



Parenting  
(paper by Sally C  
to EHT Board)

**Bath and North East  
Somerset  
Early Help Board**

<b>Report Title:</b> Parenting programmes	<b>Agenda:</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 12 September 2016	<b>Author:</b> Sally Churchyard 11-19 Prevention Service Manager
<b>Recommendation/Decision required</b> A steer on the future use of dedicated parenting programme funding	
<b>Background:</b> <p>The Parenting Strategy Group has been constituted and now has agreed terms of reference and membership. Its first priority has been to address the lack of suitable parenting programme provision across the Authority for parents of children and young people aged 5-18 (a version of the Incredible Years programme is available to parents of pre-school children). It has received presentations from the providers of the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities (SFSC) and Take Three programmes and will be reviewing one or two more programmes in the coming months. The SFSC programme has been independently evaluated and there is a strong evidence base for its effectiveness; it was one of the national programmes promoted by government under the Think Family Strategy. More recently, the programme has not been evaluated by the Early Intervention Foundation and so does not appear in its programme of effective programmes; this, together with concern about the length of the programme at thirteen weeks, has led to some local diminishment in interest in this particular intervention locally, hence the decision to review other provision. However, the greatest challenge is not the choice of programme(s) but the model of delivery.</p> <p>For a number of years, the Youth Offending Service has held a budget which now amounts to £35,299 to enable it to manage delivery of the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities parenting programme to parents of teenagers. It has been delivered locally via a 'virtual team' model, with fully accredited facilitators being drawn from a number of services across the Authority, including the Council, CAMHS and the voluntary sector. The budget paid for all the running costs of the programme, including administration and co-ordination, through the appointment of a part-time co-ordinator and some dedicated administrative time to undertake required reporting of data.</p> <p>More recently, the 'virtual team' model has broken down because, several years on, managers have found themselves increasingly unable to release staff and the budget has remained largely unspent. It is generally understood</p>	

that the programme needs one day per week of facilitator time for the thirteen weeks' duration of the programme, with an additional period of engagement at the beginning and evaluation at the end. There is general agreement that this is not very different from the requirement of any programme; indeed, the full Incredible Years programme should be delivered over twenty weeks.

The Parenting Strategy sets out clear principles and values for the delivery of parenting programmes in the Authority, including a commitment to some provision that has been accredited as effective.

The 'virtual team' delivery model has been effectively discontinued and it is clear that dedicated staff are needed. The main options are:

- ① • To appoint a paid facilitator to work with the three current sessional staff to continue to provide SFSC or an alternative programme (for which they would need accredited training). An issue with this is that the sessional staff are currently only available for evening delivery and the enquiries we continue to receive are largely for day-time provision
- ② • To contribute part or all of this budget into another part of the People and Communities Department or into other commissioned provision where there is an existing infrastructure to support effective delivery.