

EMALE MATTERS

MAY 2008

produced by



News

Special One-Off Newsletter Dedicated to Dads

Gemma Connor, of the Parenting Forum NI, will be dedicating the June Edition of the Parenting Forum Newsletter to celebrating the work that is being done with fathers. In this edition they hope to include some interesting facts about the positive influence that men can have on children, several true stories, and information on what services are already available for fathers. If you or your organisation work with a group of fathers and would like to be included - even it is only a few lines or a photograph of an event you have held - please email Gemma at gemma@pachelp.org or phone her at 02890 310891. This newsletter is currently an insert in the ni4kids newspaper and has a distribution of approximately 40,000. The deadline for articles is Wednesday 14th May 2008.

Men's Advisory Project Research Officer Vacancy

This post seeks to examine the nature and prevalence of domestic violence against men in Northern Ireland, and to identify gaps in service provision. The essential criteria for the post includes an appropriate understanding of men's health issues, a relevant third level qualification, and experience in undertaking both qualitative and quantitative research. Applicants should have proven communication skills and be independent self-starters. They should be able to work with a wide range of people and should respect confidentiality and diversity. Salary = £22000 per annum. Terms = 2 years fixed term contract, full time, 37.5 hours per week. Download an application pack from www.mapni.co.uk or telephone 02890 241929 or email info@mapni.co.uk Closing date = 5pm on Friday 9th May 2008.

Toddler Manual for Men

By popular demand from the ever-growing number of readers of the "Baby Manual", Dr Ian Banks now turns his attention to the "terrible twos" (and threes, and fours). His new "Toddler Manual" is now available in hardback. For more details visit:

http://www.haynes.co.uk/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10001&storeId=10001&productId=44865&langId=-1&parent_category_rn=10152

The Life of Women and Men in Europe - A Statistical Portrait

Eurostat has just produced a publication on gender statistics in Europe. This describes the situations of men and women at different stages of their lives (from childhood to older age), and looks at issues such as education, health, lifestyles, careers, family life, retirement ... It can be downloaded in Portable Document Format (PDF) from their website at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-80-07-135

Parents' Support Group

A new and innovative Parents' Support Group is being established to support and inform parents of children and adolescents who are either engaging in, or at risk of engaging in, substance misuse. The group is being established by an inter-agency partnership, including the local CAMHS team, Newry and Mourne Drug and Alcohol Partnership, and The DAWN Project. It is open to parents across The Southern Board Area, and will have its initial meeting at Bocombra Lodge, Portadown, on Monday 12th May 2008 at 7.15pm. To request further information or to register to attend, please contact Brendan McCann on Tel: 02838 398112.

Events

Men's Policy Forum Meeting

The next meeting of the Men's Policy Forum will take place on Wednesday 7th May 2008, starting at 2.30pm in NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB. Barbary Cook, from the Community Development and Health Network, will brief the Forum on the Minister's recent draft proposals for health reform. There will also be an opportunity to hear about and discuss recent policy developments relevant to work with men. For more information and/or to confirm your attendance, please contact Jonny Currie from NICVA at Tel: 02890 877777 or Email: jonny.currie@nicva.org

Family Ties Project

This is a peer support group for parents of young lesbian, gay or bisexual people. The first meeting is Tuesday 13th May in Cara-Friend, 64 Donegall Street, Belfast at 6.30pm. If you are a parent and are interested in coming along or, if you are a young person and you think your parents may want to come ... please contact Steve at Cara-Friend on Tel: 02890 890202 / Email: steve@cara-friend.org.uk or Liam at The Rainbow Project on Tel: 02890 319030 / Email liam@rainbowproject.org This project is part of a parents' support strategy between The Rainbow Project and Cara-Friend, an LGBT Helplines organisation.

Men's Learning: Findings from Australian Adult Education Research Seminar

There is a trend in many countries for men not to be enrolled in formal adult education programmes. Research from Australia has confirmed the importance of men's community-based activity at local neighbourhood level. This often involves a range of grassroots, hands-on organisations, including voluntary fire services and sporting clubs. Professor

Barry Golding and Dr Mike Brown, University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia will lead a seminar on their ongoing research into men's learning and education. This will focus on the effectiveness of informal learning for men through community-based organisations - often using men's sheds to promote learning for men who have negative or limited experiences of formal learning. This seminar will take place on Wednesday 25th June 2008 from 1.00pm - 2.00pm (sandwiches and refreshments available from 12.30pm) in Queen's University Belfast's School of Education (Lifelong Learning), Room 005 (Ground Floor), 20 College Green, Belfast. Everyone is welcome, and no registration is required.

Courses

The Fatherhood Programme

The Young Fathers' Project is running a Fatherhood Programme from May to September 2008 for young fathers or fathers-to-be aged 14-25 years living in the Londonderry, Strabane and Limavady areas. The workshops during May include: Men's Roles and Father's Roles (Wednesday 7th May), Preparing for Labour and Birth (Wednesday 14th May), Babies Bathing Changing (Wednesday 21st May), Skills Toolbox (Wednesday 28th May). All sessions run from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. For more details or to book a place, please call Sharon or Fiona on Tel: 02871 348728 or text 'YOUNG FATHERS' to 07725688200.

Ideas for Dads and Kids

Teacher Appreciation Week in America is 4th - 10th May 2008, but that doesn't mean we can't celebrate it here. It is a scientific fact that teachers love to read (!) so making a thank you bookmark is a perfect way to show your appreciation.

How to make a book mark ...

Things you need:

- ❖ Thick white card
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ A bookmark
- ❖ A pencil
- ❖ Some wool
- ❖ Felt tips / crayons / colouring pencils

1. Take an old bookmark and draw around it with a pencil - this saves time rather getting out a ruler to measure it and ending-up with a wonky book mark!
2. Dad: Cut along the pencil marks with the scissors.
3. Make a hole at the bottom of the book mark. This is where you tie the wool.
4. The next stage is the creative part of colouring it in and writing a message on it. Remember you can draw on both sides of the bookmark and don't forget to sign it.

On the Web

[Dads 'don't read bedtime stories'](#)

[Man hypnotises himself before op](#)

[Fathers are 'shut out of birth'](#)

['Jury out' on prostate screening](#)

[Older Chileans given free Viagra](#)

Things men need to know about pregnancy ...

[Short breastfeeds 'best for baby'](#)

[Pregnancy cravings 'on the rise'](#)

[High-calorie diet linked to boys](#)

Website of the Month

<http://www.glyni.org.uk/>

HEY! What are you up to in June or for Father's Day?

Let me know about it for in the next edition!

Email: trisha@mensproject.org

The Men's Project: We are always updating our online directory of organisations which offer support or services to men. If you would like to update your existing entry, or would like to be registered on it, please visit: <http://www.mensproject.org/mendir/index.html>

Note to readers: If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our mailing list, or you wish to be removed, or you have any news you want included, please email me at: trisha@mensproject.org

(The views expressed in Emale Matters are not necessarily those of The Men's Project)