

**HERTFORDSHIRE CARING DADS PROGRAMME**

For men who have been violent or abusive in their families

**INFORMATION AND REFERRAL FORM**

Caring Dads is a 17 week parenting course specifically for men where there have been allegations that they have been abusive in their families.

The programme was originally developed in Canada, in recognition that frequently fathers are not held accountable for their abusive behaviour and its impact on their children. It is now being used in a number of countries including the UK where it was first introduced by the London Probation Area. International research has confirmed it has a positive impact on those that complete the course.

This programme is designed to enable men to improve their fathering skills and take responsibility for their children’s welfare and safety. In our experience, following domestic abuse and family breakdown, fathers are often angry, feel victimised and deny, minimise or blame others for their situation. They are often controlling in their parenting. As a result they continue to cause difficulties for their children and their children’s mothers.

**The main aims of the course are:**

**To increase men’s awareness of child-centred fathering.**

**Increase men’s awareness of, and responsibility for, abusive, and neglectful fathering behaviours and their impact on children.**

**To rebuild trust and enable the beginning of healing of the harm caused to their children.**

At the end of the course fathers commonly report that they now recognise the harm they have caused to their children, they feel better able to manage their feelings and feel better equipped to support their children in the future. They also report having an improved relationship with their children’s mother.

The programmes use one worker experienced in working with children and families where there has been domestic abuse and one experienced in working with male perpetrators of domestic abuse. **Currently the cost of attending the programme can be fully met by HACRO**

**Referral**

Any father living in Hertfordshire who has been abusive in his family and is still in contact with children may benefit from the programme. Attendance is voluntary but we would welcome those who may be motivated by a desire to demonstrate their fathering commitment to the Courts or statutory agencies. Suitability will be based on an assessment of the man’s needs, ability to benefit from the programme and his current circumstances. In order to protect families we need an agency to undertake to ensure support for the other family members and provide feedback on father’s behaviour. We will report on attendance, risk issues and level of engagement in the process and provide a Final Report.

**Anyone wishing to refer a father to the programme can use the attached form, which should be sent via HERTSFX or, if not, emailed securely with a password to** **caringdads@hacro.org.uk** **or telephone 01727 854727 for more information. (Please note both are managed on a part time basis. The answerphone will advise when the office will next be open.)**

**Major Goals and Activities in the *Caring Dads* Programme**

**Goal 1: To develop sufficient trust and motivation to engage men in the process of examining their fathering**

Session 1: Orientation Program Overview

 Group Rules

Session 2: Considering fathering Genograms

 Family experiences

Session 3: Developing discrepancy My goals

Continuing to develop discrepancy

**Goal 2: To increase men's awareness of child-centred fathering**

Session 4: Child-centred fathering Continuum of parenting behaviour

 Responsive and unresponsive praise

Session 5: Building relationships with Review of praise

our children How well do you know your children?

Session 6: Listening to children Listening to children

 Relationship building challenges

Session 7: Fathers as part of families Setting a good example

Appreciation for my children's mother

Session 8: Eliminating barriers to better The connections between thoughts,
relationships feelings and actions

Thoughts and beliefs to watch out for

Session 9: How are children different Understanding child development

from adults? Practical applications

**Goal 3: To increase men's awareness of, and responsibility for, abusive and neglectful fathering behaviours and their impact on children**

Session 10: Recognizing unhealthy, The other end of the continuum:

hurtful, abusive and child maltreatment

neglectful fathering behaviours A closer look at emotional abuse

Session 11: How am I responding to my Emotional abuse and neglect as
children's needs? forms of abuse

Problem-solving for parents exercise

Session 12: Relationship with my child's Problem-solving for parents continued
mother Abuse of children's mothers

Session 13: Problem-solving in difficult Problem-solving for parents continued

situations Effects of controlling and abusive parenting

Session 14: Decreasing denial and Shame and secrecy

minimisation Effect of denial on children

Problem-solving for parents continued

**Goal 4: Consolidating learning, rebuilding trust, and planning for the future**

Session 15: Rebuilding trust and healing Taking responsibility for the past and

moving into the future

 Rebuilding trust

Session 16: What about discipline? Summarising alternatives to punishment

 Defining discipline

Session 17: Wrapping up Review of main concepts

Where am I going from here?

**CARING DADS HERTFORDSHIRE** 

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| **Date of referral:** **Name of person referring:**  | **Agency:** **Contact number:** **Email address:** |

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| **Details of referral – FATHER ONLY***DO NOT PUT MOTHER’S DETAILS* |
| Surname: |
| Forename(s): |
| Alias: |
| DOB: |
| Address: |
| Mobile & Landline phone numbers:Are these numbers SAFE? |
| Ethnic origin: |
| Religion: |

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| **DETAILS OF CHILDREN (Please state if child is from current or previous relationship and include any step-children)** |
| NAME | DOB | Summary of contact / access & legal position regarding contact | Who has Parental Responsibility/Legal Guardianship |
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| Please state with whom children reside and the borough in which they live (*DO NOT PUT FULL ADDRESS)*  |
| SUMMARY OF CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES: |
| **Are any of the children subject of: FFA** (Families First Assessment that replaces CAF)**, SEND / LDD, S&SS or Care Plan? Please specify all.** |
|  SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC ABUSE HISTORY:  i.e. custodial or community Criminal Justice sentences for DA and level of contact  with any agencies.  |
| RISK FACTORS FOR FUTURE ABUSE: |
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| RISK FACTORS TO STAFF: Also please confirm you have performed a risk assessment for the father to attend the Programme |
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| OTHER SUPPORT NEEDS |
| **Does the client have any current or previous issues surrounding:** |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Drugs/alcohol |  | Disability |  |
| Immigration |  | Language/literacy |  |
| Basic life skills |  | Mental health |  |
| Anti-social behaviour |  |  |  |

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| **Please tick next to the subject and expand below:****(If translation service needed, application will need to be made via Herts CC)** |
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|  **Is the father aware of / agreed to this referral? We will not progress the referral until this is confirmed. *Please confirm - Yes / No*** |

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| What outcomes do you want from the father’s attendance on the Caring Dads Programme?  |
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| Would you be prepared to provide feedback on these outcomes / the Programme? |
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| Is the father aware of the outcomes advised / would you be happy for him to be told and asked to comment on whether he feels he has achieved the outcomes as part of the course end 1-2-1 and feedback process? *Please advise Yes / No* |

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| Would you be happy for the father to receive the Post Programme Report and any interim reports produced on request? Please highlight or delete as appropriate  |
|  **Yes / No / Requires further thought** |

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| Where did you locate the Caring Dads Referral Form? |
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| What do you know about HACRO’s delivery of Caring Dads that prompted you to make a referral? |
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**Please** **send completed form securely via HERTSFX or as a password protected attachment to** **caringdads@hacro.org.uk**Revised: 4th March 2019