



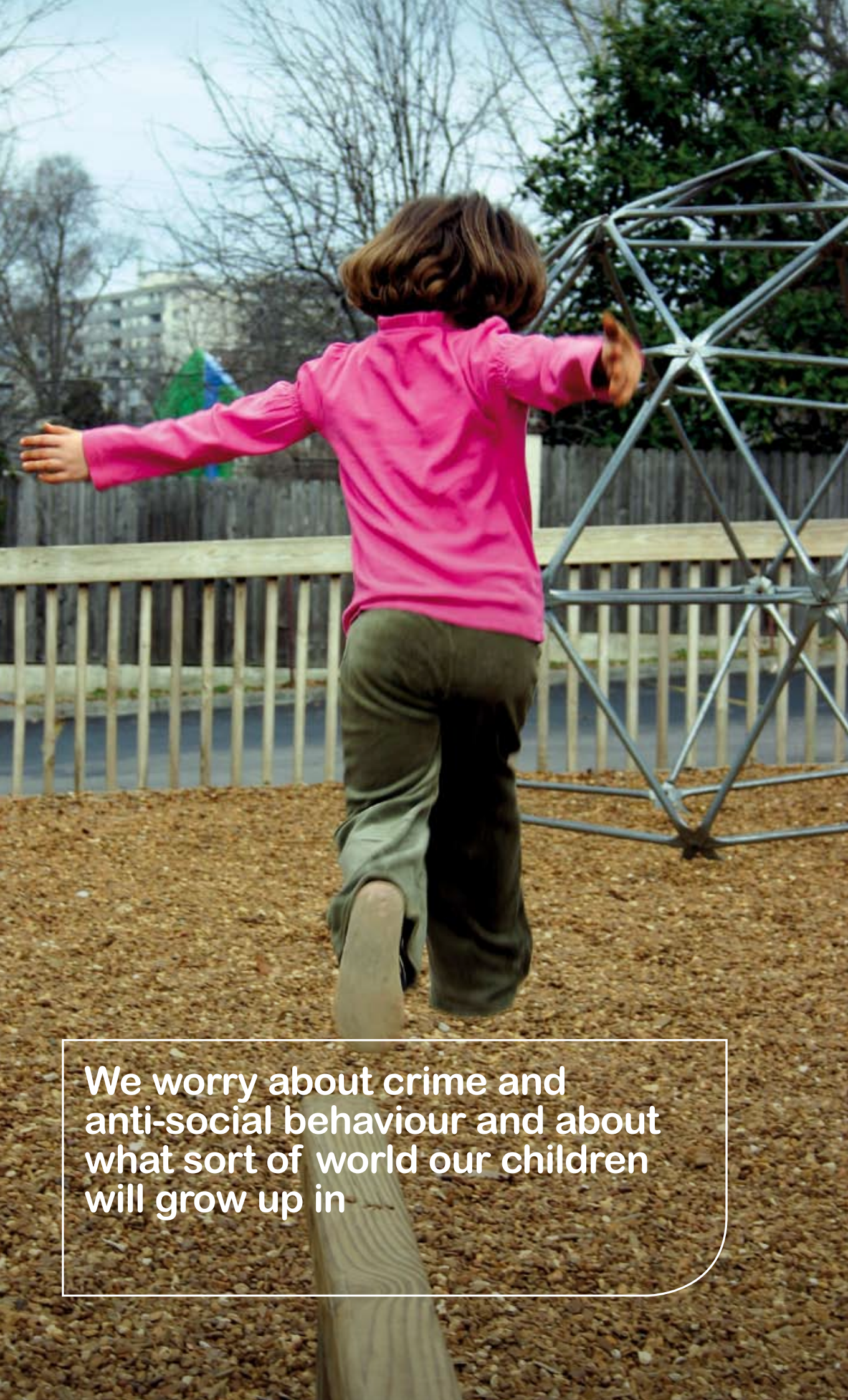
# Giving families a voice

Annual Report 2006-2007



RESEARCH & POLICY FOR THE REAL WORLD





We worry about crime and anti-social behaviour and about what sort of world our children will grow up in



## A message from our Chair and Chief Executive

The Family and Parenting Institute was set up, as we turned the century, in the context of great anxiety about the family. That anxiety continues as we confront the painful facts of our lives together – children killed in unsafe streets and social inequalities still leaving poor children far behind.

We know from history that the family has always been a most resilient institution. But we worry about how much it is under strain and about which policies offer most to families in our changing world.

Public debate is highly contested. Every new initiative in parenting support is argued over; praised for replacing the 'lost' extended family; derided as another example of a 'nanny' state interfering but, nonetheless failing to tackle the 'root' causes of family breakdown.

The high-volume debate means there is a lot of blame and guilt around. We need to get a clearer view of what is going on so we can have effective rather than sound-bite family policy. Most of all, we need to get a picture from families directly.

The Family and Parenting Institute aims to listen to and learn from the experiences and views of families of all kinds across the country, and across the generations.

Each family is unique but many concerns and desires are shared by every family. We want safe communities for our children; we want to be able to spend time with each other; we worry about crime and anti-social behaviour and about what sort of world our children will grow up in.

Families can feel isolated, left to cope alone with problems they can't handle by themselves. This shouldn't be the case. So we work to make their voices heard in Government and locally, for example in schools, health services, and

businesses. Through our forums, surveys, research, focus groups and discussions we listen to families and take those concerns to policy makers and opinion formers.

More than this, we give parents the opportunity to put these concerns directly to politicians themselves. In this report you will read about our Meet the Parents events and the Parental Voice project; both ways of empowering parents and giving them forums to make themselves heard.

But listening is not enough. We work with others to change the environment for families. We have pioneered the importance of family-friendly services and communities. We have argued for more responsible business practice in marketing to children, better employment practice and child care, for time to care. We have argued for more parenting and relationship services and brought voluntary organisations together to run innovative programmes reaching thousands of parents across England.

With debate so heated, calm voices are necessary and so is space for honest debate. We work to promote resilience, the spread of knowledge and expertise. This is the opposite of finger-wagging or moralising; it's the opposite of patronising parents or experts knowing best. It's about acknowledging that being a parent and developing a happy family life is fundamentally important to people, that skills to enrich relationships are people's right to know about and choose, and that government and

the wider community have a role in making the UK a place where families thrive and have a future.

This report will tell you more about the work we have done over the last year. We are proud of the work we do and we are proud of who we do it for.



**Fiona Millar** Chair



**Mary MacLeod** Chief Executive

# Giving a voice to families

Families are raising children in a challenging world. They tell us that they mainly look to friends and family for information and advice on meeting these challenges. But they also value help and advice on parenting from schools and children's centres, GPs and health visitors. They say, though, that services to help them get the best out of relationships with their partners and their children or to assist if things go 'pear-shaped' are hard to find.

Since its inception in 1999, the Family and Parenting Institute has been committed to giving families a voice and throughout last year we worked hard to make sure that these voices were heard at the very highest level.

## Parents' Panel

Our Parents' Panel is made up of just under 250 parents from all across the UK. Recruited through our website and literature, panel members take part in our events and provide vital feedback on our work as well as speaking to decision-makers and the media about their own experiences as parents. Every single member of the Parents' Panel plays an important part in our work and we would like once again to thank them for all that they do for us.



## Meet the Parents

Last summer and autumn, the Family and Parenting Institute hosted three events where members of our Parents' Panel had the chance to put questions about what mattered to them and their families to leading politicians. David Cameron, Alan Johnston and Sir Menzies Campbell all took part in lively discussions and parents were given a unique chance to make their voices heard.

"It was great to get the chance to speak to them. Politicians don't listen enough to ordinary parents"

## Parental Voice

When Government is legislating for families and parents, parents should be recognised as key stakeholders and their views should be sought and listened to. The Family and Parenting Institute, in partnership with the National Consumer Council, has been working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to explore how it can properly engage with parents.

"You need to get parents involved and make them believe they can make a difference"

## Media Presence

The Family and Parenting Institute continues to be the leading voice of authority on families and parenting issues. Notable highlights over the last year include our Parents' Week coverage on TV parenting, Parent Child 2006 Conference coverage exploring Government's role in supporting parents and Meet the Parents. We also continued to provide first class comment and analysis both nationally and internationally.

"We don't cherish our children enough"

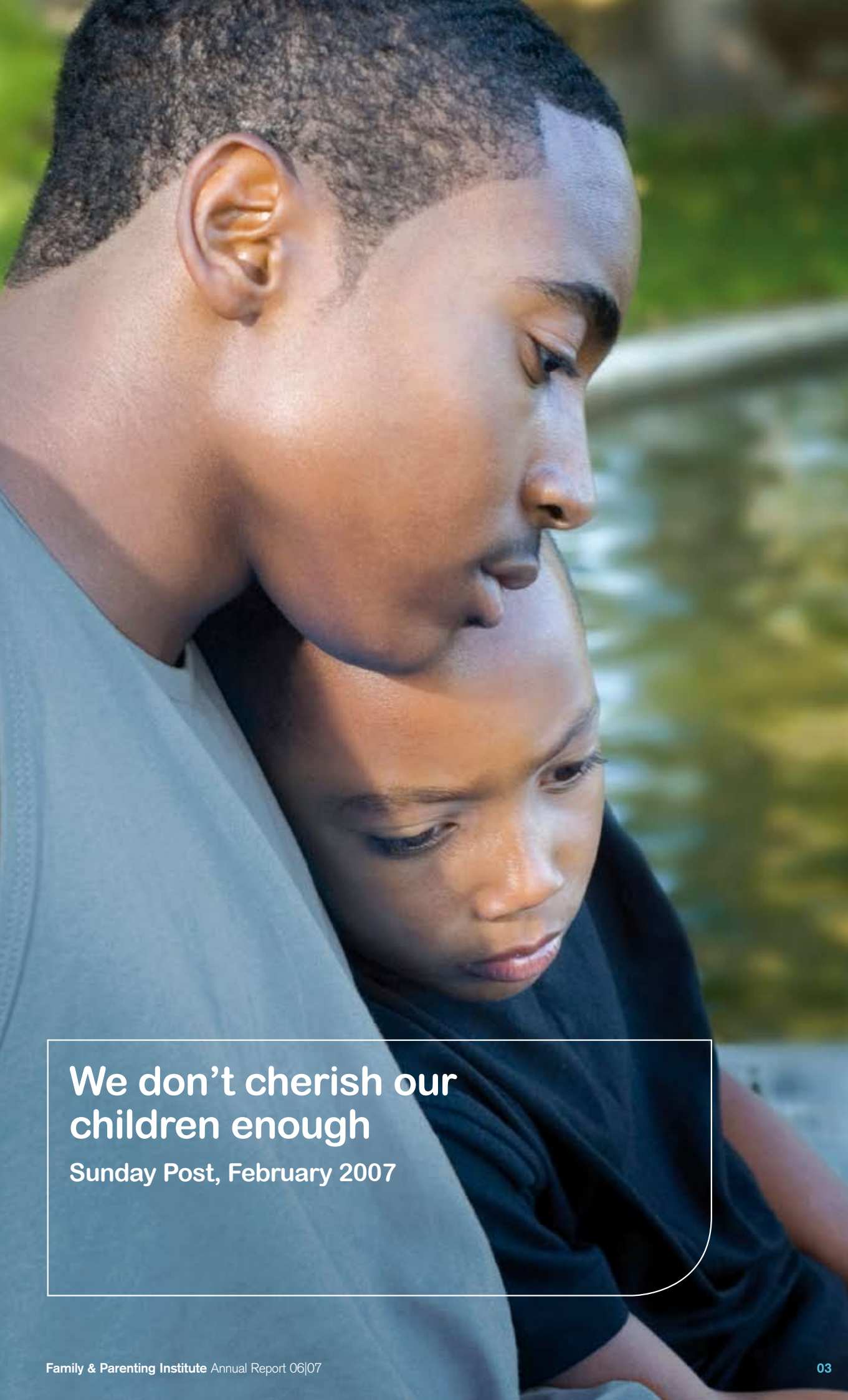
Sunday Post, February 2007

"Parents 'rely on TV for advice'"

BBC Online, October 2006

"Since its inception seven years ago, the Family and Parenting Institute has been working hard to gather together all academics, professionals, and activists concerned with family policy to discuss best practice"

The Times, November 2006



# We don't cherish our children enough

Sunday Post, February 2007



# Research for the real world

The Family and Parenting Institute produces thought provoking research and policy. We host seminars, bringing together some of the leading authorities on family life and parenting issues and giving them platforms to debate and share ideas and our publications move forward debate and provide valuable tools for practitioners.

## **Seminars**

### **Progressive Inequality? Difficult Questions for the Next Decade, February 2007**

This seminar, which we hosted on behalf of the Commission on Families and the Wellbeing of Children explored what can be done to tackle the growing inequalities in Britain. It examined issues such as the role of education, what the Government could do and what needs to be done to properly deliver on child poverty asking "Is a focus on child poverty appropriate, or is it deflecting attention from the

economic trends that are resulting in increased inequality?"

### **The Criminal Responsibility of Children and Their Parents, June 2006**

This was also hosted on behalf of the Commission on Families and the Wellbeing of Children and looked at two issues at which the Commission had raised serious concerns; the age of criminal responsibility (one of the youngest in Europe) and the dual nature of youth offending affecting both parents and children. The seminar examined these difficult issues and

considered ways by which the state can better support children who commit offences and their families while still protecting society from anti-social behaviour.

### **Commission in Haste, Repent at Leisure? April 2006**

Preventative services are difficult to evaluate and there is a sense in some quarters that we may be asking too much of this type of intervention, and consequently setting the bar too high in relation to the impact of preventative services on families. This seminar examined the issues surrounding



this crucial debate and asked if the increasing emphasis on using evaluative research to inform decision making in relation to supporting families and improving outcomes for children was responsible for the disappointing results so far.

### Publications

“Children Talking about Brothers and Sisters is so refreshingly simple and very effective.”

Over the last year, the Family and Parenting Institute has once more published thought-provoking and innovative reports, books and policy discussion papers covering a wide range of topics and ideas.

Attachment and the Perils of Parenting was a major new review of the issues and debates round this theory. Drawing on historic and contemporary debates around John Bowlby’s often controversial theories and their development, the author, Dr Helen Barrett, produced

a well received publication which became an important addition to the libraries of those working in the field of child development.

As part of our on-going work to investigate best practice in service commissioning, planning and delivery, the Institute completed two significant surveys into the provision of family support in Children’s Centres and Extended Schools. Due to be published in April 2007, alongside specially written summaries aimed at practitioners, these reports will provide much needed insight into this fast growing sector.

With funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, we published Evaluating Evaluations; an objective examination of the evaluation methods used to assess the effectiveness of Home Start, Sure Start and the Primary Age Learning Study. These findings were also presented at a seminar which was again funded by the Foundation.

For practitioners, we published Children Talking about Brothers and Sisters, a booklet which presented the views of children aged between seven and 13 about a range of facets of their relationships with their brothers and sisters showing the everyday ups and downs of life with siblings, drawing on children’s own understandings as a source.

Finally, and in continuation of our important strand of cultural diversity, we published a new edition of the highly regarded Cultural Competence Toolkit and in August will publish Religion and Parenting Practice, a major review of contemporary research on this crucial topic.



Bringing together some of the leading authorities on family life and parenting issues and giving them platforms to debate and share ideas

# Putting policy into practice

The Family and Parenting Institute works to produce innovative policy which addresses the needs of the sector. We aim to give practitioners the tools they need to support Britain's families.

## Parents' Week 2006

Parents' Week, our annual awareness week, is the highlight of our calendar. It has the dual aim of promoting informed debate about families and family support and helping local family services reach out to parents and build local alliances for success.

This year's theme was 'Happy Families' and it examined the various paths families take towards happiness. This well received theme saw 8000 resource packs, twice as many as for Parents' Week 2005, being distributed to Sure Start projects, Children's Centres, libraries, local groups and more.

Along with Ipsos MORI, we carried out a survey of parents examining where they turned to for advice, focusing specifically on the rise of popular television parenting programmes. Our subsequent report 'The Power of TV Parenting Programmes – Help or Hazard for Today's Families?' was launched at the beginning of the week and sparked a lively debate with press coverage stretching as far afield as the USA.

The Week was rounded off with our traditional House of Commons reception with guest speakers Beverly Hughes MP and Dr Tanya Byron. The reception is much appreciated amongst colleagues as a chance to meet and renew old contacts, meet new colleagues and celebrate achievements in family policy.

## Parent-Child 2006

"I do prefer to come to FPI conferences as a priority as I have always found them highly professional and extremely useful in terms of practice."

Children's Centre Manager

The Parent-Child Conference is our biennial flagship international conference which gives researchers, policy makers, practitioners and service providers the chance to debate the cutting edge issues and share knowledge and best practice through debates and workshops.

This year's conference, which took place in November 2006, saw 450 delegates packing out the Connaught Rooms in London. We were delighted to welcome Minister for Children and Families, Beverley Hughes MP and Leader of the Opposition, David Cameron MP to give the keynote addresses and delegates enjoyed debating a wealth of topics from world renowned speakers and experts. The Conference programme and papers are available on our website [www.familyandparenting.org/PC2006Papers](http://www.familyandparenting.org/PC2006Papers)

## Informing and influencing policy makers and the sector

When Government is legislating for parents and families The Family and Parenting Institute plays a pivotal role in policy advice and analysis and in bringing together stakeholders from Government and sector to move key debates forward. We hosted a round table discussion with Harriet Harman, Minister for Justice, on the controversial topic of transparency in family courts and the Families Interagency Group

(formerly the Family Policy Forum), which is convened by the FPI, meets regularly to discuss policy issues. We are also represented on over 70 government and other advisory/steering groups. We produced briefings, consultation responses and discussion papers covering a wide variety of policy and practice areas including the scope, role and implementation of family services, the Social Exclusion Task Force Families at Risk Review, The Runnymede Trust Faith Schools Consultation, Care Matters, and the HM Treasury/DfES Children and Young People policy review. Our online policy digest [www.familyandparenting.org/familyPolicyDigest](http://www.familyandparenting.org/familyPolicyDigest) provides a monthly update on policy news and updates.



# The power of TV parenting programmes



## Working with practitioners

Last year the Family and Parenting Institute launched our new Business Development Unit, combining the possibilities for securing new and additional funding for our work and offering practitioners and policy makers the opportunity of adding research answers to their practice and policy needs. We have offered expert support to a wide range of organisations and across a large number of policy or practice areas, for example,

- Supporting the Government's RESPECT areas in developing new evidence based parenting services and support, reaching the 'hardest to help'
- Developing the design and delivery of useful and research based parenting/family support strategies for children's services departments
- Assessing the evidence base for parenting interventions
- Supporting Youth Offending Teams to embrace parenting issues fully
- Researching what parents want, from whom, when and how
- Enabling large organisations to 'hear' children's and parents' voices
- Assessing the efficacy of family support services in children's centres and extended schools
- Informing agencies about the best ways of assisting parents in supporting their children's learning and their children's health
- Researching how well commissioning services for families works in rural areas
- Developing national standards for supervised contact services



**Identifying and engaging with  
parents of children aged 1-3 who  
are at risk of learning delay**



# Social innovation

One of the Family and Parenting Institute's most important functions is to think about innovative ways of providing services to parents and to replicate and spread the learning from successful projects. We know that parenting support can turn lives around and so we facilitate knowledge sharing and promote new and exciting practices.

## Transition Information Sessions in Schools – Starting School Project

Many families go through a rapid adjustment phase as each child starts school age five, then later moves to secondary school age eleven. There are few opportunities to exchange information and share experiences between parents and schools, especially for families with older children and adolescents. Yet this kind of contact between parents and schools can often be the most reassuring at a time when families may be uncertain about what to expect.

The Starting School Project is part of the wider Department for Children, Schools and Families Extended Schools Project. The Family And Parenting Institute was awarded a contract by DCSF to plan and design pilot sessions for this project. In pilot schools, parents would come along for hour long sessions to give them information about the school and other local services and lay the foundations of a successful home/school partnership.

As part of the Transition Information Sessions project, we organised a "Lessons Learned" event in January 2007 in Birmingham (at the Botanical Gardens) attended by 80 delegates from the nine local authorities who had taken part in the Year one demonstration project. The intention of this event was to draw together key partners involved in the first phase of the TIS demonstration project, to share and learn from experiences, hear about the preliminary findings from the

independent evaluation, draw from good practice and identify practical and strategic issues that need to be considered to ensure an effective national roll-out to all schools.

## Early Learning Partnership Programme

"For me, this has been a lifeline. It gets me out of the house and has helped me to understand lots more about my son as well as being a chance to meet people"

Parents are children's first and most effective educators and when parents have aspirations for their children and engage actively with them through conversation, reading and play then their children are more likely to have positive outcomes.

Sometimes, for whatever reasons, parents may feel unable to do this which can lead to children becoming educationally disadvantaged. Chronic poverty, mental health problems, relationship problems, conflict and harsh and inconsistent discipline are among the factors that can work against a positive home learning environment.

In October 2006, the DfES awarded the Family and Parenting Institute a contract to lead a consortium of seven voluntary agencies to deliver the Early Learning Partnership Project to deliver 12 complementary tried and tested approaches in 20 localities in England. It will demonstrate different approaches of identifying and engaging with parents of children aged 1-3 who are at risk of learning delay and will support them to get involved in their child's early learning.

The lead partners are: Barnardos, ContinYou, Coram Family, FWA, Home-Start, NCH and the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

## Parenting Fund

The Parenting Fund is run by the Family and Parenting Institute on behalf of the DCSF and exists to

- Do more for parents who have been less well served in the past. For example: black and minority ethnic parents, parents with mental health problems, families living with conflict, parents with disabilities or who have children with a disability
- Strengthen the network of services in the voluntary sector that support parents in bringing up their children
- Highlight and promote good practices so that they can be used by all family and parent support services.

# Social innovation

## Round One

October 2006 saw the successful completion of Round One of the Parenting Fund with 134 projects supported.

Round One of the Parenting Fund reached thousands of parents across England who are facing tough times - some because of the death of a parent or child, some because of disability, mental or physical ill health, others because of serious parenting difficulties. We reached:

- 32,400 via direct work with parents
- 9,200 via support to children
- 38,000 via support and advice to practitioners
- 888,000 via information for parents.

The final report on the Parenting Fund's first round is due for publication in autumn 2007, but there are already clear messages for practitioners from our initial studies:

- What is necessary is a flexible approach to parenting support which supports early interventions but allows for longer term support for families with complex and entrenched difficulties

- Many parents helped by the Parenting Fund projects had had difficulty in accessing services in the past, and reported real change in their lives as a result of the support they received. Voluntary sector provision is a crucial constituent of family support and as such requires investment
- The Parenting Fund model demonstrates that a well-managed programme of funding for the voluntary sector with clearly defined objectives, providing flexible support to grant holders can achieve a significant amount in a fairly limited time period. A longer period of funding would ensure services could be more effectively embedded into strategic developments.

## Round Two

Round Two of the Parenting Fund launched in July 2006 and will run until June 2008. There are two major differences from Round One. Firstly, the criteria have widened and a whole family approach has been adopted with an emphasis on teenagers, the Respect Agenda and relationship support. Of course, promoting social inclusion and improving access to services

and support for less well-served communities remains a cornerstone of the fund.

The second key difference is that the Fund focuses on 23 different localities working with local organisations and no longer covers regional and national projects. Funded projects are still expected to deliver learning and outcomes that can be picked up nationally.

Initial reports and feedback suggest that Round Two is running smoothly and successfully with 50,000 parents expected to benefit. Family and Parenting Institute staff have been visiting projects across England and continue to closely monitor projects while still allowing the autonomy necessary to make these projects successful.

The Family and Parenting Institute is grateful for the role of our partners, PriceWaterhouseCooper for their role in assessing initial applications and for the hard work of the Grants Panel and our Trustees in selecting the successful applicants.

## Case studies

### Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities: North West

Run by the Racial Equality Unit and funded by the Parenting Fund, this project trained 86 people from 43 organisations in the North West and delivered 17 programmes reaching more than 150 parents.

"I was having discipline issues with by two twin boys, both aged six. So I went to the programme and at the beginning I didn't think it would be useful. I thought 'Surely they'll just tell me about stuff I was already doing. But by the end of the 12 weeks it had changed my life"

Lone Parent, Manchester.

### Winston's Wish: Help for bereaved children and their families

"How do you explain that Mum's dead when she doesn't understand what death is?"

A child under 18 is bereaved of their parents every 30 minutes and between 4 per cent and 7 per cent of all young people will experience the death of a parent before they reach 18.

The Parenting Fund gave support to Winston's Wish to run a pilot project for bereaved pre-school children and their parents which helped them come to terms with and understand their loss.



“How do you explain that Mum’s dead when she doesn’t understand what death is?”



# Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 March 2007 (Incorporating and income and expenditure account)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2007 £	Total Funds 2006 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income:				
Donations	1,000	-	<b>1,000</b>	2,500
Activities for generating funds:				
Interest receivable	123,760	-	<b>123,760</b>	114,374
Rent	7,134	-	<b>7,134</b>	3,607
Incoming resources from charitable activities:				
Contracts	3,589,840	-	<b>3,589,840</b>	628,017
Parenting Fund Grants	-	6,197,230	<b>6,197,230</b>	9,806,916
Other Grants - received	850,000	198,783	<b>1,048,783</b>	891,918
Grants - movement in deferred income	-	-	-	-
Publications, Subscriptions and Conference	75,281	-	<b>75,281</b>	58,351
Consultancy	21,978	-	<b>21,978</b>	108,308
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>4,668,993</b>	<b>6,396,013</b>	<b>11,065,006</b>	<b>11,613,991</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Costs of generating funds:				
Fundraising	81,635	-	<b>81,635</b>	87,417
Charitable expenditure:				
Parenting Fund	374,063	5,562,419	<b>5,936,482</b>	10,674,982
Communications and Public Education	480,706	24,426	<b>505,132</b>	264,692
Development and Innovation	1,853,140	132,930	<b>1,986,070</b>	-
Information to Parents	198,371	10,534	<b>208,905</b>	270,552
Policy and Research	498,861	70,824	<b>569,685</b>	457,766
Governance Costs	35,782	-	<b>35,782</b>	36,123
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>3,522,558</b>	<b>5,801,133</b>	<b>9,323,691</b>	<b>11,791,532</b>
Net Incoming Resources before Transfers				
Net Income for the Year	1,146,435	594,880	<b>1,741,315</b>	(177,541)
Transfers between funds	(8,273)	8,273	-	-
Net Movement in funds				
Net Movement in funds	1,138,162	603,153	<b>1,741,315</b>	(177,541)
Total Funds at 1 April 2006	715,010	97,517	<b>812,527</b>	990,068
<b>Total Funds at 31 March 2007</b>	<b>1,853,172</b>	<b>700,670</b>	<b>2,553,842</b>	<b>812,527</b>



# Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2007

	£	2007 £	2006 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets		<b>16,767</b>	5,350
Current Assets			
Debtors	<b>484,081</b>		91,237
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>4,308,935</b>		2,317,347
		<b>4,793,016</b>	2,408,584
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<b>2,255,941</b>	1,542,407
Net Current Assets		<b>2,537,075</b>	866,177
		<b>2,553,842</b>	871,527
Creditors amounts falling due after more than one year		-	(59,000)
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,553,842</b>	812,527
Funds			
Unrestricted:			
Designated	<b>301,767</b>		205,350
General	<b>1,551,405</b>		509,660
		<b>1,853,172</b>	715,010
Restricted		<b>700,670</b>	97,517
		<b>2,553,842</b>	812,527

## Trustees' statement for summarised accounts

The attached summarised financial statements are not the statutory accounts but have been derived from the audited financial statements, which were approved by the Trustees on 11 October 2007. The full statements have been audited and given an unqualified report. Copies of the full statements have been submitted to the Charity Commission and to the Registrar of Companies.

The summary accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information, the full accounts including the audit report may be obtained from the NFPI.

Approved by the Trustees on 11 October 2007 and signed on their behalf by:



Fiona Millar **Chair**



Laurie Edmans **Treasurer**

## Independent Auditor's statement to the Trustees of the National Family and Parenting Institute

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the National Family and Parenting Institute.

## Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial information in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP 2005.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' report. We also read other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

## Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1996/6 "The auditors statement" issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

## Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and Trustees' report of the NFPI for the year ended 31 March 2007.

## Kingston Smith LLP

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors  
Devonshire House  
60 Goswell Road  
London  
EC1M 7AD

11 October 2007



## Family and Parenting Institute

### Funders:

Lloyds TSB Foundation  
 Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
 Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
 Vodafone UK  
 The Children's Mutual  
 DCSF

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Family and Parenting Institute is the operating name of the National Family and Parenting Institute (NFPI).

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## Senior Management

### March 2006 – April 2007

**Mary MacLeod**  
 Chief Executive

**Richard Allen**  
 Director of Parenting Fund

**Shaun Glanville**  
 Head of Fundraising

**Clem Henricson**  
 Director of Research and Policy

**Mary King**  
 Director of Finance and Operations

**Lucy Lloyd**  
 Director of Communications

**Honor Rhodes**  
 Director of Business Development  
 (from October 2006)

## President

**Dame Margaret Booth, DBE**

## Patrons

**Jane Ashley**

**Sir Peter Barclay, CBE**  
 (from September 2005)

**Lord Richard Best, OBE**

**Julia Cleverdon, CBE**

**Shirley Conran, OBE**

**Richard Downs**

**Margaret Harrison, CBE**  
 (from September 2005)

**Baroness Linklater of Butterstone**

**Dr Mark Porter**

**James Sainsbury**

## Trustees

**Fiona Millar**  
 Chair

**Professor Janet Walker**  
 Vice Chair

**Laurie Edmans CBE**  
 Treasurer (appointed on 26/10/2006)

**Kate Green OBE**  
 Treasurer  
 (to 26 Oct 2006)

**David Altschuler**

**Dr John Coleman OBE**  
 (appointed on 26/10/2006)

**Dr Joanne Drean**  
 (appointed on 26/10/2006)

**Kathleen Duncan, OBE**  
 (retired on 26/10/2006)

**Dr Leon Feinstein**  
 (Co-opted 22/3/07)

**Penelope Gibbs**  
 (appointed on 26/10/2006)

**Jackie Kelly**  
 (appointed on 26/10/2006)

**Professor Ann Phoenix**  
 (re-appointed on 26/10/2006)

**Dame Dr Gillian Pugh DBE**  
 (retired on 26/10/2006)

**Deidre Sanders**

**Edward Straw**

**Anne Weyman, OBE**  
 (appointed on 26/10/2006)

**Catriona Williams**