

Making the Gender Equality Duty Real for Children, Young People and their Fathers

A three year project (2008-11) – run by Children in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government's Equality Unit.

'Breaking-down Stereotypes' – publication

We are pleased to announce that our report: *'Breaking-down stereotypes and engaging fathers in services for children and families'* is now available for download from our project website:

http://makinggenderequalityreal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/gedreportv9_ged.pdf

This report captures key learning from the practice-sharing events we held earlier in 2010; shares practical tips for engaging with dads and tackling stereotypes; and makes a series of policy recommendations.

The report highlights the long term – as well as immediate – benefits to children and families of investment in services that support fathers and, more broadly, men as carers. At Children in Scotland, we firmly believe that support to fathers (as well as mothers) is an essential element of family support services, and one in which there is potential to make a substantial, positive difference to outcomes for children and young people. Challenging gender stereotypes and changing attitudes is also an important aspect of this work. We shall continue to make these points over the coming months, particularly in the light of impending budgetary

cuts (see item below) and the May 2011 Scottish election.

We will be circulating this report widely to both national and local policymakers and key service managers. We shall also be sending copies directly to participants in the 2010 Glasgow and Aberdeen practice-sharing events and to others on our project mailing list. Additionally, we have a small number of hard copies available, on request, while stocks last. Contact us at: <http://makinggenderequalityreal.org.uk/contact>

A big 'thank you' to all who participated in the events and contributed to the report. We would be very pleased to hear from you if you have any comments, queries or suggestions about future work.

Threat of budget cuts – monitoring impacts

We are particularly concerned about the potential impacts of pending budgetary cuts on services that are supporting/engaging with men as fathers and carers. We know that existing services already tend to be reliant on short term – and often precarious – sources of funding.

We would like to hear from providers of services for fathers/male carers (both inclusive mainstream services and separate services) about any constraints they are facing as a result of current/anticipated cutbacks (i.e. beyond what would normally be expected) – and about what they think the **likely impacts** will be. This could be on service users themselves, their children and families, communities or longer-term impacts/costs.

We would also like to hear about any positive stories – e.g. coping strategies or alternative funding streams you would like to share with us and/or other providers across Scotland.

Our reason for gathering this information is to inform our policy work – particularly at the national level – as well as at local authority/NHS Board level. Providing real-life examples will help us to make the case as strongly as possible for investment in this area. We will treat all information supplied with sensitivity and would be happy to discuss ways of maintaining the anonymity (of the sender or project), if requested.

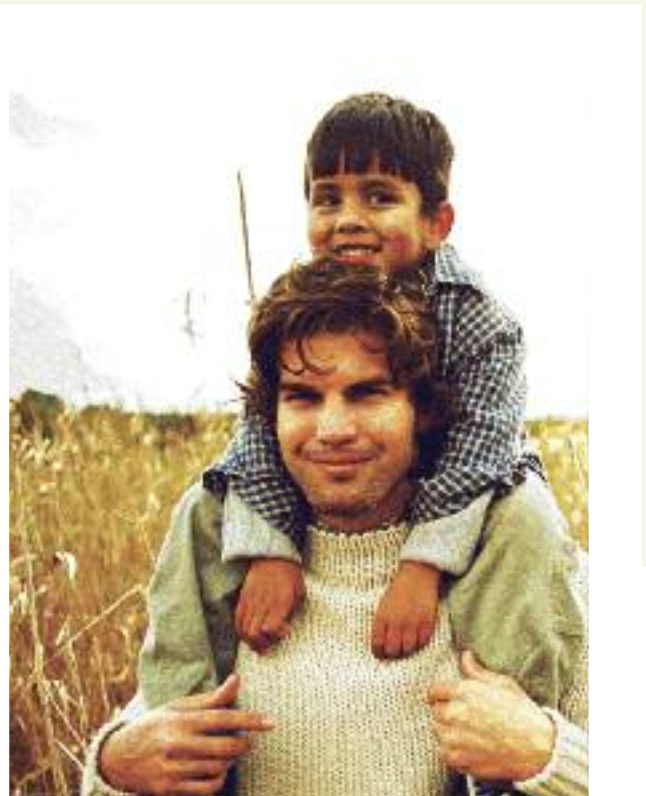
If you have information to share about your own work, and/or would like to know more about

Children in Scotland's work in this area, then please contact Katrina Allen:

<http://makinggenderequalityreal.org.uk/contact>

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Positive engagement with fathers in early years: the role of antenatal and postnatal services – presentation

Katrina Allen presented at a parallel session of the NHS Health Scotland 'National Early Years Conference' in Edinburgh on 5th October 2010. The focus of this talk was on the importance of engaging positively with fathers during the early years and the particular role of antenatal and postnatal services. The slides from

this presentation can be viewed on our project website: <http://makinggenderequalityreal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/katalencisfathersearlyyearspresentationsept10-1.ppt.pdf>

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 came into force on 1 October 2010 across the whole of the UK. The Act itself does not alter the existing general duty on government and public service providers to promote gender equality and prevent inequalities (it unites different equalities legislation – including race and disability – under a single Act and expands the equalities covered e.g. to include age and transgender status). However, the Scottish Government is currently consulting on the specific public sector equality regulations that we expect will apply in Scotland from April 2011. These regulations will set out the requirements for public sector bodies in Scotland to publish information relating to equalities and to report on progress.

Children in Scotland will be responding to this consultation, which is open until 26th November 2010. For details of the consultation see: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/09/13094828/0>

Fathers Network Scotland

Fathers Network Scotland (FNS) is a growing association of professionals, dads, and individuals interested in fatherhood, who have come together to help support men in their role as fathers in Scotland. FNS was granted charitable status in March 2010.

The objectives of FNS are:

- To promote the physical, mental and emotional health of fathers in Scotland through the provision of support to men in all aspects of their role as fathers and to raise awareness and increase understanding of the importance of fathers in child development.
- To advance education through the development and promotion of good practice in all aspects of work with fathers and the production and dissemination of information and research related to fatherhood and work with fathers.

To contact FNS or to join the network, go to: <http://www.fathersnetworkscotland.org.uk>

Other news ...

We are developing the project website as an information resource for practitioners. We have added a number of good practice case studies over the last 6 months and will continue to do so. Many thanks to all those who have already contributed details of their projects and approaches – we are always pleased to hear of other examples or updates of new developments for existing case studies. Please do get in touch if you have details to share.



Subscribe to project updates

If this update has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive our occasional project updates directly in the future, please contact Sara Collier (details below).

We have sent you this update because we believe you have an interest in the 'Making the Gender Equality Duty Real' project and/or have requested to be on our mailing list. If you wish to be removed from our list for future project updates, please contact Sara Collier: scollier@childreninscotland.org.uk. We apologise for any inconvenience.