

Solihull Parenting Strategy 2016-9: Executive Summary

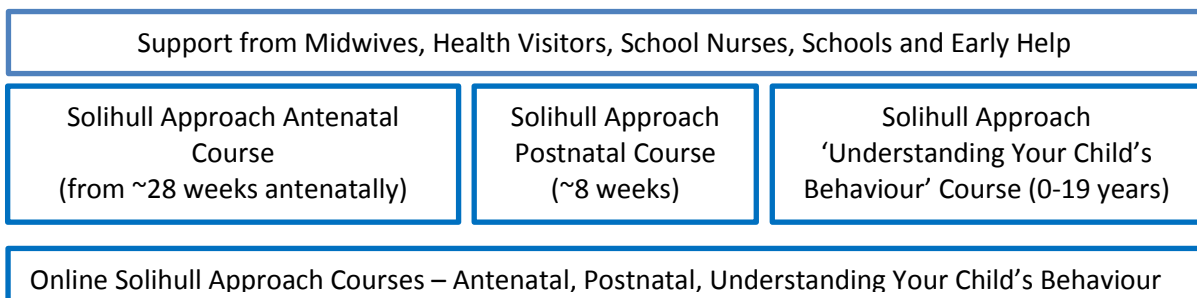
“Parenting is the biggest single factor affecting children’s wellbeing and development”
Public Health England and the Local Government Association, 2016

Parents are the single most significant influence on children’s emotional and physical well-being, educational attainment and behaviour. Supporting parents in Solihull can reap significant benefits in reduction in costs in reactive services later in the life course and are at the heart of the offer to give children the best start in life in the borough.

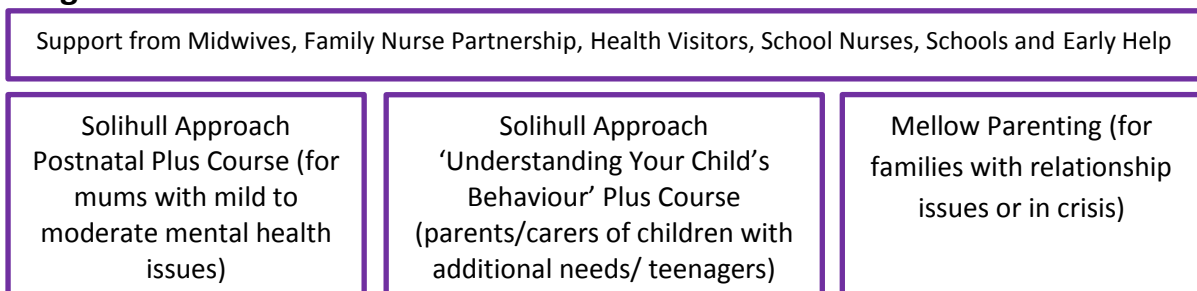
There are several drivers for this strategy including ‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’ (UCL Institute of Health Equity, 2010), ‘Conception to Age 2: the Age of Opportunity’ (The Wave Trust, 2012) and ‘Building Great Britons’ (All Party Parliamentary Group for Conception to Age 2, 2015). These reports hold a wealth of evidence for the importance of supporting parents to become sensitive and engaged caregivers to enable the crucially important secure attachment between a parent/carer and the child. This secure attachment forms the basis of the child’s wider relationships and is a protective factor against adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) across the life course.

The parenting offer in Solihull is universal underpinned by principles of primary prevention and enabling peer support between parents and carers in our communities. There is also a targeted offer to support parents with particular needs or at a particular stage in the life course. The offer is summarised below:

Universal Offer



Targeted Offer



Currently in Solihull, an approach similar to a Swedish model (the Leksand Framework) is being developed where parent/carers who meet on an antenatal course reconvene on a postnatal course and meet regularly in a semi-facilitated, sustained way to offer peer support to one another and to parents in the wider community. A similar approach could be developed for parents/carers with learning difficulties and disabilities where parents from pregnancy through to toddlers can support one another in their parenting role.