



# Circle

## Tackling Health Inequalities & Working in Partnership

**Early Years Conference**  
**21<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

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[www.circle.scot](http://www.circle.scot)



**Circle works at the heart of deprived communities to support the most marginalised children and their families. Family support workers provide support to families in their community and in the families' homes.**

## **AIMS**

“To improve the lives of the most disadvantaged children” &

“To promote children’s healthy potential and development”



## Our History

- As part of the Family Service Unit (FSU) we have been supporting children & their families in Scotland since 1974. The FSU foundations were built on the support provided to bombed out families during World War II.
- We became an independent Scottish charity in June 2006 and relaunched as Circle in March 2007.
- Circle maintains the ethos of FSU providing community based support to vulnerable children and their families.



# circle

Supporting families in Scotland

**OUR  
WORK**

Supporting families affected by parental imprisonment

Supporting men in their role as parent or carer

Preventative work with families with pre-school children.

**SERVICES**

Workforce development through student learning placements & training/A:LP

Work with lone parent's re-employability

Supporting families with children affected by parental alcohol use & other substances

## Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Increased equality of  
opportunity for families

Children live in safer,  
more secure and  
stimulating home  
environments

Improved health and  
wellbeing of families.



What we  
Achieve  
Together

Our outcomes are in line with the  
GIRFEC wellbeing indicators  
(Children are Safe, Healthy, Active,  
Nurtured, Achieving, Respected,  
Responsible & Included)

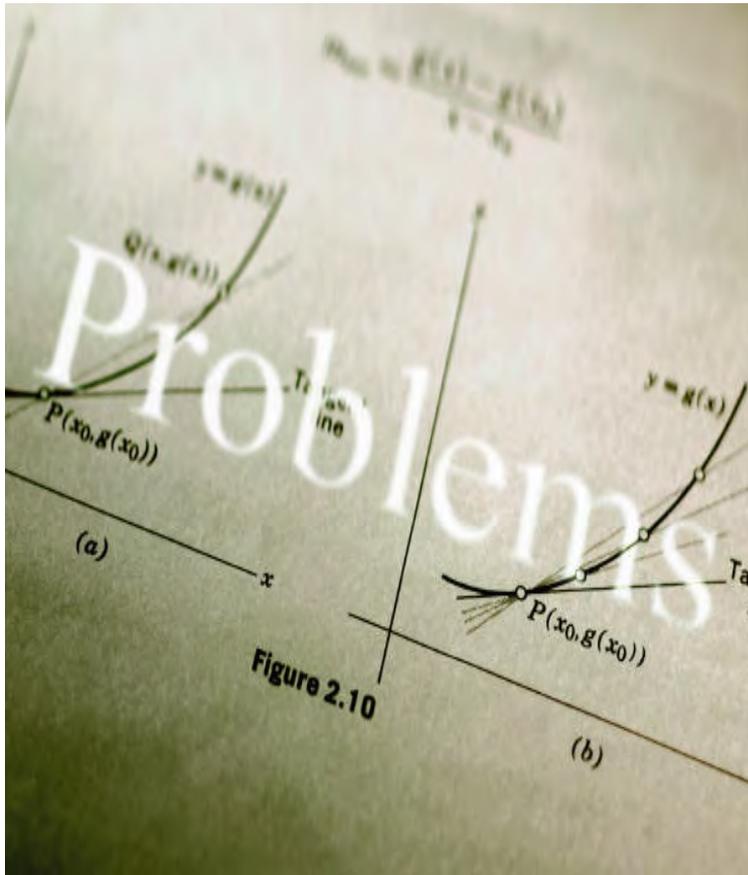
Children make a  
positive contribution in  
school and in the  
community.

Promoting safer  
environments through  
reducing the impact of  
crime on families and  
communities.

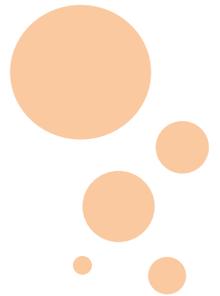


“Hard to Reach”

# Approach



- Strengths based
- Non-judgemental
- Solution-focussed
- Connection
- Flexible



- Home Visits
- Family Outings
- Art/Play/Cook sessions in the home
- Bookbug in the home
- Taking parent out for coffee

### **APPOINTMENTS**

- GP
- Money Advice
- Addictions
- Mental Health
- Counselling
- Paediatric
- Citizen's Advice
- Housing
- School/Nursery

- Dental
- Welfare Rights
- Social Work

### **APPLICATIONS**

- Disability Living Allowance
- Employment Support Allowance
- Personal Independent Payment
- Community Care Grants
- Housing Applications
- Frank Buttle Trust
- British Gas Trust

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- Forest School
- Frank Buttle Trust
- Caravan Holiday/SU camps



# Tackling Health Inequalities



**CASE STUDY**



# Action: Lone Parents

## Partnership Working



Danielle Jarvie  
21st May 2015

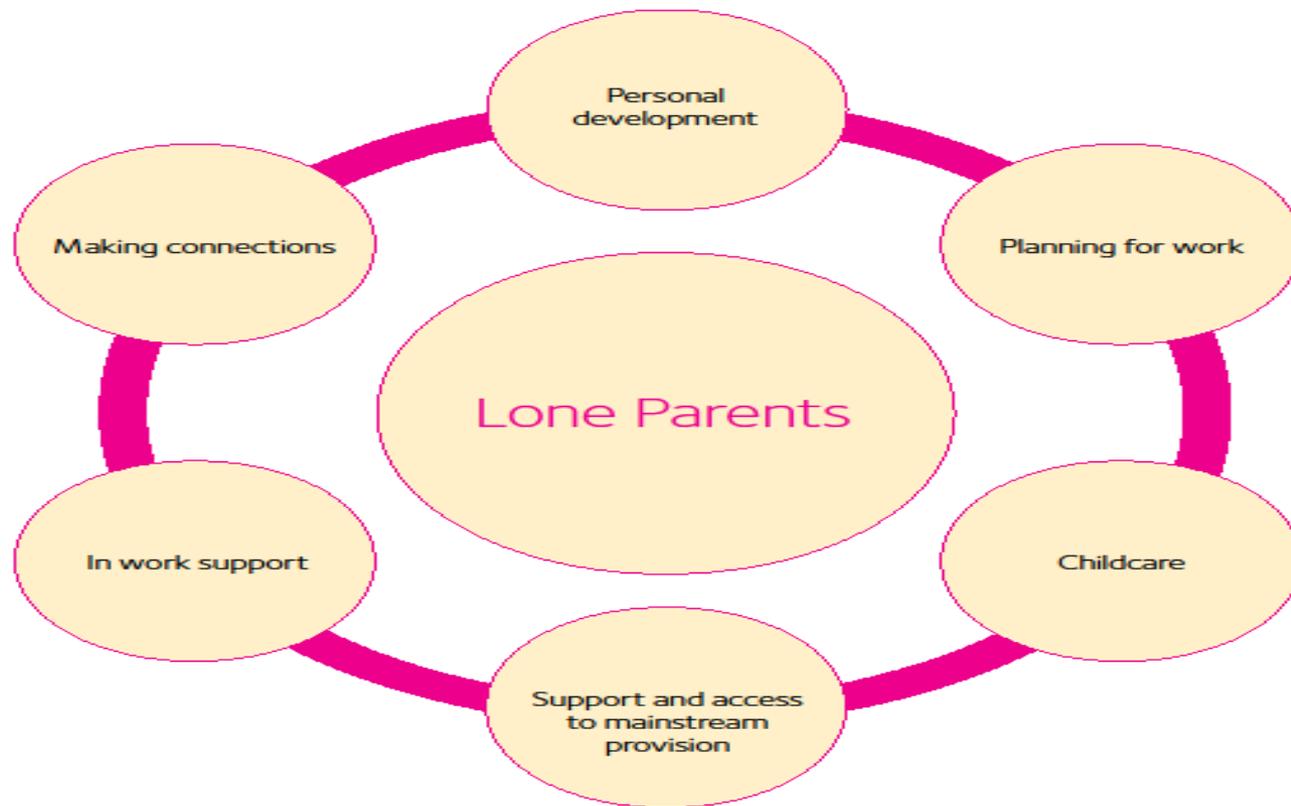
## Making It Work

- Support lone parents to realise potential & move towards/into the labour market whilst choices were still available to them
- Improve access to services for lone parents furthest from the labour market and with complex circumstances & needs
- Partnership bid led by Routes to Work, North Lanarkshire Council & Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
- Delivery Partners:
  - One Parent Families Scotland
  - GEMAP
  - Circle Scotland
  - JobCentre Plus
- Localised “task-force” approach targeting 300 lone parents

## Delivery Partners

- ***Routes to Work Ltd*** - Lead partner, provide employability related services and in work support
- ***Greater Easterhouse Money Advice Project*** – Financial Inclusion Officer who will deliver 121 & group sessions on debt & money advice
- ***Circle*** – Family Support Worker who will deliver specialist support around substance misuse and/or offending backgrounds
- ***One Parent Families Scotland*** – Lone Parent support worker who will deliver 121 & group session on personal development

## Making it Work – model of support



## What have we learned?

- Package of support is far greater than traditional employability services – 2 weeks ALP support is equivalent in hours to 2 months mainstream support
- Lone Parents face childcare barriers when accessing support, counselling, addiction meetings and hospital appointments
- Restrictions placed upon mainstreams services can hinder Lone Parent journey
- ALP has been a constant for client through changes being made
- Assisted in reducing the stigma attached to statutory services
- Coordinated approach amongst statutory services reduces stress for Lone Parents
- ‘Fear’ is most definitely the biggest barrier facing all Lone Parents
- Only 20% of the programme delivery is around employability

## Lone Parent Quote's

- I was isolated and didn't really go out much but when I reached out - someone took my hand and walked beside me
- This organisation is a life-line, I would be lost without them. I never thought I could work because of my background but ALP support me to do this
- I worried about how I would feel but I felt very safe and relax when meeting my worker
- Not only did I get help to build my confidence but my family home is now a happier environment
- I have found myself again, and got to meet new people which I was always afraid of

# Case Studies



Can not imagine live without Alison, she has helped me so much over the last few weeks. I felt that I was getting nowhere fast and was becoming more depressed. Alison came to meetings with me and spoke on behalf, now me and my wee boy are settled in our house and I can start looking at ways to help me.

Hazel has been able to help me think about how I react to situations, I would normally fly off the handle when I didn't like what I was being told but with the advice Hazel gave me I now take time and have a great deal more patience. Now people actual listen to me!!

I didn't know there was such a service existed and cant believe how much support I am getting to help me. Gerry also explained stuff about my money and I can go to work and get more money when I though it would be worse off.

My jobcentre advisor sent me along to see Susan, I thought it was going to be like the other appointments but was really happy to find Susan so helpful and caring. Being a lone parent dad I feel quite isolated but Susan was able to give me information about another service for other dads just like me

# DISCUSSION

*The challenges for parents returning to work:  
economic, well-being, child care*

- What are the benefits/challenges?
- What support is currently in place to help workless parents get back into volunteering/training/employment?