



ACTION FOR CHILDREN PAN DORSET PARENTING SERVICE

Evidence-based Parenting Programmes in Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Dorset

Referral criteria for evidence-based parenting programmes or 1-2-1 intervention

- **All referrals should use an Action for Children referral form.**
- **The term “parent” is also used for extended family members who have residence of a child, foster carers and adoptive parents.**

The family/child

- The child is registered with a Dorset GP.
- The child is aged between 2 and 12 years (or has a developmental age in this range)
- The parent/s have direct contact with their child for more than 7 hours a week
- The child is at risk of developing oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) or conduct disorder; or has a diagnosis of ODD, conduct disorder, (see note below ¹)
- The parent/s is seeking information about how to manage their child’s behavior
- An initial assessment has been made and the problem behavior and family context is such that the provision of advice and some minimal skills training is likely to be inadequate

For referral to group programme the following should be considered

- The referral has already been discussed with the parent/s and they have committed to attend and complete the whole programme (between 12 and 18 weeks depending on programme)
- The parent/s are not suffering from mental illness to the extent that they would be unable to complete the programme
- The parent/s are not abusing substances/alcohol to the extent that they would be unable to complete the programme
- The family situation is reasonably stable e.g. the parent/s are not in the process of separating or divorcing, the child is not about to be removed from home, ongoing court proceedings
- Priority will be given to parents who have not previously attended a parenting programme

For referral to 1-2-1 support

- Parent/s may be considered for 1-2-1 intensive parenting support, please phone our office telephone number (01202 525643) and ask to speak with Maddy or Rose to discuss further.

¹The aim of this intervention is to reach children at an early stage. Referrers should be aware that the risk factors for developing conduct disorder are a complex range of social, familial and environmental factors. We will consider referrals where the child presents with challenging behaviour and one or more of the risk factors are evident (see NICE Clinical Guidelines 158: Anti-social behaviour and conduct disorders in children and young people – recognition and management). For more information see Guidelines for Referrers.