

MRC

Scottish Collaboration
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Research and Policy



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Beyond the early years: An evidence review

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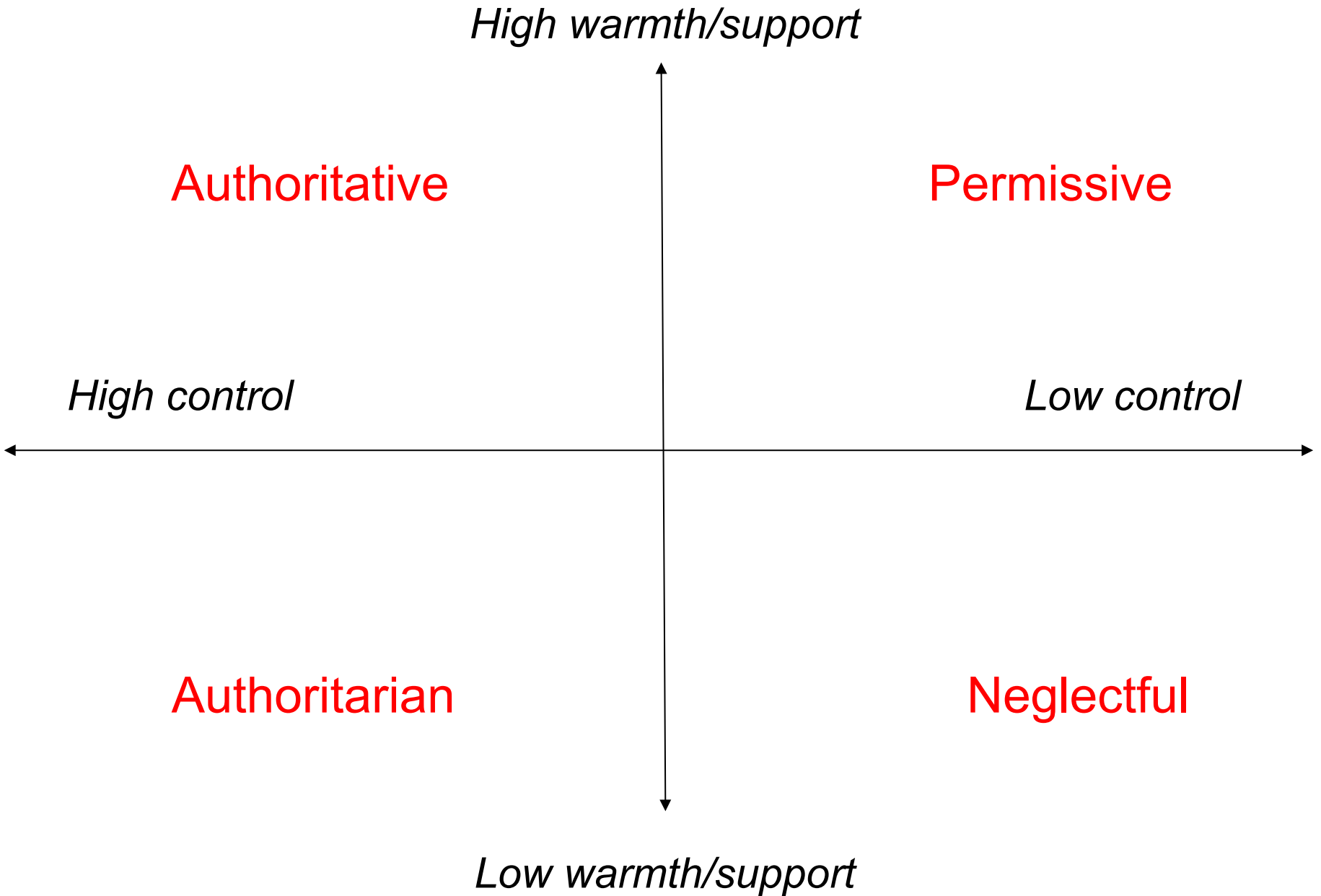
Parenting behaviours

- Warmth/support
 - Providing encouragement, communicating positively, showing love, *etc*
- Control
 - Establishing rules and consequences, monitoring (*e.g. behaviour, whereabouts*), *etc*

In general, parenting involves a degree of both warmth/support and control behaviours

Parenting styles

- Authoritative
 - *High warmth/support & high control*
- Authoritarian
 - *Low warmth/support & high control*
- Permissive
 - *High warmth/support & low control*
- Neglectful
 - *Low warmth/support & low control*



Parenting is associated with adolescent health and wellbeing

- Healthy/positive behaviours
 - Exercise, diet, academic performance, etc



- Risky behaviours
 - Substance use, smoking, sexual risk behaviour, etc

This review

1. What parenting styles and parenting behaviours are associated with adolescent health and wellbeing?
2. What programmes have been shown to be effective for reducing risk behaviours in adolescents?

Review of reviews...

- 11 reviews identified
- Parenting styles & behaviours and a range of adolescent outcomes including
 - Substance use, healthy eating, delinquency, sexual risk behaviour, & physical activity

Copies of the initial summary report are available from

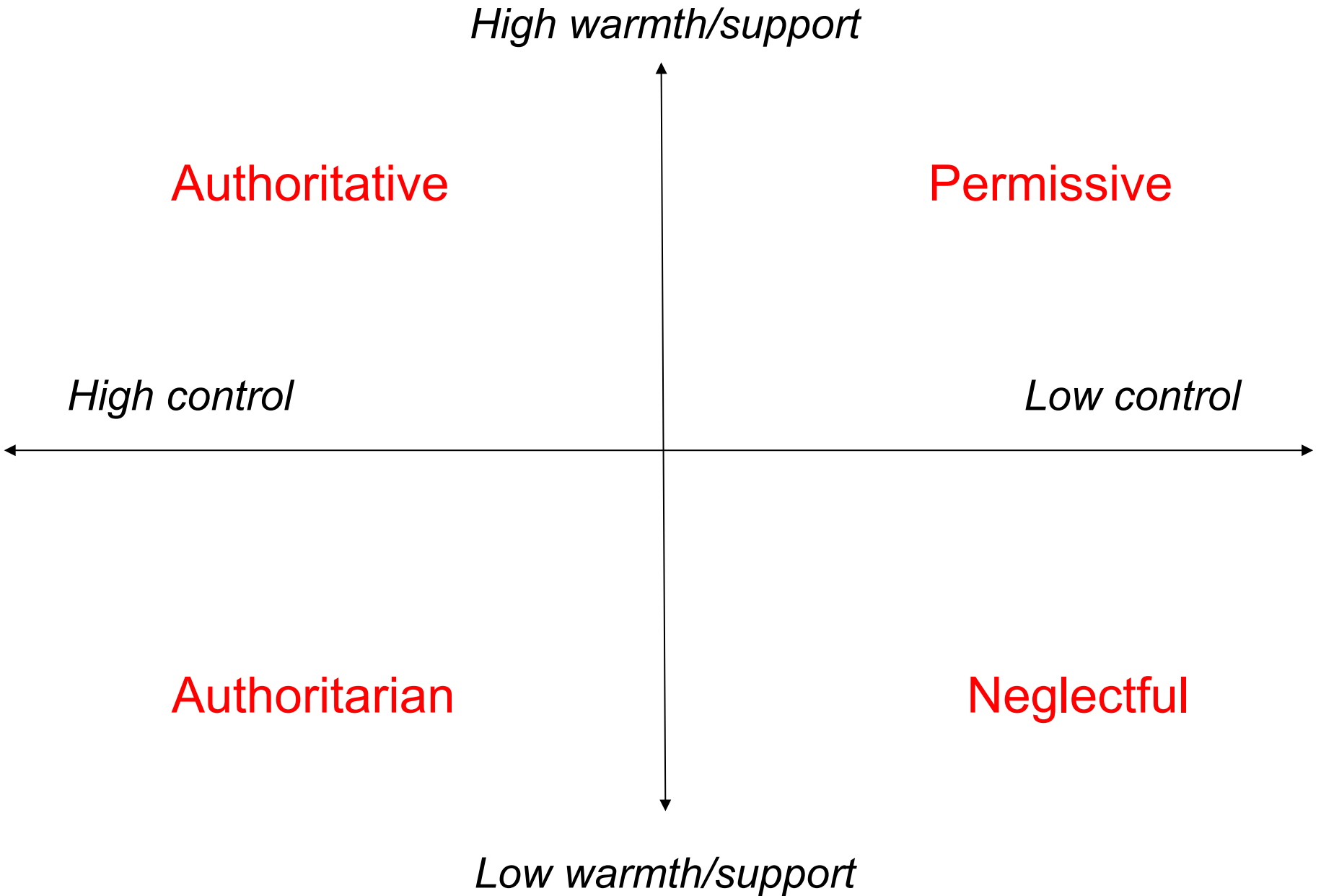
<https://www.scphrp.ac.uk/node/290> & from
john.mcateer@ed.ac.uk

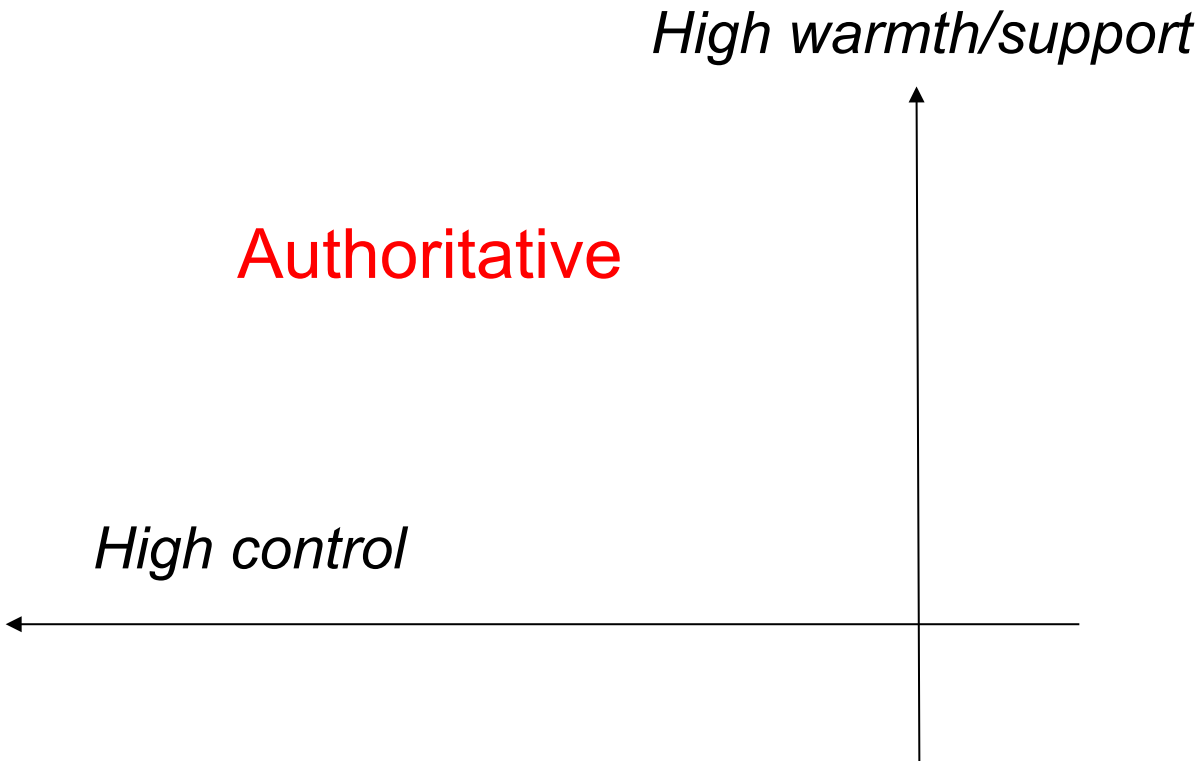
Findings: Parenting styles (1)

- Adolescents with authoritative parents (*High warmth/ support & high control*)
 - Less alcohol, smoking, cannabis, cocaine, & ecstasy use
 - Increased condom and contraceptive use
 - Lower BMI, greater consumption of fruits and vegetables, lower consumption of sugary beverages,
 - Higher levels of academic achievement

Findings: Parenting styles (2)

- Adolescents with authoritarian & permissive parents (*high control/low warmth; low warmth/low control*)
 - In general, less positive health and wellbeing outcomes
 - Greater alcohol, smoking, and other substance use
 - Higher BMI, poorer diet, and lack of physical activity
- Adolescents with neglectful parents
 - Poor health and wellbeing outcomes





- In general, the authoritative parenting style appears to have the most positive impact on adolescent health and wellbeing

Findings: Parenting behaviours (1)

- Adolescents with parents who monitored their activities/whereabouts
 - Less sexual risk taking
 - Less conduct problems/less delinquent behaviour in girls
 - Less alcohol, smoking, cannabis, cocaine, & ecstasy use

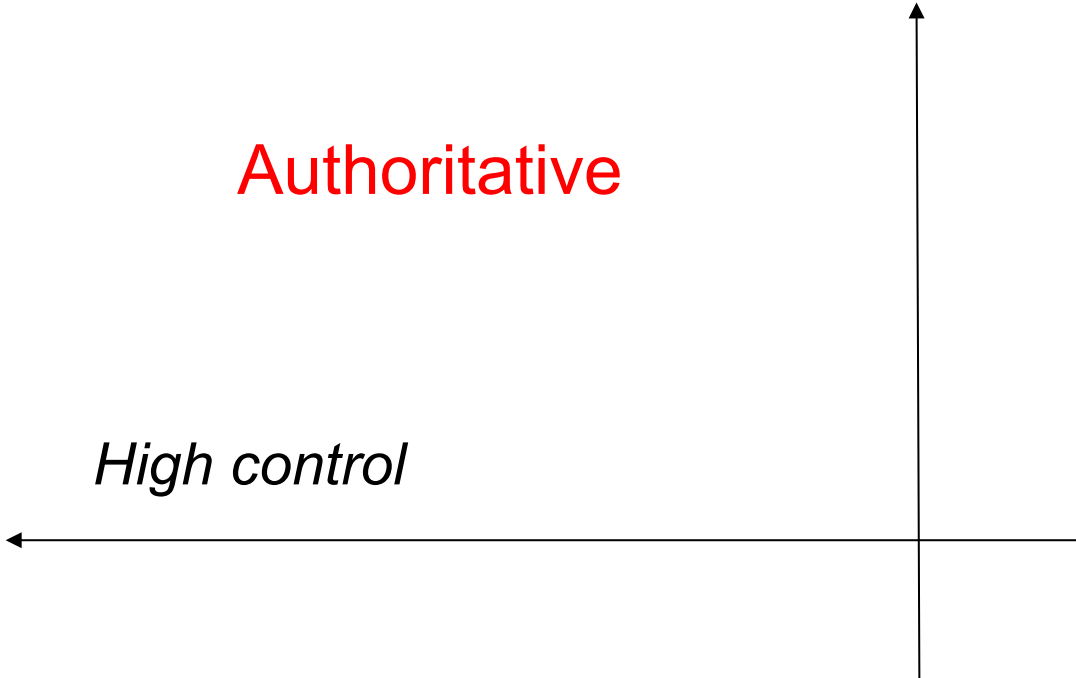
Findings: Parenting behaviours (2)

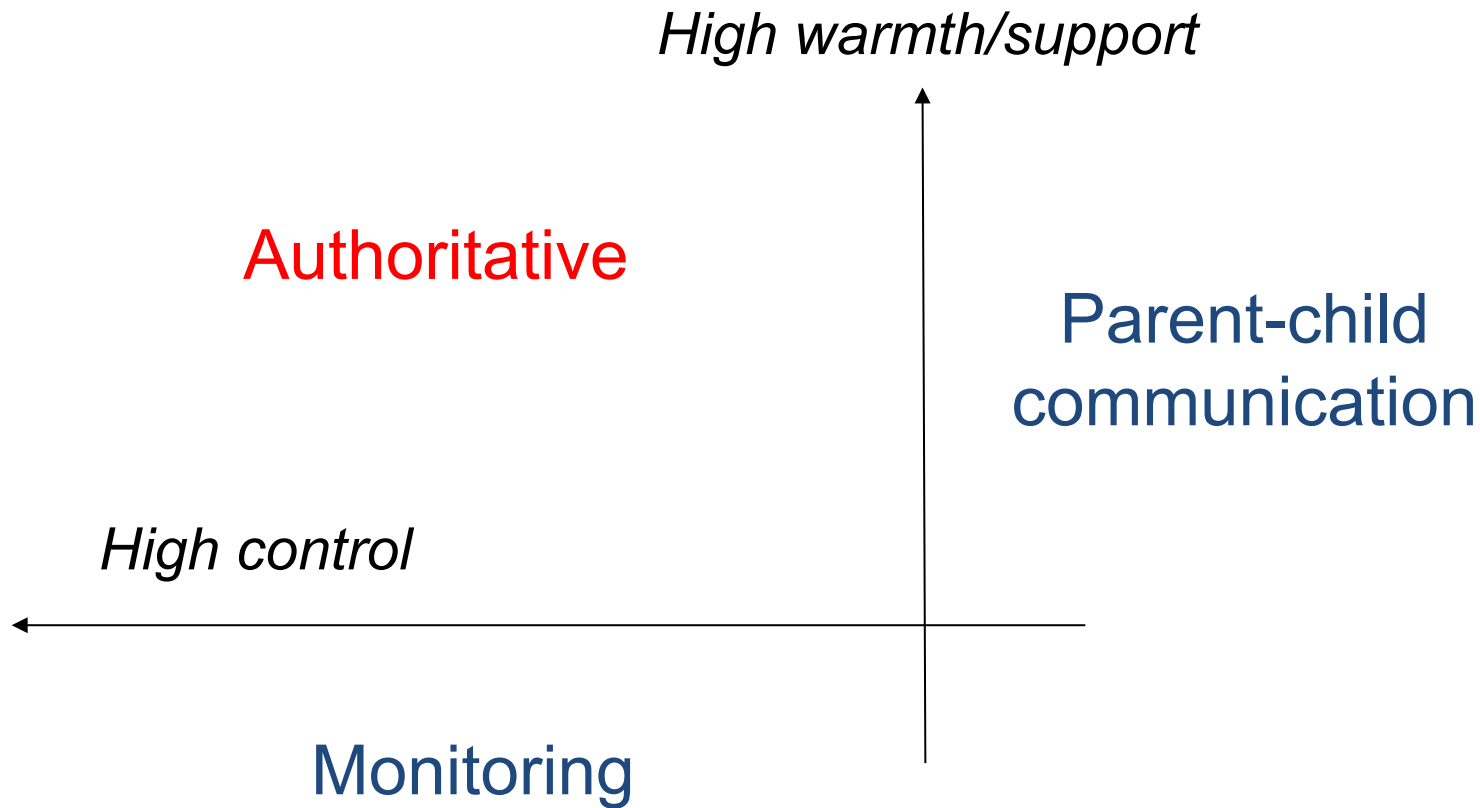
- Parent-child communication
 - Less sexual risk taking
 - Reduction in frequency of sexual behaviour in sexually active youth
 - Less alcohol, smoking, cannabis, cocaine, & ecstasy use

High warmth/support

Authoritative

High control





- In general, monitoring and parent-child communication have a positive impact on adolescent health and wellbeing

Other findings...

- Parental modelling of healthy behaviours
- Autonomy granting
- Parental encouragement
- Family meals

All associated with positive
adolescent health and
wellbeing

Parenting in context (1)

- Adolescents' health and wellbeing is influenced by many different factors, for example...
 - Individual behaviour
 - Environment
 - Peers
 - Parenting



Parenting in context (2)

- Contextual factors are likely to play a role in determining the effectiveness of parenting styles and behaviours
 - Isolation
 - Financial resources
 - Family structure
 - Social support

The needs for all groups should be taken into account and necessary support and resources provided

Conclusions & next steps

- Authoritative parenting (high warmth/support & high control), and monitoring & parent-child communication positively impact upon adolescent health and wellbeing
 - Effectiveness may vary due to contextual factors
- Final report due in December 2012
 - Including review of reviews of parenting programmes targeting parents of adolescents

Thank you

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