

Good practice guide on commissioning services for families affected by parental learning disability

The Working Together with Parents Network (www.bris.ac.uk/norahfry/right-support/) is developing a Good Practice Guide for commissioners of parenting support and children's services. This will be a companion to the forthcoming Good Practice Guide for commissioners of adults' health and social care services (both universal and specialist services).

Both Guides take as their starting point, Chapter 3 (on commissioning) of the DH/DCSF Good Practice Guidance on Working with Parents with a Learning Disability http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_075119.

This second Good Practice Guide will include the following:

- What do we know about the needs of families affected by parental learning disability?
- The Legal and Policy Framework
- Starting points: Identifying outcomes, needs and service provision
- What type of service provision is required to meet the needs of families affected by parental learning disability?
- Key features of good practice
- Commissioning processes.

It will also include two checklists – of key stages to good practice in commissioning; and key questions for commissioners. Finally, there will be a list of resources to support good practice.

Please help us to develop this Guide

1. Please tell us of any good practice examples of:

- Parenting support services that include parents with learning disabilities (for example, parenting courses adapted for delivery to parents with learning disabilities; parents' groups; etc)
- Children's social care/family support services working with families affected by parental learning disability

- Universal services made accessible for parents with learning disabilities (for example, health visitors; maternity services; etc).

2. We would also welcome your views on what should go in a Checklist of Key Stages to good practice in commissioning, which will be part of the Guide. The Checklist below has been developed for the companion Good Practice Guide, which is aimed at adults' universal and specialist services: Are these the right prompts for those commissioning parenting and children's services? Are there others?

- ✓ Use existing, or establish new, joint health and social care commissioning structures to carry out commissioning activity focused on parents with learning disabilities and their children.
- ✓ Look at the current pattern of outcomes for parents with learning disabilities and their children in your locality.
- ✓ Gather data (from local and national sources) to assess the numbers and needs of parents with learning disabilities in your area.
- ✓ Map existing services, both universal/generic and specialist.
- ✓ Review the evidence base for what works in delivering good outcomes for parents with learning disabilities and their children.
- ✓ Seek the views of parents and their children about needs, what works and current service responses.
- ✓ Use this information about outcomes, needs and services, and evidence about what works, to agree priorities for action.
- ✓ Decide how best to purchase or provide services to achieve these priorities, including joint commissioning from pooled budgets and pooled resources.
- ✓ Monitor and review to ensure services are delivering the outcomes desired, involving parents and children in these activities.

Please send your response to Jenny Morris – jenny@jennymorris.net by 30th November 2008.

Thank you very much.