to find their own solutions to family management problems through mutual support with a minimum of 'expert' guidance from professionals.

EarlyBird

This is a training programme for parents/carers (including grandparents, childminders) of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and the professionals who work with the child and family. Locally based evaluation was published 2004. Senior Portage staff delivers training.

Parenting Contracts

The aim is to improve the pupil's behaviour in school and to address any underlying concerns and provide an additional mechanism, which will focus on the potential of the parent to improve their child's behaviour.

Partners in Parenting

Support and guidance for parents and carers whose young people are offending or are at risk of offending. The aim of PiP is to work with families in an effort to make changes within the family and increase awareness of the services open to them when their young people are experiencing problems.

9. Local needs analysis

An audit of local services has revealed the following:-

- 36 services completed a service audit pro forma
- 35 offer advice and support
- 11 offer a counselling service
- 17 offer group support
- 34 offer information and signposting
- 14 offer training

The majority of services offer specialist support e.g. physiotherapy, preventing family breakdown.

- Services are offered to varied age ranges, often linked to funding, for example Sure Start Children's Centres concentrate on children 0-5 years and Children's Fund support 5-9 year olds.
- Services operate across different geographical areas e.g. National, Tees Valley, South Tees, Specific local area or neighbourhood
- Nearly all services offer advice & support
- Most services offer information & signposting
- Far fewer services offer qualified counselling

More detail of current services available appears as appendix 2

Consultation with Parents

A questionnaire was distributed to 600 parents via Parenting Forum members, schools and the Children's Information Service. Parents were asked how they would like to be communicated with when they had needed/think they will need support with parenting, and what specific difficulties they have needed help with. 96 questionnaires were returned.

The following is a summary of the responses; -

- Most parents would ask family members and friends for help, then their health visitor, local school or GP
- Generally parents were reluctant to admit they needed help but when asked about particular issues the following were identified
 - Feeding their baby
 - Behaviour-particularly toddlers and primary school age children
 - Their own health in pregnancy
- Other areas they might have asked for help with include
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Bullying
 - Teenage pregnancy
 - Smoking
 - Debt
 - Bereavement
 - Mental health issues

Parents also said they did not feel there is enough information about what is available locally, and they were often too embarrassed to ask for help.

Consultation with Partners

The strategy has been developed in partnership with the following agencies:

Adult Learning Service Redcar and Cleveland
 Middlesbrough and Langbaugh Primary Care Trusts
 Behaviour Education Support Team (BEST)
 Cleveland Family Mediation Service
 Children's Fund
 Education Welfare Service
 Eclipse Project
 Extended Services in Schools
 Face2face
 Healthy Schools Programme
 In School Support Service
 The KARA Family Project
 Outreach
 Paediatric and pre school physiotherapy Services
 Parent Partnership Service
 Police
 Psychological Service
 Portage Service
 Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid
 Relate North East
 Sure Start
 Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Support Service
 The Junction
 Youth Offending Service

10.Challenges

Some agencies and services offering interventions are funded by short-term grants. This is particularly true of many third sector agencies, but also some, such as teenage pregnancy and sure start children's centres, are facing a reduction in funding or, at best, uncertainty about future funding levels.

Other challenges facing services include:

- Accommodation for neighbourhood delivery
- Training/suitably qualified staff
- Ensuring we are joined up
- Assessment of needs based on use of the child wellbeing model and use of Common Assessment Framework
- Integrated service delivery through multi disciplinary teams
- Engaging 'hard to reach' families
- Supporting and enabling parents and ensuring they are involved in the planning and design of services.

11. Priorities for action 2007-09

- **Analysis of needs and resources**
Development of a commissioning strategy for parenting services
Analysis of need at all levels-from preventative to targeted
Ongoing analysis of gaps and duplication
Ensuring best use of resources
- **Communication**
Ensuring the service directory is accessible to all-the publication of a summary of the strategy to be made widely available to parents and professionals.
Supporting awareness raising of services to all parents and carers.
Making sure a corporate/departmental consultation strategy reaches all parents and carers.
- **Training**
An analysis of the workforce to identify training needs for all levels of intervention and support.
Core skills and competencies training so that low-level interventions can be delivered in a responsive way in non stigmatised settings.
Training to support integrated processes.
- **Practice and provision**
Continue to maintain the Parenting Forum.
Identify and celebrate best practice.
Launch the strategy .
Hold a workshop with parents and statutory as well as third sector organisations to address issues that impact on parenting.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**
Progress to be monitored through the Redcar and Cleveland Children and Young People's Trust Board and through the relevant themed sub groups.

Appendix 1

Action Plan

The following action plan was developed by the Parenting Forum at a workshop and in response to what parents have identified as key needs.

Key need	Services accessible to all
What is needed	Multi media information on what is available-Parenting directory to be incorporated within Service Directory being developed. Advertise what is available more widely Service delivery in all localities and in venues fit for purpose Services delivered at times to suit the needs of all, including working parents and groups with particular needs. Publication and launch of the Parenting Strategy
Actions/ date by	Consultation with fathers planned via South Bank Tomorrow September 2007 Service Directory development September 2007-05-18 Marketing of Directory
Lead agency	Children's Services-Locality Managers and partner agencies Service Directory Development Task Group
Funding	Link with existing initiatives-children's centres, extended services in schools, integrated locality working. Parenting Support Strategy Grant Sure Start Grant for Service Directory development
Evaluation/review	In 12 months through parent questionnaire/focus groups.

Key need	Parents should be enabled
What is needed	Appropriate parenting programmes which support and enable parents Programmes which do not stigmatise Training/work experience to develop skills Advice/support in relation to benefits
Actions/ date by	Quality assurance of parenting support programmes offered in Redcar and Cleveland to be carried out by Parenting Coordinator. An audit of quality and skills of the current workforce. Identification of training needs Audit to be completed by September 2007 Broaden awareness of the Forum with other relevant agencies
Lead agency	Parenting Forum
Funding	Parenting Support Strategy Grant Extended Services
Evaluation/review	April 2008 follow up audit of qualifications of current workforce

Key need	Involvement of parents in planning services
What is needed	Development of questionnaire to be given to parents or used as focus group discussion by existing agencies Ensure all methods of consulting with parents are explored. Questionnaire, outreach through universal services eg. School/GP/health visitors, drop in/open events, website, texting Links with Communications Strategy to focus on needs of parents-link with locality planning and consultation re CYPP
Actions/ date by	Spring 2007-ongoing
Lead agency	Children's Services with support/cooperation of forum members
Funding	Link with the development of Service Directory/extended services in schools, Children's Centres and Communications Strategy Children's Services
Evaluation/review	After 12 months

Key need	Simple routes to referral for parents and professionals
What is needed	Review of all agencies referral procedures Service directory to improve communications between services and increased awareness of services available Development of Common Assessment and lead professional role to support parents to access services-link with comprehensive training plan for integrated processes
Actions/ date by	Ensure all agencies are kept up to date with training opportunities
Lead agency	Parenting forum, Locality Managers
Funding	Training budget for CAF/LP has already been identified. Could be supplemented by Parenting Support Strategy Grant
Evaluation/review	Link to evaluation of Family Services Directory
Key need	Recruitment of a Parenting Forum Coordinator (This funding was granted in March 2007-coordinator being recruited May 2007)
What is needed	A coordinator to ensure forum and its work is developed further to support, for example extended schools in reaching the core offer of Parenting Support, recruiting individuals to train-core skills in parenting support.
Actions/ date by	JC to complete funding bid to Extended Schools Bid successful Spring 2007
Lead agency	Children's Services
Funding	Extended Services funding.
Evaluation/review	Evaluation reports quarterly via Forum

Key need	Integrated service delivery by well qualified staff, working within multi agency teams.
What is needed	Development of Children's Workforce Development Strategy to include a common core of skills, joint training programme. Use of the new National Occupational Standards for Work with Parents (developed by Parenting UK) Development of integrated teams Joint training to increase understanding of other services and increased knowledge and understanding CAF and lead professional implemented
Actions/ date by	Ongoing First of core skills training sessions planned for September 2007-05-18(to be delivered by Parenting UK)
Lead agency	LA
Funding	Parenting Support Strategy Grant 2006-07 and 2007-08
Evaluation/review	Link to Integrated processes training and Strategic workforce development

Key need	Develop clearer understanding of parents' needs
What is needed	Clear routes and systems to identify parents' perceptions of their needs Identification of needs of specific groups-Fathers, parents of children with a disability
Actions/ date by	Questionnaire and focus groups to find out what parents want/need.
Lead agency	Children's Services
Funding	Parenting Support Strategy Grant
Evaluation/review	Follow up questionnaire in 2008

Appendix 2

Redcar and Cleveland Parenting Forum –membership list

Alyson Harker	Middlesbrough PCT
Andrea Fox	Lifeline Middlesbrough
Anne Lennon	The Kara Project
Alastair Robertson	Educational Psychology
Alison Lewis	Educational Psychology
Andrew Joyce	Inclusion
Angela Conley	Inclusion
Annette Duff	BEST
Brian Cranna	Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust
Bryan Tams	Cleveland Police
Barbara Hall	Children's Fund
Carolyn Whiteside	Adult Education
Cath Simpson	Sure Start
David Lister	Education Welfare
Ed Harford	The Junction
Elaine Daghish	Youth Offending Service
Eileen Herd	Social Care
Eileen McNamee	Educational Psychology
Eunice Barr	Teenage Pregnancy
Frances Golightly	Extended Schools
Gill Halls	Redcar and Cleveland PCT
Catherine Pickering	Sure Start
Hilary Taylor	Portage
Lorraine Munroe	Cleveland Family Mediation Service
Julia Bracknall	The Junction
Jackie Wardell	Redcar and Cleveland PCT
Jan Topham	Sure Start
Janet Whyman	Social Care
John Lambert	Integrated Locality Services
Julie Conner	Integrated Locality Services
Julie Corner	Teenage Pregnancy
Kate Harland	Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid
Keri Brearey	Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust
Keith Feeley	Children's Services
Keith Scott	Extended Schools
Linda Bulmer	Sure Start
Linda Taggart	Adult Education
Lorraine Boyd	Sure Start
Mary Hurley	Sure Start
Maureen McEnaney	Integrated Locality Services
Michelle Larkin	Middlesbrough PCT
Pauline Oldroyd	Sure Start
Polly Hampton	BEST
Fran White	Sure Start
Val Lambert	Health Promotions
Chris Bell	Sure Start
Ralph Jordinson	Connexions
Wendy Dickens	Sure Start

Pauline Lisle	Supporting People
Tony Bage	Redcar and Cleveland Family Intervention Project

Appendix 3

Analysis of Parenting Service Information

There are still some gaps in service information.

This analysis is based on the services, which completed & returned the template

1. Type of Support

Borough	No. Service entries	Advice & Support	Counselling	Group Support	Information & Signposting	Training	Treatment
Redcar & Cleveland	36	35	11	17	34	14	6

- Majority of services offer specialist support e.g. physiotherapy, preventing family breakdown.
- Services are offered to varied age ranges, often linked to funding e.g. 0-16, 10-12, 9-17, 5-18
- Services operate across different geographical areas e.g. National, Tees Valley, South Tees, Specific local area
- Nearly all services offer advice & support
- Most services offer information & signposting
- Far fewer services offering qualified counselling

2. By Support Area

Based on the main area of support outlined by individual services in the directory.

NB: Some services feature in more than one support area

Health	Learning	Behaviour	Sexual Harm	Emotional Well Being
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health Visiting ▪ Healthy Schools Programme ▪ Looked After Children's Nurse ▪ Paediatric Continence Service ▪ Paediatric Physiotherapy Service ▪ School Nursing ▪ Sure Start ▪ Teenage Pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adult learning ▪ Education Welfare Service – parenting Classes ▪ Family Learning ▪ In School Support ▪ Redcar Community College- Extended Schools ▪ Sure Start ▪ Teenage Pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BEST ▪ Inclusion Services – Pupil Inclusion Team ▪ In School Support ▪ Kara ▪ Psychological Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women's Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BEST ▪ Inclusion Services- Primary Intervention Project ▪ Kara ▪ Psychological Services ▪ Sure Start ▪ The Junction
Family Relationships	Special Needs	Employment	Financial	General Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BEST ▪ Cleveland Family Mediation ▪ Kara ▪ Outreach Social Care ▪ Relate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Face2Face ▪ Parent Partnership Service ▪ Portage Plus ▪ Psychological Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Job Centre Plus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kara ▪ Sure Start 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home Start ▪ Kara ▪ Redcar Community College – Extended Schools ▪ Sure Start ▪ The Junction