



Welfare Conditionality

SANCTIONS, SUPPORT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Welfare Conditionality PhD Conference

Emily Ball

gga08eb@shef.ac.uk

16 March 2016

Presentation outline

- The research aims
- Fieldwork completion
 - Families
 - Parents
 - Practitioners
- Initial findings
 - Numbers! Expectations and reality
 - Relationships and delivery of support
 - Parenting
- Processing research findings
- Comments on behaviour change and progress
- Conclusion and questions

The research aims

- Troubled Families programme to tackle social exclusion and ASB and problematic conduct of vulnerable families
- Key worker delivery of support
- How is support interpreted by families
- Sustained behaviour change
- How this is achieved
- Gender

Methodology

- Longitudinal study
- Track families over a number of months
- Observation of key worker/service-user relationship
- Monthly interviews with family (and key worker)
- Attending parenting course and training and mother and baby groups
- Interview with parents
- Interviews with parenting volunteers
- Interviews with practitioners

Interviews with families

Family	Int 1	Int 2	Int 3	Int 4	Int 5	Int 6	Int 7
1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	x	x	x	x			
5	x	x	x	x	x	x	
6	x						
7	x	x	x	x	x		
8	x	x	x	x	x		
9	x	x	x	x			
10	x	x	x	x			

Interview with parents and participant observation from parenting course and training and parent and toddler groups

Parents	Interview	Participant observation x 15 weeks at parenting course and parenting training, 3 baby and toddler groups
1	x	
2	x	
3	x	
4	x	
5	x	

Practitioner interviews

Initial theme 1- Policy expectations and reality

- Capacity of key workers (funding)
- Reality of needs
- Limitations of support
- Being 'good enough' and incremental change
- Families that cannot change
- The numbers game and non measurable outcomes

Initial theme 2- Relationship with key worker and family

- Complex key worker relationship
- Tolerance limits
- Torn loyalties

Initial theme 3- Parenting

- A wicked solution to a wicked problem
- About the child not the adult
 - Abject neglect
 - ASB
 - Blame and trauma

Reflections on the research process



- Researcher guilt
 - Capitalising on their misfortune?
 - Being able to walk away and not help
 - Providing food/support
- Exit process
 - Being in their lives
- ‘Carrying’ family stories
- Similarity and difference

The link between behaviour change, support and conditionality

- Progress is messy
- Screening out long term problems for the immediate?
- Basic/practical needs
- Adults before children
- 'Regardless of' behaviour standards
- Trauma and blame
- Parenting

Conclusion

- Review of progress so far and date of submission
- Any questions