

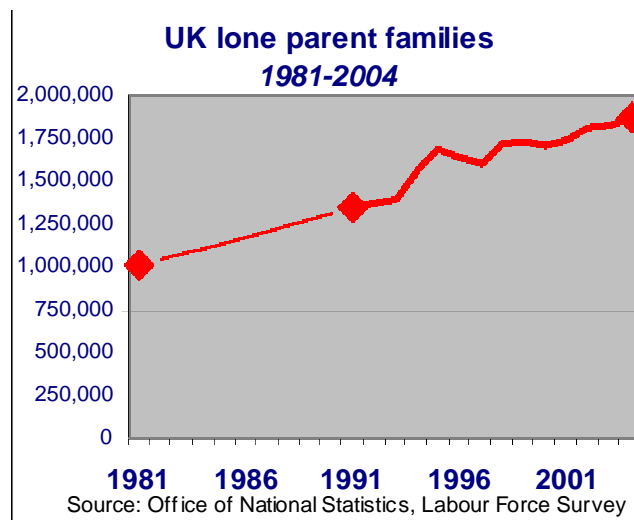
Introduction

The aim of this paper is to expand upon proposals for a national relationship and parenting education *invitation scheme* as described in the July 2007 paper *Breakthrough Britain* by the Social Justice Policy Group. Group deputy chairman Harry Benson is director of relationship education charity Bristol Community Family Trust.

Prevention and Relationship education

Focus on prevention

Family breakdown is an expensive and painful business. Any attempt to reverse the long-term trend of increasing family breakdown needs to be backed by serious long-term strategies. We propose a radical step change in our national approach towards improving relational competence and reducing family breakdown. Through a series of government-backed schemes, administered through '*invitations*', we aim to facilitate the expansion and provision of preventive relationship and parenting education by the voluntary sector to around 800,000 families per year, across the socio-economic spectrum.



In our report *Fractured Families*, we established that the main drivers of family breakdown have been divorce in the 1960s/70s and cohabitation in the 1980s/90s. The breakdown of the nuclear family has also been accompanied by even more pronounced breakdown of extended family links.

In the absence of traditional sources of immediate wisdom and experience previously found amongst grandparents, uncles and aunts, all sorts of advisory services have emerged and become normalised. Families and individuals

typically seek education and support from friends, peri-natal services, and an array of self-help books and magazines.

The striking exception to these resources involves relationships. To many people, the concept of seeking preventive advice on how to manage relationships at home is either alien or only for those with problems. We estimate that fewer than one in 100 couples per year seek any kind of relationship support – 75% of which involves the *treatment* of problems, for example via Relate, rather than their *prevention*.¹ Yet in recent years, a

¹ Estimating how much relationship support takes place is largely educated guesswork because so much is done under the radar by individuals and small providers. We have drawn from a variety of sources including Relate, The Marriage Course, Marriage Care, a University of Sussex survey of marriage preparation, Community Family Trusts and others. Unofficially, we estimate that around 20,000 couples attend *preventive* marriage preparation courses or sessions, a further 10,000 attend *preventive* marriage or relationship courses, and 100,000 couples seek *remedial* relationship help each year.

great deal of research has led to the development and evaluation of effective relationship and parenting skills programmes that can improve relationship adjustment and parenting behaviour as well as reduce family conflict and divorce².

What is currently available

Government has recently begun to treat *parenting education* as a serious aspect of its Respect Agenda, launching a National Academy for Parenting Practitioners and encouraging local authorities to develop local parenting strategies³. In contrast, the potential for *relationship education* remains almost completely overlooked. For example, the 1998 Green Paper, Supporting Families, recommended that registrars signpost engaged couples towards marriage preparation, but this did not become government policy. The voluntary sector, most notably the National Couple Support Network has stepped in and is aiming to provide 'coordinators' in every registration district through whom engaged couples can access marriage preparation services. A lack of government validation for marriage preparation and recognition of research that indicates its likely effectiveness⁴ is discouraging many registrars from engaging with these coordinators.



Since relationship programmes have been shown to reduce family breakdown and improve family outcomes⁵, there is a strong case for improving access and provision as well as normalising such programmes from their current position at the margins. Likewise, there is good evidence that parenting programmes can lead to improved parent-child relationships and child outcomes⁶.

Learning from abroad

The USA leads the field in this area. A recent study found that

44% of US couples who married in the 1990s attended some form of marriage preparation programme⁷ with positive effects (lower conflict, higher satisfaction, lower divorce risk) amongst couples from diverse racial and economic backgrounds. The best research on the best programmes shows that couples can learn effective

² Benson, H. (2005) *What interventions strengthen family relationships: A review of the evidence*. Paper presented at 2nd National conference on relationship education. London. www.bcft.co.uk

³ DfES (2006) *Parenting support: Guidance for local authorities in England*. London: Department of Education and Skills.

⁴ Carroll, J. & Doherty, W. (2003). Evaluating the effectiveness of pre-marital prevention programs: A meta-analytic review of research. *Family Relations*, 52, 105-118

⁵ Carroll & Doherty 2003

⁶ Moran, P., Ghate, D., & van der Merwe, A. (2004). *What works in parenting support: A review of the international evidence*. DfES: Policy Research Bureau.

⁷ Stanley, S., Amato, P., Johnson, C. & Markman, H. (2006). Premarital education, marital quality, and marital stability: Findings from a large, random, household survey. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 20, 117-126.

communication, conflict management, and other relational skills, and are highly satisfied with what they learn^{8 9 10}.

Government-backed Healthy Marriage Initiatives (HMI) are now emerging in various US states that extend relationship programmes across other key life stages for married and unmarried couples and lone parents. The most advanced of these projects in Oklahoma has run relationship education programmes for over 100,000 adults in the last few years, impressively reaching around 1 in 20 young adults within this time. It was recently evaluated by the US Department of Health and Human Services¹¹. Despite the significant challenges of these large scale 'demonstration projects', it is especially striking that the most economically disadvantaged report the greatest interest and openness to such efforts¹².

The nearest equivalents in the UK are the much smaller Community Family Trusts (CFT). As an example of active projects formed in recent years, Bristol CFT currently puts around 700 adults per year through relationship programmes on minimal funding, reaching around 1 in 80 young adults locally¹³. Married and unmarried couples are accessed through civil registrars, churches, ante-natal and post-natal clinics, schools and prison. Similar projects run in York, Somerset, Poole, Bedford and Southampton.



Cost of family breakdown

Despite spending £20-24 billion each year¹⁴ on the consequences of family breakdown, government spends just £4m on preventive and remedial relationship support. In focusing all its efforts on treatment, government is sending the message that mainstream family breakdown is largely inevitable.

Yet family breakdown is often avoidable. Our proposals below, for a national 'invitation' scheme for relationship and parenting education programmes – and an accompanying media campaign – represent a serious attempt to strengthen family relationships and prevent unnecessary family breakdown across the socio-economic spectrum.

⁸ Stanley, S. (2001). Making a Case for Pre-marital Education. *Family Relations*, 50, 272 -280.

⁹ Carroll, J. & Doherty, W. (2003). Evaluating the effectiveness of pre-marital prevention programs: A meta-analytic review of research. *Family Relations*, 52, 105 -118

¹⁰ Halford, K., Markman, H., Kline, G. & Stanley, S. (2003). Best practice in couple relationship education. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 29, 385 - 406.

¹¹ Dion, M. R. (2006). *The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative: An overview of the longest-running statewide marriage initiative in the U. S.* U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Washington D. C. www.acf.hhs.gov

¹² Johnson, C., Stanley, S., Glenn, N., Amato, P., Nock, S., Markman, H., & Dion, M. (2002). *Marriage in Oklahoma: 2001 baseline statewide survey on marriage and divorce (S02096 OKDHS)*. Oklahoma City, OK: Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

¹³ Bristol Community Family Trust (2007) *Annual report 2006-7*. www.bcft.co.uk

¹⁴ *Fractured Families* pp 67-68

Proposed national relationship and parenting education 'invitation' scheme for couples and parents at key life stages

We propose the development and national roll-out of nine streams of relationship and parenting education programmes, administered nationally by the new Healthy Marriage and Relationship Institute (HMRI) – as detailed in “Building Stronger Families” – with desirable outcomes specified by them, and operated locally by the voluntary sector through appropriate access points (including Family Services Hubs). The first five general streams – pre-marriage, ante-natal, and parenting 0-5s, 5-11s & teens – access all families. The last four specific streams – lone parents, prison, military and care/disabled parents – access vulnerable families.

Just as marriage *per se* does not guarantee good outcome, neither does relationship education. However enough is known to be confident that widespread provision of relationship education will make a significant and positive difference to the stability of Britain's families.



The nine streams are as follows:

- **Pre-marriage.** One day relationship programme, or three sessions with facilitator and couple inventory, for couples entering marriage or civil partnership who are accessed through registrars and churches.
- **Ante-natal.** One taster session of relationship education for couples having a baby, married or not, accessed through health visitors and clinics, and signposting further opportunities.
- **Parenting of 0-5s, 5-11s and teens, and lone parenting (4 streams).** Six session parenting and relationship programme, age-appropriate for married, cohabiting or lone parents. Main access is through registrars, primary and secondary schools or through the benefits agency.
- **Prison couples.** Six session relationship and parenting programme for prisoners, married or not, and their spouses/partners (accessed through prisons).
- **Military couples.** Weekend or six session relationship and parenting programme for members of the armed forces, married or not, and their spouses/partner (accessed through the military.)
- **Care and disabled families.** Residential weekend away including relationship and parenting programme for parents with adopted, foster or disabled children. Access to these families at higher risk through social services.

Why this will make a difference

Preventive relationship and parenting education programmes can be extremely effective. Reviews show that programmes lasting just a few hours can strengthen family relationships over a period of one to five years¹⁵. For example, a major study of 3,000 families in the US found that divorce rates were 30% lower over the first five years of marriage amongst those who had completed a well-organised marriage preparation programme¹⁶. With UK family breakdown so heavily concentrated in the early years of marriage and parenthood, even modest improvements in family stability at these key stages will still prove highly cost effective.

Since outcome studies show that lay educators with a minimum level of training can produce the same or better results as professional educators, preventive relationship education is ideally suited to local volunteers¹⁷. The vast majority of existing providers or facilitators of preventive relationship and parenting educational programmes are volunteer individuals, parents or couples, attracted to the notion of supporting other families.

Why offer 'invitations'?

Personalised 'invitation' schemes have several advantages over block grants. Most importantly, invitations attach directly to course attendance thus ensuring a clear link between funding and delivery. Funding comprises two parts:

- (1) Service delivery funding will support existing providers – mostly voluntary sector charities, churches or individuals – and will also encourage new entrants, regardless of size
- (2) Attendance of the programme is supported by a childcare allowance and rewarded with supermarket vouchers. This provides a fixed incentive scheme that will prove relatively more attractive to lower income groups who are also proportionately more at risk.

Experience in both the US and UK suggest that incentives are an important way to encourage demand for unfamiliar programmes. Our proposed funding comprises 16% incentives, 44% childcare allowance contribution, and 40% service delivery. Incentives differ according to length of course and general appropriateness. For example, the pre-marriage incentive is a £60 wedding fee discount, paid for by increasing wedding fees by £20, making this stream largely self-funding.

Professionals and lay educators – the importance of proven skills

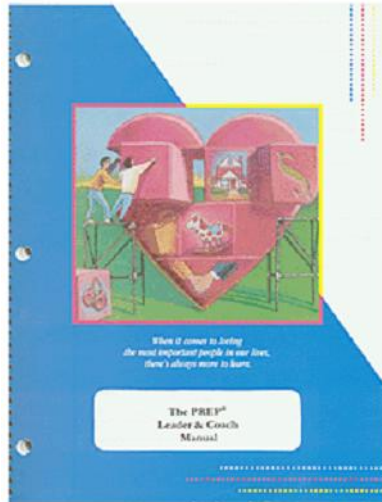
It is essential that HMRI, as national administrator and regulator, strike a careful balance between encouraging the voluntary sector to flourish (through avoidance of over-regulation and, where it is unnecessary, an undue emphasis on highly qualified practitioners), whilst at the same time protecting participants from poor programmes or poor facilitators. A quick and easy approval and training process must be backed up by a

¹⁵ Carroll & Doherty, 2003

¹⁶ Stanley et al., 2006

¹⁷ Laurenceau, J-P., Stanley, S., Olmos-Gallo, A., Baucom, B., & Markman, H. (2004) Community-Based Prevention of Marital Dysfunction: Multilevel Modeling of a Randomized Effectiveness Study. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 72, 933-943.

robust complaints procedure. HMRI must also provide proper auditing procedures to protect against the potential for 'invitation' scheme fraud.



Current training for facilitators of *preventive* programmes typically involves observing a course at first hand and then applying their own experience using a manualised leaders guide. Worldwide, almost all relationship education programmes apply this observational learning method, including the empirically-informed and tested course PREP. The largest provider of relationship education in the UK is The Marriage Course,¹⁸ running up to 1,000 courses for 6,000 couples yearly. Training for volunteers is through a one day training programme that includes observation of a single session. Increasingly, home-use DVDs provide the training programme. Supervision for facilitators is usually limited to informal support from a parent organisation or training resource provider.

Professionals more used to *treatment* programmes with clinical populations, such as Parenting UK, have expressed concerns to us about the risks posed by lay educators equipped with minimal training and supervision. The skill level of the facilitator, for example, is directly related to the effectiveness of parenting programmes amongst these more demanding groups¹⁹. We acknowledge that a large scale intake of new facilitators will require support to build sufficient small group management and people skills. We therefore propose that HMRI require facilitators to participate in a mentored training scheme where any skills deficits can be identified and addressed. Minimum requirements will also be set for ongoing evaluation, support and some level of supervision from a mentor. Similarly, HMRI will establish protocols for evaluation of programmes and processes, to facilitate continuous learning and improvement.

Acknowledging the hurdles

We are well aware that a huge expansion programme brings new and formidable challenges, many of which have not been fully addressed here. Yet current provision of relationship and parenting education likely represents less than 5% of what is needed. From various sources, we believe there are at least 2,000 facilitators currently delivering marriage or relationship courses, 3,500 health visitors trained by One plus One in relationship support, and 2,500 relationship counsellors. We expect the 20-40,000 facilitators that our schemes ultimately require will mostly comprise parents looking for a rewarding part-time challenge.



THE MARRIAGE COURSE

It is to be hoped that these services, on the scale we suggest, will not be necessary in perpetuity. By offering them so extensively, and giving them the imprimatur of government funding, the aim is to incrementally build the relational competence of the

¹⁸ www.themarriagecourse.org

¹⁹ Scott, S., Carby, A., & Rendu, A. (2006) *Impact of therapist skill on effectiveness of parenting groups for child antisocial behavior*. Unpublished manuscript: Kin gs College London.

nation. As this generation of parents passes on these skills and attitudes to their children, the need for these interventions will gradually diminish, but it could take twenty years or more to transform the relational landscape.

Cost implications

The table at the end of this paper details the range of schemes costing £182m once fully operative after a few years. Although the savings generated by the parenting, prison and care schemes are hard to quantify, the pre-marriage, ante-natal and military schemes all pay for themselves several times over through reduced family breakdown. Once up and running – likely to take place incrementally over several years due to the need to build capacity within the voluntary sector – we estimate the proposed ‘invitation’ schemes detailed above could impact the relationships of around 800,000 families annually, at an average cost of £224 per family. The expected reduction in family breakdown from each year group will produce sufficient savings to cover scheme costs within two years. We project cumulative annual savings to exceed £500 million per year.

Further detail on the nine relationship and parenting education streams

General streams (1) and (2) – Pre-marriage and Ante-natal

Family breakdown is most heavily concentrated in the early years of marriage and parenthood. One third of divorces take place in the first five years of marriage. Nearly one in two unmarried parents will separate during the first five years of parenthood (in contrast to married parents whose stability actually improves during these years). Relationship education interventions are thus ideally suited to reducing family breakdown and dysfunction during these high risk periods precisely because they are effective for a span of a few years²⁰.



Accessing couples at these key life stages – marriage and childbirth – is feasible through existing gateways. Two thirds of weddings take place via civil registrars and one third via churches. All parents-to-be and new parents are seen by health visitors at least once.

Relationship education programmes can therefore be offered through these central access points. Such programmes are already being offered to both married and unmarried couples on a limited basis by

voluntary sector organisations, many of them faith-based. Those currently offering programmes include both local and national providers such as churches, Community Family Trusts, the Marriage Course, the National Couple Support Network, One Plus One, Care for the Family and Relate.

We propose that all couples getting married or having a baby are given relationship education “invitations” to attend a relationship education course. Attendance triggers

²⁰ Benson, 2005.

funding in the form of a childcare allowance and supermarket incentive voucher for participants and a programme voucher for the service providers. Details of the most efficient and cost effective methods of course registration and payment will need to be worked out by HMRI to minimise overheads and prevent fraud.

We have costed these two streams below. We assume that the taxpayer is currently paying around £11,500 for every family that splits up, based on a total annual bill of £20-24 billion spread evenly amongst the nation's 1.9 million lone parents. We also assume reasonable but modest take-up rates and programme costs based on existing Community Family trust experience – including programme vouchers worth £100 for a one day marriage preparation course or equivalent, £50 for a two hour peri-natal session, a £60 wedding fee discount for couples getting married, a £20 childcare allowance and £30 supermarket voucher for those having a baby. Finally we assume a conservative 30% reduction in family breakdown risk over five years for a pre-marriage programme²¹ and 20% for the shorter ante-natal programme.

Relationship education at pre-marriage and peri-natal									
Per year	Population (families p.a.)	Take-up rate (% of all)	Access (no. families)	Family breakdown			Costs (£m)		
				Expected	Reduced	as %	Breakdown	Programme	Savings
Marriages	280,000	14%	37,800	39,200	-1,588	-4%	£454	£1	-£18
<i>registrar</i>	182,000	10%	18,200						
<i>church</i>	98,000	20%	19,600						
Births	593,590	35%	209,726	125,968	-7,694	-6%	£1,459	£16	-£89
<i>married</i>	369,360	40%	147,744	29,549	-2,364				
<i>cohabiting</i>	224,230	28%	61,982	96,419	-5,330				
Total	873,590	28%	247,526	165,168	-9,282	-6%	£1,912	£18	-£107

A combined pre-marriage and peri-natal relationship education programme using interventions of 2-6 hours would cost a net £18 million per year, not including central administration fees. Part of the invitation scheme cost can be offset by a £20 increase in wedding fees, with a discount offered as an incentive to those who participate in an approved marriage preparation course.

We estimate that this scheme would impact the relationships of around 250,000 young married and unmarried couples every year, prevent at least 9,000 unnecessary divorces or separations every year, and save the taxpayer £107 million for every subsequent year that these families avoid family breakdown. Within five years, the cumulative annual net gain to the taxpayer could amount to £500 million or more.



The scheme would be supervised and administered nationally by HMRI whilst programmes and access are run locally via local voluntary sector service providers, civil

²¹ Stanley et al., 2006 survey of 3,000 married people, the largest and most recent available, reported that divorce rates were 31% lower overall amongst those who had completed marriage preparation. Divorce rates were similarly lower for couples during their first 5 years of marriage, where the probability of divorce was .10 for those who had completed a course compared to .14 for those who had not.

registrars, churches and health visitors. HMRI is responsible for approval of evidence-based programmes, registration and monitoring of service providers, establishment of an access point website, and administration of invitations and funding. The aim is to encourage big and small service providers alike to offer good quality programmes with minimal administrative burden, whilst protecting couples from poor programmes or providers and also minimising the risk of voucher fraud.

General streams (4) (5) and (6) – Parenting

In much the same way as for relationship education, we propose the introduction of a national invitation scheme for parenting education, to include programme vouchers for service providers and supermarket incentive vouchers for parents. Existing six session programmes – e.g. Family Caring Trust, Positive Parenting – are readily available off the shelf in three age groups for parents of 0-5s, 6-11s, and teens. Most parenting programmes can be taught easily by competent small group leaders and require no additional professional training. Programme approval, facilitator training and registration, and voucher administration would be conducted by HMRI.

We propose that programme vouchers be issued through civil registrars when registering for a birth certificate for 0-5s, through primary schools for 5-11s, and through secondary schools for teens. Children's centres, community centres and school halls are all suitable venues for weekday evening and Saturday courses, each paid for by the service provider.

If each of the three schemes were to achieve a take-up rate of 25% of eligible parents, this programme would impact the parenting skills of 480,000 families every year. Incentives would be payable based on minimum attendance of, say, 4 out of 6 sessions. Based on £80 programme vouchers and £50 supermarket vouchers, the scheme for each age group would cost £21 million annually.

These three "invitation" streams, not including central administration and training, would therefore cost £62 million per year. Should the streams prove popular and take-up rise to 50%, costs would double to £125 million.

Specific streams for more vulnerable groups

Innovative attempts have been made to introduce relationship education programmes into several areas of the public sector areas within the last five years. We propose the introduction of a combined relationship and parenting education programme for lone parents, military, prisons, and parents with adopted, foster or disabled children. Families in these areas share two relevant attributes – all face special pressures and demands on family life and all are particularly accessible. Other areas of public sector can be accessed in the future.

Lone parents. Although most parents will have access to parenting education through the general streams, we propose an additional stream offering lone parents further access to programmes through the benefits agency. Lone parents undoubtedly face the special pressure of parenting alone. Their children are at risk of a range of poorer outcomes. Improved parenting and relationship skills will help mediate some of these risks.

Military. Although the periods of separation typically experienced by military families may strengthen some families and weaken others, it is clear that the experience of combat in particular raises the risk of divorce by two thirds²². Weekend or multiple session programmes can either be delivered on or off base funded through invitation schemes that link cost with service delivery. These programmes are already in use in the USA. A weekend programme accessing 20% of the armed forces would cost £9 million each year.

Care system and disabled parents. Parents of adopted, foster and disabled children face unique difficulties. Following the success of weekend programmes for 300 families in Oklahoma, USA, a similar pilot programme is under discussion in Bristol. Because of the need for separate hotel accommodation for the parents and specialised childcare for the children, these programmes will be considerably more expensive to run. Amongst families with adopted or foster children, the scheme would cost £11 million per year – based on a cost of £550 per family attending one programme every three years.

Only 8% of 770,000 families with disabled children are registered with social services, according to Every Disabled Child Matters, which means 60,000 families would be eligible. If half of these take up the invitation of a 48 hour weekend away once a year, at an average cost of £550 per family, the scheme will cost £16m annually. If the scheme leads to a tripling of those registering with social services, the cost will rise to £53m annually. As with the other invitation schemes, even minor reductions in family breakdown will lead to sufficient savings to make this scheme cost effective and potentially self-funding. We have assumed the lower cost in our overall calculations.



Prisons. Re-offending rates are lower amongst those with more stable families²³ or receiving family visits²⁴. The SEU reports that re-offending ex-prisoners cost the criminal justice system an average of £65,000, plus the consequent £37,500 annual bill for keeping an offender in prison²⁵. There is therefore a *prima facie* case for strengthening prison families through relationship and parenting education conducted before release, even if only a small minority of families benefit. Voluntary sector organisations Time for Families, Community Family Trusts and Relate are already running relationship programmes in some UK prisons. A new evaluation of the PREP relationship

education programmes in US prisons has showed improvement on a range of relationship variables, regardless of gender or ethnic background²⁶. At £500 per day, a six day relationship, parenting and finance course for six prisoners and their spouse/partner would cost around £5 million per year and reach 10,000 prison families.

²² Ruger, W., Wilson, S. E., & Waddoups, S. L. (2002). Warfare and welfare: Military service, combat, and marital dissolution. *Armed Forces and Society*, 29, 85-107.

²³ Social Exclusion Unit (2002) *Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners*. London: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

²⁴ Niven, S. & Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison in 2003. *Home Office Findings number 248*.

²⁵ Social Exclusion Unit 2002

²⁶ Einhorn, L., Williams, T., Stanley, S., Wunderline, N., & Markman, H. (in press). PREP inside and out: Marriage education as an intervention for prisoner reintegration. University of Denver.

Relationship education proposals

Harry Benson, BCFT, July 2007

Relationship & Parenting Education: Estimated take-up rates, course type, scheme costs, reduction in family breakdown												
Per year	Population (families p.a.)	Take-up rate (% of all)	Access (no. families)	Course type	Course length	Provider cost	Incentive cost	Childcare allowance*	Costs (£/family)	Costs (£m p.a.)	Reduced breakdown %	Savings (£ m p.a.)
Pre-marriage**	280,000	14%	37,800	Relationship	1 day or 3 sessions	£100	£60	-	£32	£1.2	-30%	-£18.4
Ante/postnatal	720,000	30%	218,800	Relationship	1 session	£30	£25	£20	£75	£16.4	-20%	-£39.1
Parenting 0-5****	720,000	20%	144,000	Parenting	6 sessions	£80	£50	£120	£250	£36.0	-	-
Parenting 5-11	720,000	20%	144,000	Parenting	6 sessions	£80	£50	£120	£250	£36.0	-	-
Parenting teens	720,000	20%	144,000	Parenting	6 sessions	£80	£50	£120	£250	£36.0	-	-
Lone parents****	185,000	20%	37,000	Both	6 sessions	£80	£50	£120	£250	£9.3	-	-
Prison	80,000	10%	8,000	Both	6 days	£500	-	£300	£800	£6.4	-	-
Military*****	190,000	20%	38,000	Both	Weekend	£250	-	£100	£350	£13.3	-30%	-£9.2
Care parents	60,000	33%	20,000	Both	Weekend	£250	-	£300	£550	£11.0	-	-
Disabled families	59,769	50%	29,885	Both	Weekend	£250	-	£300	£550	£16.4	-	-
Total*****	3,734,769	22%	821,484	-	(Annual cost) (as % of total cost)	(£66.4m) 36%	(£31.8m) 14%	(£78.9m) 40%	£222	£182.0	-	-£116.7

* Childcare allowance is £20 per session, £50 per day course, or £600 per weekend for adoptive/foster parents of care children
 ** Pre-marriage costs are offset by £20 increase in wedding fees, discounted by £60 for course participants
 *** All parenting courses include one session of parent-parent relationship education
 **** We estimate annual lone parent family formation arises from 75,000 married and 110,000 unmarried families. Costs include childcare allowance of £20 per session.
 ***** Military family breakdown rate is conservative/estimated using national divorce rate of 1.4%
 ***** Totals may include some overlap between schemes