

Supporting parents who have experienced care proceedings: building an emerging area of practice

<https://supportingparents.researchinpractice.org.uk/>

Online conference and panel discussion. Wednesday 17th March 2021 9.30am-1.00pm

Panel: Sue Mann (Sue Mann, Medical Expert in Reproductive Health and Consultant in Women's Health, Public Health England); Professor Trixie McAree (National Midwifery Lead for Continuity of Carer); The Hon. Mr Justice Keehan (Chair of the Public Law Working Group); Charlotte Ramsden OBE (Strategic Director for People, Salford City Council and Vice President Association of Directors of Children's Services); Isabelle Trowler (Chief Social Worker for children and families, Department for Education).

Background info: Parents who have had children removed from their care following care proceedings experience multiple challenges and are often involved with professionals across public services. A recent study with recurrent care experienced mothers found:

- 80% experience mental health issues
- 41% experience significant drug or alcohol problems
- 80% reported domestic violence
- 57% were in receipt of benefits relating to health or disability.
- 37% lived in insecure or unsuitable housing ([Boddy et al 2020](#))

Research also indicates the likelihood of quick subsequent pregnancies and short intervals between proceedings and reflects the challenges that professionals report in engaging this group of parents ([Broadhurst et al 2015](#), [2017](#), [Mason et al 2020](#)).

Over the last year we have been funded by Public Health England to develop a Community of Practice, bringing together practitioners working with parents who've had children removed from their care through public family law proceedings. This developing area of practice has rich learning to share with colleagues keen to build trauma-informed responses in working with parents.

At this event we will:

- Share the results of our mapping: making evident the locations and gaps in provision for this cohort of parents across the country.
- Discuss with our panel of sector leaders the provision of trauma-informed responses to parents across health, social care and family justice.
- Hear from CoP participants about key aspects of the work.
- Launch the new website designed to enable the development of trauma-informed responses in practice with parents.

Building trauma-informed responses for sexual and reproductive health.
A Community of Practice with teams supporting parents who have experienced recurrent care proceedings.

Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
9.30-9.40	Welcome and introduction	Susannah Bowyer (project team, Research in Practice) and Christian Iszchak (MPower Ormiston Families)
9.40-9.55	Mapping work findings and call to action	Claire Mason (project team, University of Lancaster)
9.55-10.15	Community of Practice presentation to the panel	CoP steering group
10.15-10.20	Introduce the panel	Susannah
10.20-10.50	Panel responses	The Panel (see above)
10.50-11.05	Audience Q and A	Susannah
11.05	Introduce the CoP sessions	Christian
11.10-11.25	CoP session 1 Working with women in pregnancy	Elaine Duke (Strengthening Families Salford Council) and Laura Bibey (Baby and Me Newport Council)
11.30-11.45	CoP session 2 Reaching out to parents in our local community – using data to better understand ethnicity and diversity	Bev Barnett Jones (NFJO), Sophie Naphine Alexandra Joseph (Pause)
11.50-12.05	CoP session 3 Voice, choice and access to sexual health and contraception	Sarah Herlem (Stepping forward at Oasis Project) Jacque Holloway (Foundations Service East Sussex Council)
12.10-12.25	CoP session 4 Working with fathers in the recurrent care pathway	Tracey Lysons Anna Fyles (Caring Dads Blackburn with Darwen Council)
12.25-12.40	Q and A and discussion on these sessions	Christian and Susannah
12.40-12.50	Launch the website and resources therein	Mary Ryan (project team, Research in Practice/NFJO)
12.50-1pm	Q and A and action planning and close	Christian and Susannah