



Children are for Life

The sixth annual conference of
Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities
inclusive parent programme

SOAS London 8th July 2008



The Race Equality Foundation, with Parenting Across Cultures, will hold the sixth annual conference of the evidence-based *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities* parent programme on July 8th in London.

The conference will provide an exciting and entertaining opportunity:

- to talk with parents and young people from across the UK about their experiences with *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities*;
- to exchange ideas about best practice in parenting support from people working in the UK, in Ireland and the USA; as well as
- to hear about the latest developments.

As always, the conference will focus on how we better support all parents, particularly those from black and minority ethnic communities, to help raise happy and successful children who grow-up safely and are able to make the most of their opportunities.

Speakers include

From the UK: **Angela Sibson**, National Academy of Parenting Practitioners; **Dr Mohammed Bari**, Muslim Council of Britain. *From the USA:* **Dr Marilyn Steele**, Parenting Across Cultures and developer of the SFSC Programme; and **Paul Nagle McNaughton**, Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health. *From Ireland:* **Frances Byrne**, Chief Executive of OPEN.

Who should attend

The conference will be of interest to a range of people including parent programme facilitators, voluntary and statutory organisations working in family support (including Social Services, YOTs, PCTs, and Education), planners and policy makers. Parents are encouraged to attend and will be supported to do so.

Where and when

The event will take place in London at the School of Oriental and African Studies on Tuesday 8th July 2008.

Plenary Sessions

Experiences of SFSC

This conference has a track record in ensuring the voices of parents and young people are heard. This year, for the first time, families will share their experiences of SFSC.

Being Safe

Being safe has always been a challenge for young people. The apparent increase in violent deaths of young people suggests that more action is needed. A panel of experts will explore what can be done.

Workshops

Parenting in prison

For the first time in the UK, we will hear about the American experience of using SFSC with parents in prison. This workshop will explore the impact of the programme on families where a parent is incarcerated.

SFSC and the Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinder

The Government invested £3million to enable six local authorities 'pathfinders' to use SFSC in working with parents of 8-13 years olds at risk. The workshop will explore the lessons learnt from two of these authorities.

Working with young people

Engaging young people in the challenges they face is essential. This workshop will look at the group based programme START and how work with young people can run alongside work with parents.

Parenting in the Muslim community

Media attention paid to the Muslim community is widespread. Whilst the spotlight is often on the challenges of bringing up Muslim children in the UK, this session will focus on community initiatives that support these families.

Working with fathers

Engaging fathers remains high on the agenda for those working with parents. This session will look at strategies to ensure that fathers are not overlooked, with case studies and lessons for delivery elsewhere.

Families with complex needs

Working with families with multiple and complex needs - where issues such as domestic violence, poor housing, ASBOs, mental ill health, and youth offending may be present - can be some of the most challenging work in the sector. This workshop will look at how SFSC has been used successfully with these families.

Delivering parenting programmes in schools

Extended schools are required to provide parenting advice and support as part of what they do. This session will present how schools have successfully integrated the SFSC programme into their core services to parents, and provide learning for implementation elsewhere.

Supporting parents with learning disabilities

This group is one of the most vulnerable and least supported group of parents; whilst regularly being referred to parenting programmes rarely are they accessible or inclusive. This workshop will present the findings of a project that is successfully delivering a group based programme with learning disabled parents and provide good practice examples of how to work better with this group.

SFSC and lone parents in Ireland

The last 18 months has seen a roll out in programmes in Ireland through the One Parent Exchange Network. This session provides an opportunity to learn about how the model has been used in a different country with a specific target group of parents.

Evaluation and evidence

Understanding the evidence on parenting programmes, and ensuring that this informs the options that are made available to parents is a challenge. This workshop will look at how we understand evidence and in particular what the evidence on the SFSC model tells us about when and where it should be used.

Quality Assurance and SFSC

Ensuring that parenting programmes are delivered to the highest possible standard and that those that work with parents meet National Occupational Standards is something that the Race Equality Foundation is keen to address. This workshop will look at the results of a new QA system that is being piloted with some SFSC programmes.

NAPP – Implications for practitioners

What does the launch of the National Academy of Parenting Practitioners mean for those who work with parents? This session will provide an opportunity to find out, provide information about the work of NAPP and practitioners with an understanding of its impact on the sector.

Introduction to SFSC

For those participants who want to find out more about the SFSC model, this session will provide an introduction on the background, content and ethos of the programme.

Advice Sessions

Sexual health

Practical advice on how teenagers can be helped to understand their transition to adulthood and to develop healthy relationships.

Children and Gangs

An opportunity to talk to someone about helping children resist peer pressure and gang culture.

Education

School exclusions, underachievement, and failing schools, whilst not the experience for all, for some young people and their parents, these issues are real and significant. Advice will be available on how to negotiate this complex area.

Dealing with statutory agencies

Coming into contact with Social Services or the Youth Offending Team can be a bewildering time for parents. Practical advice will be offered on how to ensure you are well informed and supported during these difficult times.

Exhibition

Our exhibition space has become a unique opportunity to explore local and national resources for working with parents and their families. This year we will have representatives from Single Parent Action Network, the Social Care Institute for Excellence, CHANGE, Post Adoption Centre and Parentline Plus.



“Uplifts and reinforces the whole process of parenting and working with parents.”

“Encouraging and helpful - Go to this, listen to what parents have achieved and what they believe they need to do for themselves and their children.”

Venue

School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

Accessibility

The venue is fully accessible for wheelchair users. British Sign Language Interpreters will be available when booked in advance. Closing date for booking a BSL interpreter is Friday 20th June.

Crèche

A free crèche is available but places must be pre booked and are limited.

Cost

The cost of attending the conference, which includes conference pack, lunch and other refreshments is as follows:

	<i>Up to 6th June</i>	<i>From 7th June</i>
	2008	2008
Statutory agencies	£125	£150
Voluntary agencies	£90	£120
Unwaged/freelance SFSC Facilitators	£50	£70
SFSC parents	First 50 will receive a bursary allowing free attendance at the conference. Others £25	

Terms and conditions

Cancellations must be made in writing, and will be subject to a charge of 50% of cost until Monday 9th June, after that date no refunds will be given.

Free places for parents are limited to a maximum of five per agency. Individuals and agencies that book free places and then fail to attend will be invoiced at the rate of £25 per place, and pursued for payment.

The Race Equality Foundation will make every effort to deliver the conference as described. However, we reserve the right to make any necessary changes.

How to register

Complete and return the booking form overleaf with a cheque made payable to Race Equality Foundation and post to us. We can invoice you, but need a purchase order. You can also fax or post the form to us or pay by credit card by calling **0207 619 6220**.

Additional copies of the booking form are available from **www.raceequalityfoundation.org.uk**

From 1st June the full programme will be available on **www.raceequalityfoundation.org.uk**

Race Equality Foundation,
35 Kings Exchange, Tileyard Road, London N7 9AH



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Booking Form

Children are for Life

8th July 2008

Name	
Position	
Organisation	
Address	
Postcode	Phone
Fax	Email

Payment

- I am a parent who has completed the SFSC course and am applying for a bursary place.
- I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to *Race Equality Foundation*.
- I have paid by credit card ref.
- Please invoice me for £ at the address above / at the following address
(delete as appropriate). Please note all invoices must be paid before a place will be allocated.

Invoice address

Name	
Address	
Postcode	Phone

Crèche

A crèche is available and must be booked in advanced as places are limited.
To book please contact the Lauren Ashi on **020 7619 6231**

- Please indicate if you require a BSL interpreter

Completed forms should be returned by post to **Lauren Ashi, Race Equality Foundation,
Unit 35 Kings Exchange, Tileyard Road, London, N7 9AH**
or by **FAX** on **020 7619 6230**

The *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities* Programme

The *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities* parent education programme is a community based programme specifically designed to promote some of the protective factors associated with better outcomes for children at the same time as dealing with the factors in parenting that are associated with increased risk and poorer outcomes for children. Importantly, the SFSC approach emphasises that parenting is impacted by the local environment (for example the availability of good schools) and that parents should therefore play an active role in shaping this environment by engaging with community resources.

The SFSC parent programme is based on a strengths based 'facilitative model' which aims to raise the consciousness of parents. In addition, the curriculum aims to help families develop or promote: strong ethnic and cultural roots; positive parent-child relationships; a range of life skills; self esteem, self discipline and social competence; and an ability to access community resources.

"Informative with plenty of opportunity for networking."



The Race Equality Foundation

The Race Equality Foundation promotes race equality in social support (what families and friends do for each other) and social care (what 'workers' do for people who need support). We do this by exploring what we know about discrimination and disadvantage. One example is our unique study of the experience of independence and independent living of young black and minority ethnic disabled people. We also develop interventions that will overcome barriers and promote equality. For example, our award winning guide to better practice in meeting the housing needs of black and minority ethnic disabled and deaf people. Finally, we disseminate good practice through training, conferences and written material.

The Race Equality Foundation was formerly known as the REU and was originally set up as part of the National Institute for Social Work and has operated as independent charity since 1996.

"Best conference I have been to in my years in the caring professions. There was an underlying mood of change and optimism."

"Informative and inspiring."

"Its an opportunity for parents and organisations to come together to celebrate, share the joy and tears of raising a family."

**Race
Equality
Foundation**



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