

Connecting Parents with Communities

Overview

Strong communities are ones in which parents and families are able to thrive. Yet many parents have difficulty finding the time and energy to get involved in community groups and projects. As a result, some groups overlook the needs of parents, while at the same time blaming them when young people get into trouble.

This course looks at ways that community groups can connect with parents and at the kinds of projects that can support parents and families and so strengthen communities.

Aims

In this course participants learn how to

- make it easier for parents to get involved in the community
- set up a local parenting programme
- use a community facility to run family-friendly projects, and
- draw on resources and agencies to support parents, including those with particularly challenging problems.

Outline programme (for 2-day course)

Day 1

10.00-11.15 Introductions to the course and participants
Connections between parents and the wider community

11.45 Exploring parenting
How do we learn to be parents?

1.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 Parenting programmes
- Overview and case study

4.00-5.30 Parenting programmes: What would be useful and feasible in our community?

Day 2

9.30-11.00 What is a family-friendly neighbourhood? How does ours measure up?

11.30 Community projects by and for parents

1.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 Action planning

4.00 – 4.30 Resources and support
Course review