

Parent Network Scotland



Jackie Tolland – Director
Parent Network Scotland



Who we are

- **Parent-led project**
- **Voluntary sector organisation**
- **Parent Network was part of Parentline Plus in London which was founded 1986**
- **Parent Network Scotland came to being in 1999**
- **Funded by the Scottish Government, Robertson Trust, Volant Trust and range of contracts for Voluntary Sector.**



What we do

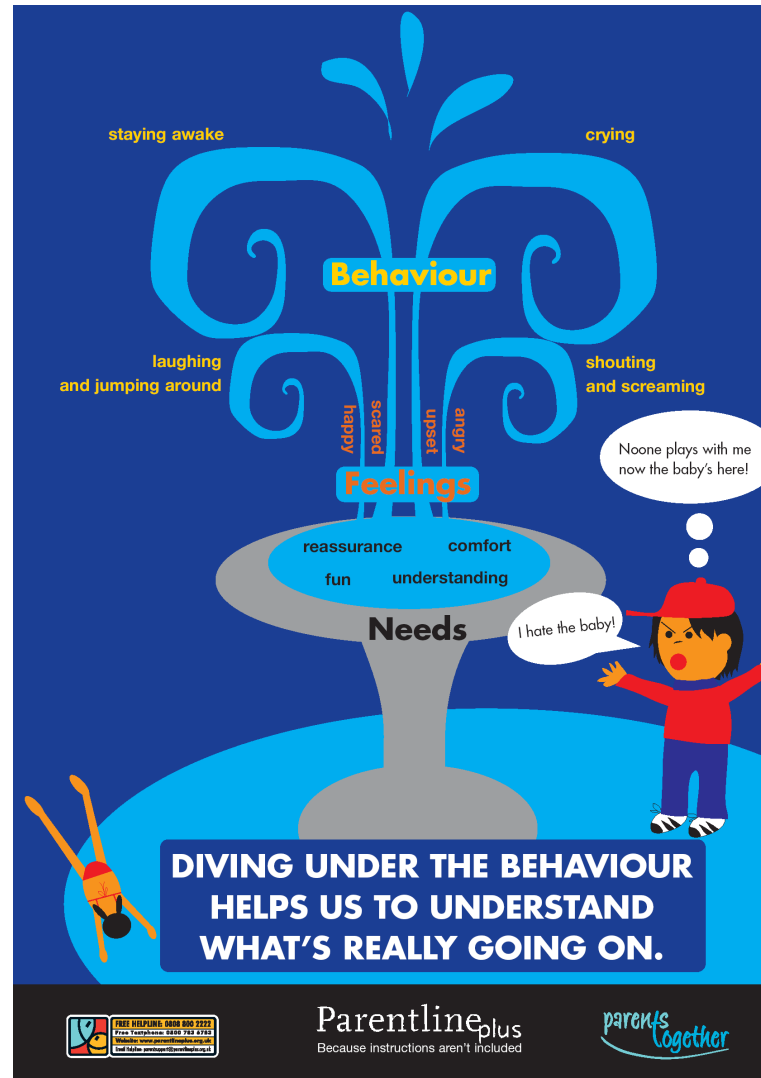
- Have parent facilitators and parent link volunteers who offer a range of courses, workshops and support networks
- Deliver capacity building training for parents
- Offer parents a safe setting to share experiences and support each other
- Acknowledge and reinforce what parents do well
- Develop parents' confidence by offering tools to manage family life.



What we do

- Use approaches that are relationship based
- Use solution-focused approaches [Haim Ginott]
- Enhance parent-child communication [listening, language, ACT]
- Help parents explore their own and their child's needs and feelings and how these relate to behaviour

Understanding behaviour



Parentline^{plus}
Because instructions aren't included

parents
together



Why we do it

- 93% of parents said listening skills had improved

90% of parents said their understanding and attitude to their children improved

85% of parents said their situation had improved
[33% very much]



How we do it

1. Informally

- Through local networks and agencies
- Building up relationships with key workers
- Drop in sessions/workshops
- Taster sessions to local groups



How we do it

2. Formally

- Partnerships with a wide range of agencies
- 8 week programme
- Pre work
- Post work



Pre and post support

- Pre Support allows for some introduction to group dynamics and language/materials used in the group
- Helps build trust and relationships
- Post support – build and maintains work already covered

Parent Network Scotland



Partnerships and referral routes

- Shetland Childcare Partnership
- Fort William Childcare Partnership
- Renfrewshire Community Learning and Development
- Inverclyde Community Learning and Development
- Action for Children – Fort William
- Social Work ,Health Visitors and projects refer
- Self referral
- Many other informal contacts



Parent Networks

- Local parents are an untapped resource
- Parents attend for many different reasons
- Accessible support in their community
- Confidence is built upon
- Skills are sustained
- Children have access to wider networks



Parent Link Workers

- Supported in their role as parent link volunteers– 2 day leadership programme and 4 days training in group work (Parenting For All)
- Fully accredited and relevant
- Emphasis on linking feelings, need and behaviour

New Developments

- Capacity building for parents in the community
- New premises – leading to more face to face work
- 2 new development workers (general and disability focus)

Facilitator Developments

- Development Award Delivered in Glasgow, Fort William, Renfrewshire and Shetland
- 30 new trainee facilitators
- 6 new parentlink volunteers
- New 1 day training for professionals developed
- Waiting list for development award

What next

- Strengthen our contacts with LA's
- Deliver our PCC project in more local communities
- Build more networks of parents
- Train more parents
- **ULTIMIMATELY HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF CHILDREN**

