

Boys Development Project **Annual Report April 2018 to March 2019**

The Boys' Development Project was founded in January 2010 and was incorporated as a Social Enterprise in March 2010, this report covers our ninth year.

We have tried to position ourselves at the point at which common problems and issues *start to emerge*. This has been in sharp contrast too much of the work we have carried out in the past (often crisis related and when problems had become more complex and entrenched). About 70% of our work this year has been preventative and targeting three to six year-olds (and their families). The evidence suggests that if children (but boys in particular) get off to a good start within school they are likely to achieve, and if they get off to a poor start they are likely to spend the rest of primary and possibly secondary trying to catch up.

Our focus has continued to narrow from last year and has concentrated primarily on our **Stand Out Boys Project (SOBP)**. We continue to be funded directly by schools themselves. This year we have worked in four Lewisham and Southwark Primary Schools (Southwark Park, St Johns and St Clements, Mary Magdalene, and Rathfern). While we have primarily been targeting boys in reception and nurseries who 'stand out', some of these schools have also asked us to work further up the school, and with girls.

Project: About Boys Course (ABC 0-5)

Funding: Children's Centres and schools

ABC is an eight-hour (four-session) programme that targets parents with sons aged up to five years. The themes are gender differences, boy's development, discipline and boundaries, motivation, communication and boy's transition into school. During the last year, because of our focus on the Stand Out Boys Project, we have only delivered one course in London [16], and our current accredited trainers list is 130 (see website for full list).

For further information go to: <http://www.boysdevelopmentproject.org.uk/abc0-5pro/>

Publications

We have allocated more time in the year for the production of materials for parents and early years practitioners. We have completed an information sheet for parents titled “screens and under 5’s” (which will be published in September 2019) and other materials will follow.

Our plans for the coming year

While we expect to continue the delivery of Stand Out Boys, we will also be training up schools to deliver this programme for themselves. We will continue to train and accredit professional workers to deliver the ABC 0-5. We also plan to write and publish further materials for parents and early years workers.

Who we are?

There are currently three directors of the Boys’ Development Project, they are:

Neil Davidson is employed as a Sex and Relationships Education Consultant in Bristol.

Simon Forrest works in the School of Medicine and Health at Durham University.

Trefor Lloyd is the projects development worker for the Boys’ Development Project.