

# Male Matters

## September 2008

produced by



**Hot Topic**  
**Kick Start Presentation Morning**

### Events

#### **Kick Start Presentation Morning**

The Men's Project would like to invite you to a FREE EVENT which will showcase some of the learning which arose from the "Kick Start 2008" project. Kick Start 2008 was a seven month package of training, support, networking, reflection and practical action for organisations who are trying to, or wishing to, engage with fathers.

This event will ...

- happen on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008**;
- begin with tea/coffee/registration at **10.00am** and finish with light lunch at 12.30pm;
- take place in the **Grosvenor Hall, Glengall Street, Belfast**.

This short and informal event will give you the opportunity to ...

- understand why we need increased engagement with fathers;
- get a sense of what Kick Start offered;
- hear presentations from trainees who engaged with fathers in a range of settings;
- ask questions about Kick Start and the projects that were undertaken;
- meet all this year's Kick Start participants, and find out more about the hands-on things involved in running an activity for fathers.

Please note that places are limited, and applications will be accepted strictly on a first-come-first-served basis! For more information email Trisha at [trisha@mensproject.org](mailto:trisha@mensproject.org)

#### **Men's Policy Forum Meeting**

The next meeting of the Northern Ireland Men's Policy Forum will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008, starting at 10.30am, in NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB. Evelyn Hoy, from the Gender and Sexual Orientation Equality Unit within OFMDFM, will be in attendance to hear from those present, and to brief participants on progress being made with the Northern Ireland "Gender Matters" strategy. Everyone (male and female) with an active interest in work with men is welcome to attend. For more

information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Jonny Currie from NICVA at Tel: 02890 877777 or Email: [jonny.currie@nicva.org](mailto:jonny.currie@nicva.org)

### **Parents' Week 2008: "Getting it Right For Right for Families"**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Parents' Week will take place from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Last year there were over 180 events across Northern Ireland - many of which were free for families. The week will be a celebration of the valuable work you do with families in all their shapes and sizes. It will begin with the annual conference at the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast, when speakers will address the issue of raising quality in parenting and family support services. For further details and to book a place contact [gemma@pachelp.org](mailto:gemma@pachelp.org) Information and resources on Parents' Week will be available over the next few weeks at:

<http://www.parentsadvicecentre.org/projects/parentingforum/parentsweek.asp> Email [gemma@pachelp.org](mailto:gemma@pachelp.org) or [alison@pachelp.org](mailto:alison@pachelp.org) to have your event publicised on the website.

### **Sexual Health Conference**

The Sexual Health Team (Eastern Area) is hosting its 14th Annual Regional Sexual Health Conference, 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Radisson Roe Park Resort, Limavady. This event brings together an eclectic mix of speakers and workshops with the overall aim of increasing people's awareness of sexual health, and current thinking, strategies and methods from local, regional and international perspectives. The event is open to anyone working in the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors who has an interest in enhancing their sexual health knowledge, skills and awareness. This year's programme includes: parent child communication, talking about tough issues, sexual orientation and problematic alcohol and drug use, male experiences of domestic violence, delaying sex, sexual health in Northern Ireland, engaging parents and the Checkitout Project (which meets the sexual health needs of the homeless community). For further information, please contact the Sexual Health Team (Eastern Area) on Tel: 02890 900051 or email: [shealth.team@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:shealth.team@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

## **News**

### **Parent consultation on Department of Education Literacy and Numeracy Strategy**

The Parenting Forum NI are carrying out a consultation on the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy on behalf of Department of Education in Northern Ireland (DENI). Between September and November they are looking for groups of parents to meet with. The Strategy states that all young people should be valued for their unique talents and abilities and should be given equal opportunities to succeed. However, some of the young people coming out of school do not have GCSE English and Mathematics and DENI is exploring ways that they, schools, parents and pupils can work together to improve literacy and numeracy amongst all young people in Northern Ireland. If you have a group of parents who would be willing to take part - ESPECIALLY GROUPS OF DADS or want to know more, please email: [alison@pachelp.org](mailto:alison@pachelp.org) Parent travel expenses, childcare, room hire and refreshments will be covered.

### **Guide for Parents**

The Rainbow Project and Cara Friend have produced a guide for parents who have lesbian, gay or bisexual children. This publication is called: "Family Ties". Please visit: <http://www.parentsadvicecentre.org/usefullinks/documents/familyties.pdf> to view a PDF version of it.

### **A Study of the Needs of Socially Excluded Males in Dublin Inner City**

Men Alone in No-Man's Land (MAIN), a recently formed community-based men's group, launched their study on urban male isolation in Dublin's Inner City. The purpose of the study was to identify practical ways of reaching men who are suffering from various forms

of isolation and social exclusion. Visit: <http://www.main.ie/pdf/owngoalsandpenalties.pdf> to view a PDF version of the report.

## Courses

### Drugs Awareness Training

A.S.C.E.R.T. (Action on Substances through Community Education and Related Training) are, currently, recruiting for participants for the forthcoming Community Drugs Awareness Training (OCN Level 2) for voluntary and community sector organisations. There are a number of places available free of charge for staff or volunteers from the voluntary / community sector only. Duration: 5 Weeks: 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 from 10 am - 4 pm. Venue: A.S.C.E.R.T. 23 Bridge Street, Lisburn, BT28 1XZ. For further details, or to request an application form, please contact Noel on Tel: 02892 604422 or email: [noel@ascert.biz](mailto:noel@ascert.biz) closing date for application is 5<sup>th</sup> September.

### Parenting Apart Workshop

This workshop is aimed at parents who have separated, are separating, are divorced or are thinking of divorce. It will provide practical advice and guidance on what children need to know, and what parents can do to meet their needs. The workshop takes place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 7.00pm - 9.00pm in Parents Advice Centre, Franklin House, 12 Brunswick Street, Belfast. All participants will receive a Parenting Apart Handbook. Please contact Sharon on Tel: 02890 310891 or email: [sharonr@pachelp.org](mailto:sharonr@pachelp.org) to register. Parents Advice Centre offers a variety of courses and workshops for parents, for further details visit: <http://www.parentsadvicecentre.org/projects/parenting/individuals.asp>

## Ideas for Dads and Kids

### Personalised Back to School Lunch Bags

Recycling is very important and plastic lunchboxes are not made to last forever. What you will need is: a canvas bag, lots of buttons, needle, thread, a pencil and fabric paint. Between you and your child work out a template of the design for the bag e.g. your child's handprints or paint their favourite thing on one side of the bag. On the other side of the bag, write your child's first name in pencil big enough for you to sew on the buttons, this is also a good practice for sewing shirt buttons! The following link shows you how: <http://www.wikihow.com/Sew-a-Button> Sew the buttons over the pencil marks to make the name stand out. With this project promoting recycling, wrap the food in paper bags rather than plastic.

### Psychedelic Science

Make a lava lamp! What you will need: a jam jar, water, food colouring, vegetable oil and salt. Fill the jam jar with about 3 inches of water and add a few drops of food colouring. Add 1 inch of vegetable oil and wait until the layers settle to the top. Watching carefully, pour the salt into the jar while you count to five. The oil and salt should form a blob and sink to the bottom of the jar. As the salt dissolves in the water, the oil should float back to the top. Keep adding salt until this happens, seal the lid and enjoy the show. This experiment won't last forever, but it is easy enough to make again and again and again.

## On the Web

### [Evolution of Dads](#)

(You Tube video - you will also need speakers)

[Osbourne son making documentary of dad](#)

[Boys 'grow out of child asthma'](#)

[80 more things that make men cry](#)

[Reptile 'first-time' dad at 111](#)

## **Website of the Month**

**Father's Parenting Guide**

[www.dictionaryfordads.com](http://www.dictionaryfordads.com)

A tremendous collection of articles for dads covering every topic dads care about

**HEY! What are you up to in October?  
Let me know about it for in the next edition!  
Email: [trisha@mensproject.org](mailto:trisha@mensproject.org)**

We have a simple template for all articles to follow. Let us know within 150 words: the title, date, time, venue, a description of the event, and your organisation's contact details for further information i.e. a named person, telephone number, email address or web address.

**The Men's Project:** We are always updating our online directory of organisations which offer support or services to men. If you would like to update your existing entry, or would like to be registered on it, please visit:  
<http://www.mensproject.org/mendir/index.html>

**Note to readers:** If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our mailing list, or you wish to be removed, or you have any news you want included, please email me at: [trisha@mensproject.org](mailto:trisha@mensproject.org)

**[The views expressed in Emale Matters are not necessarily those of The Men's Project]**