

The fifth annual conference of  
**Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities**  
inclusive parent programme

# doing my **best**



Race  
Equality  
Foundation



**10th July** 2007

The Institute of Education **London**



Whether it is the debate on guns, gangs and violence or the rise in childhood obesity, what parents do is regularly a subject of public attention. Unfortunately, discussion often appears to be about laying blame at the door of parents rather than focusing on what can be done to support families.

Whilst all parents experience challenges in bringing up children, the vast majority want to do a good job and provide their children with the best possible start in life. The experience of many parents who have completed the *Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities Programme* is that it has provided them with the opportunity to deal with these and other issues, and has supported them to feel that they are doing their best.

The Race Equality Foundation's Fifth annual conference of the *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities Programme* will provide a unique opportunity to access information, hear about new developments and exchange ideas about best practice in parenting. As always, the conference will focus on how we better support all parents, particularly those from black and minority ethnic communities, to help raise happy and successful children who are safe and are able to make the most of their opportunities.



## The Conference

A highlight of the day will be hearing from parents who completed the SFSC programme more than a year ago. The conference will hear from these parents about how they have used and developed what they gained from completing this programme. Hearing from parents will this year be accompanied by children and young people telling the conference about how having a parent attend a parenting programme has impacted on their lives.

As with previous years, there will also be the annual awards presentation ceremony recognising the achievements of parents and facilitators involved in this parenting work.

In addition Dr Marilyn Steele will run a 'Masterclass' in delivering SFSC for trained facilitators.

The conference will explore:

- **The views of children whose parents take up parenting programmes**
- **How the Parenting Academy will impact parent programme facilitators**
- **Evidence and the impact of the SFSC programme**
- **Talking to young people about sex and sexuality**
- **Protecting children: gangs, guns and violence**

The conference will also:

- **Provide opportunities for information exchange and networking.**

The final programme will be available from June 1st at [www.raceequalityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.raceequalityfoundation.org.uk).

## The Exhibition

There will also be an exhibition with major parenting support organisations providing information about their services and how to access them. Exhibitors will include The Family and Parenting Institute (FPI), Parentline Plus, Single Parent Action Network (SPAN), and CHANGE.

## Who should attend

The conference will be of interest to a range of people including parent programme facilitators, voluntary and statutory organisations working in family support (including Social Services, YOTs, PCTs, and Education), planners and policy makers. Parents are encouraged to attend and will be supported to do so.

## Venue

The Institute of Education, London

## Accessibility

The venue is fully accessible for wheelchair users. British Sign Language Interpreters will be available.

## Cost

The cost of attending the conference, conference pack, lunch and other refreshments is as follows:

	<i>Up to 8th June 2007</i>	<i>From 9th June 2007</i>
Statutory agencies	<b>£125</b>	<b>£150</b>
Voluntary agencies	<b>£90</b>	<b>£110</b>
Unwaged/freelance SFSC Facilitators	<b>£50</b>	<b>£60</b>
SFSC parents	First 100 will receive a bursary allowing free attendance at the conference.  Others <b>£25</b>	

Cancellations must be made in writing, and will be subject to a charge of 50% of cost until Monday 11h June, after that date no refunds will be given.

Free places for parents are limited to a maximum of five per agency. Individuals and agencies that book free places and then fail to attend will be invoiced at the rate of £25 per place, and pursued for payment.

## The SFSC Programme

The *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities* parent education programme is a community based programme specifically designed to promote some of the protective factors associated with 'good parenting' at the same time as dealing with the factors in parenting that are associated with increased risk and poorer outcomes for children. Importantly, the SFSC approach emphasises that parenting is impacted by the local environment (for example the availability of good schools) and that parents should therefore play an active role in shaping this environment by engaging with community resources.

The SFSC parent programme is based on a strengths based 'facilitative model' which aims to raise the consciousness of parents. In addition, the curriculum aims to help families develop or promote: strong ethnic and cultural roots; positive parent-child relationships; a range of life skills; self esteem, self discipline and social competence; and an ability to access community resources.

## Further Information

Further information from is available from the Conference team on **020 7619 6233**  
(email [2007team@racefound.org.uk](mailto:2007team@racefound.org.uk))

Return the completed form below

by **post** to **SFSC Conference, Race Equality Foundation,**  
**Unit 35 Kings Exchange, Tileyard Road, London, N7 9AH**  
or by **fax** on **020 7619 6230**



## Booking Form

Tuesday 10th July 2007

Name	
Position	
Organisation	
Address	
Postcode	Phone
Fax	Email

## Payment

- I am a parent who has completed the SFSC course and am applying for a bursary place.
- I enclose a cheque for £  made payable to *Race Equality Foundation*.
- Please invoice me for £  at the address above / at the following address  
(delete as appropriate). Please note all invoices must be paid before a place will be allocated.

## Invoice address

Name	
Address	
Postcode	Phone

## Crèche

A crèche is available and must be booked in advanced as places are limited.  
To book please contact the Conference team on **020 7619 6233**

- Please indicate if you require a BSL interpreter