

## Reports from the Field

The following two reports came from practitioners in South Tyneside who wanted to share their experiences working with parents.

*Please let us know if you have any stories to tell.*

### Story One

A mother involved with the Family Intervention Project (FIP) attended an 8 week Group Teen Triple P program and received ongoing support from the Anti-Social Behaviour Parent Worker and FIP Keyworker, pre intervention and during the intervention, and a FIP Keyworker, post intervention.

Prior to the referral into FIP and to the Parenting Service, the Police were being called out 2 - 3 times a day to deal with the level of violence that the teen was showing towards his mother. The mother had taken to drinking alcohol to excess, as a result of the behaviour that her son was displaying, to the extent that she was being arrested for being drunk and disorderly. She also wanted her son taken into care. This was imminent, and was in the process of going to Child Protection Conference. The mother had a Suspended Sentence, due to the level of anti-social behaviour within the community, both from outsiders visiting the home, family members, the son and visitors to the son. This had been breached and was just about to be returned to Court, which is likely to have resulted in a custodial sentence for the mother. The mother had not worked for 18 years.

It was reported that very soon after beginning Triple P, significant, positive changes were visible. The Triple P programme finished in March 2008 and the mother is now completing a course that will enable her to return to work. There are physical differences in both mother and son (they both look happier and less 'drawn') and positive signs of relationship improvement, such as the son cooking meals for his mother upon her return from college. The mother's alcohol consumption has also reduced dramatically. The Teenager has been moved from Level 4 down to a Level 2 (of the Child Welfare Model). There is no anti-social behaviour. The Police are no longer being called out.

### Story Two

A mother attended a Group Triple P course after being referred from Garrick Street Early Years Service. Garrick Street Service had worked with this mother on numerous occasions in the past and she had attended several parenting courses previously. The child was on the Child Protection Register for neglect and emotional abuse.

The mother reported attachment difficulties and had previously suffered from post-natal depression. The mother found it difficult to impose appropriate and consistent boundaries around her child's behaviour and struggled to communicate effectively. There were also concerns around both parents working together.

Following her participation and completion of Group Triple P sessions, the mother was more receptive to the strategies shared, carried out homework tasks and appeared to have a sense of achievement when reporting back about these.

This parent volunteered to speak at a Triple P event in the Borough and stated that she felt the programme was 'the best programme I have been on.' She is making good progress with her child and previous concerns seem to have stabilised.