

Salisbury Area Board – 12 May 2011

Feedback from roundtable discussion on Families (agenda item 8)

Question 1 – What are the main challenges for families?

- Balancing the books – financial constraints
- Making relationships work
- Insufficient time given to children within the family unit
- Impact of benefit cuts
- Maintenance of employment – impact on families of redundancy

- Cycle of deprivation
- Broken relationships leading to child poverty
- Where are the opportunities to learn about maintaining a relationship? Perhaps explore.

- Financial pressures

- Financial stability / lack of debt
- Housing improvements / live in area to be proud of and want to live in
- Community support
- Stable relationships
- Parenting skills / education
- Take responsibility

- Transport to/from school and activities
- Entertainment / activities for young people
- Family-friendly working hours
- Avoiding poverty – employment / training for young people

- Lack of transport
- Lack of appropriate activities
- External influences on children and youth (i.e. television soap operas)
- Growing housing estates that lack youth parks and facilities, community centres

- Lack of work
- Lack on income
- Pressure to conform – e.g. having latest gadgets etc
- Encouraging aspirations which are achievable.

Question 2 – How can I, or my organisation, work with the Children’s Centres and/or Explore to help families overcome these challenges?

- Health – every first time mother should have ante-natal contact to help prepare for parenting
- Explore – access to all secondary schools to develop relationship education for teenagers, as the anticipate their own future relationships
- Mothers’ Union can offer facilitators (fully trained and accredited) for parenting groups and next year we hope to introduce “virtual” babies into local secondary schools. We already run toddler groups (4) locally

- School governors to support organisations like explore.

- Looking to link projects and initiatives to outcomes for children

- Tenants identifying own problems
- Community plans lead to funding
- Teach respect between parties
- Couples visiting families

- Mentoring / workshops (interactive) utilising older people as tutors / mentors.
- Discussions to include mixed generation groups – could be educational and could be entertaining.

- Provide creative arts workshops to include family members of all ages at the same session. Intergenerational mixing – free workshops to be as inclusive as possible.

- Projects for young people
- Volunteering for young people – suitable opportunities
