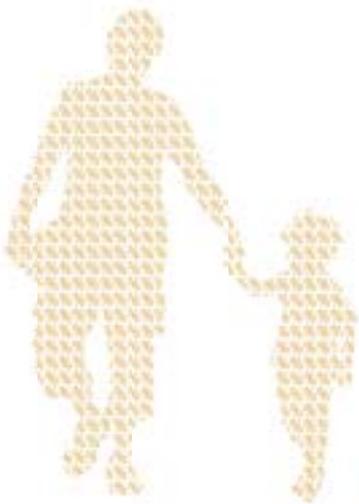




Family & Parenting
Institute



Annual Report 2005-2006

RESEARCH & POLICY FOR THE REAL WORLD



Family policy in the political spotlight



Mary MacLeod

Mary MacLeod
Chief Executive

The UK has seen a profound change in government interest and in public debate on the family. Family has risen up the political agenda, now holding a central place in policy making. All political parties accept that economic, social and family wellbeing are connected and that families play a key role not only in raising children but also in building neighbourliness and the kinds of communities that people want to live in.

The Family and Parenting Institute has an important role in promoting and informing the public debate about families and in pressing politicians to respond to the day-to-day concerns of families trying to make ends meet, earn a living wage, raise their children and keep them safe, healthy and out of trouble. We know that the quality of relationships in families matters and we work to identify policies that make it easier to raise a family well.

Much of what we have argued for since our inception has now become part of the political mainstream. We advocated a Family Friendly society and this is now supported across the political spectrum. We argued for severe curbs on advertising to children and now more and more politicians and organisations support this. We worked to involve parents in the political process and now parents are regularly involved in government consultations over family policy.

We know from our stakeholders that they particularly value the quality and focus of our research, the breadth of our viewpoint and the bridges we build between people, organisations, and ideas. We want the organisations in civil society to engage with one another and collaborate to find the best ways of serving families and children, so we work to bring together family and parenting organisations to push for improvements to family policy and family services.

This review describes our work over the past year in our key roles of informing and influencing family policy and practice. Apart from the many projects on improving children's and families services, we took a fundamental look at how the State should be operating to promote the care and wellbeing of children in the Family Commission. Its recommendations were launched in November, and we are pushing them forward.

Although this report is looking to the past, we are also looking to the future. Over the next year we will be improving support for families by rolling out Round Two of the Parenting Fund and managing two big demonstration programmes bringing together voluntary sector family organisations to collaborate in getting help to families on raising their children. We will work with other groups to challenge adverts aimed at children, bringing parents closer to the political mainstream by hosting 'Meet The Parents' events with politicians and producing new and thought provoking research on a great many topics from the age of criminal responsibility to the difficulties teenagers face.

We could not carry out this important work without the help of our funders and partners and once again, we would like to thank them for helping us to help the families of Britain.



Fiona Millar

Fiona Millar
Chair of Trustees

The Family and Parenting Institute is a catalyst for change. Changing policy, changing practice, changing Britain. We work to make the voices of families heard by policy makers. The energy and creativity that underpins our work makes us a radical and innovative voice in the field of family policy while our core remit to inform policy and debate means that our opinions and research are listened to at the very highest levels.

We produce research and policy for the real world.



Understanding family life

In order to influence policy effectively and offer practical solutions and advice for those who work with children and families, we work to understand what life is like for Britain's families. Our work informs policy and practice and keeps family policy in the political spotlight.

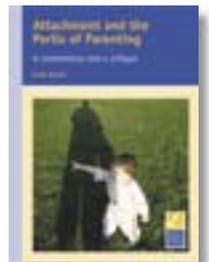
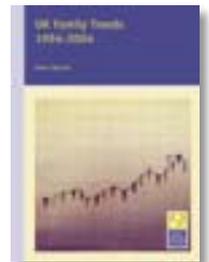
What does it mean to be a parent?

Joy
Ingratitude
Constant work
Hard work
Energy
Love
Patience
Proud but challenged

Understanding parenting and family life

This year, we published *Attachment and the Perils of Parenting*, a major new review on attachment theory and, due to its impact and popularity, reprinted our publication *UK Family Trends 1994-2004*. Our Working with Families Conference saw 300 practitioners come together to share and exchange knowledge.

- I thought it was an amazing conference... have learnt an awful lot ■
- More of the same please... wonderful to hear from the experts ■



The Family Commission

Together with NCH and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, we established the Commission on Families and the Wellbeing of Children. It was chaired by Sir Michael Rutter and considered three core questions:

-  How and to what extent should the state intervene in the care and upbringing of children and what kind of reciprocal arrangement, if any, does it have to support families?
-  To what extent is it right for parents to be held responsible for the actions of their children? Where should their responsibilities begin and end?
-  How far and in what way should the role of the state in supporting and intervening in families be formalised and made transparent?

The Commission held a public consultation on these issues and it sparked a lively debate. The report, published in November last year, reviewed the evidence on children's health and development and on interventions to support families. Some recommendations are controversial: we want the age of criminal responsibility to be raised and to establish a review body to make the decisions on benefit rates, rather like devolving the interest rate to the Bank of England. We proposed that the government should abolish the defence of reasonable chastisement so children have the same protection in law as adults against assault and that the government should make clear the age at which children may legally babysit. We advocated changes to family law to protect children but urged that state intervention should be strictly limited to the grounds set out in the Children Act 1989 and that the Child Index should not be established.

We recommended a new emphasis on prevention in family services, a reconfiguration of midwife and health visitor services to offer families support at the time they need it and want it most, and shared accountability and budgets in adult and children's services so the children most at risk through parents' illness, addiction, or suffering the effects of violence, can be identified and supported. Most of all we recommended that children and young people, particularly in the public care system, should be able to get the counselling and therapeutic help they need if their families are unable to help.

We are currently working to take the recommendations of the Commission forward with support from NCH and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Key issues for families

Childcare
Financial pressures
Commercialisation of childhood
Safety
Drugs and alcohol
Anti-social behaviour

-  I have one child and I can't spare more time for any more children 
-  Family support is not the same as many grandparents are no longer round the corner, so other support is needed 
-  We're the parents. We should be in control of what our kids eat 



Influencing policy

We produce high quality, thought provoking material on family policy and work behind the scenes to inform and influence family and parenting policy. We respond to consultations, meet with officials and Ministers, host the All Party Associate Parliamentary Group on Parents and Families and brief parliamentarians on legislation.

■ ■ Your briefings for parliamentarians on the passage of legislation are very useful and appreciated ■ ■

Liberal Democrat MP

There is hardly an area of domestic policy that does not have an impact on families and we respond to this agenda by building strategic alliances with other groups and tackle issues as diverse as marketing to children, child poverty, family friendly employment policies and childcare.

This year, we have produced a number of policy discussion papers which bring together thinking on the big questions facing families in the UK.

✧ *Young Adults and the Extension of Economic Dependence* looked at young people making the transition to adulthood and the roles of the family and the state in helping them.

✧ *Aspirations and Expectations* looked at why so many children and young people are missing out on opportunities despite progress in improving children's life chances.

✧ *Parents' Involvement in Children's Learning and Schools* considered the barriers to parental involvement in their children's education and the risk that enhancing parental choice may only benefit the already empowered

✧ *Financial Support for Children: Defining Responsibility and Adequacy* examined how the upbringing of children is financed and suggested a framework of principles for sharing responsibilities between the parent and the state.



We have also produced briefings and worked alongside other organisations in response to the legislative programme on the Childcare Act 2006, Work and Families Act 2006, Children and Adoption Act 2006, Equality Act 2006, Education and Inspections Bill, Police and Justice Bill, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill and Welfare Reform Bill and continue to produce *Family Digest* our monthly online digest that provides instant access to information for everyone involved in family policy and practice.

All of these publications are available through our website www.familyandparenting.org

93% of dads take time off around the birth of their child but seven out of 10 fathers would rather be more involved in their childcare

UK households spend an average of £434 per week. £5.80 of this is on fresh fruit and veg and £2 on chocolates and sweets

Between 1999 and 2003, the number of first contacts with health visitors for support and advice fell from 3.6m per year to 3m

Helping services to improve

One of our most important functions is the sharing of our learning and research with people who work with children and families in order to help them improve the services they offer. We produce toolkits and research for them and hold and facilitate events to enable practitioners to come together and share knowledge and experience.

Extended schools and children's centres have been firmly placed in the vanguard of the Government's thinking with regard to children and family support, with the aspiration that further development will support working parents by providing childcare and address problems arising from social exclusion and child protection issues. The tensions between the economic necessity of getting and keeping parents in the workplace to reduce reliance on welfare and alleviate poverty in families and the need to provide support and services that enhance the wellbeing of children continues to dominate debate in the parenting support sector.

■ ■ The policy discussion paper on the implementation of Every Child Matters is excellent ■ ■

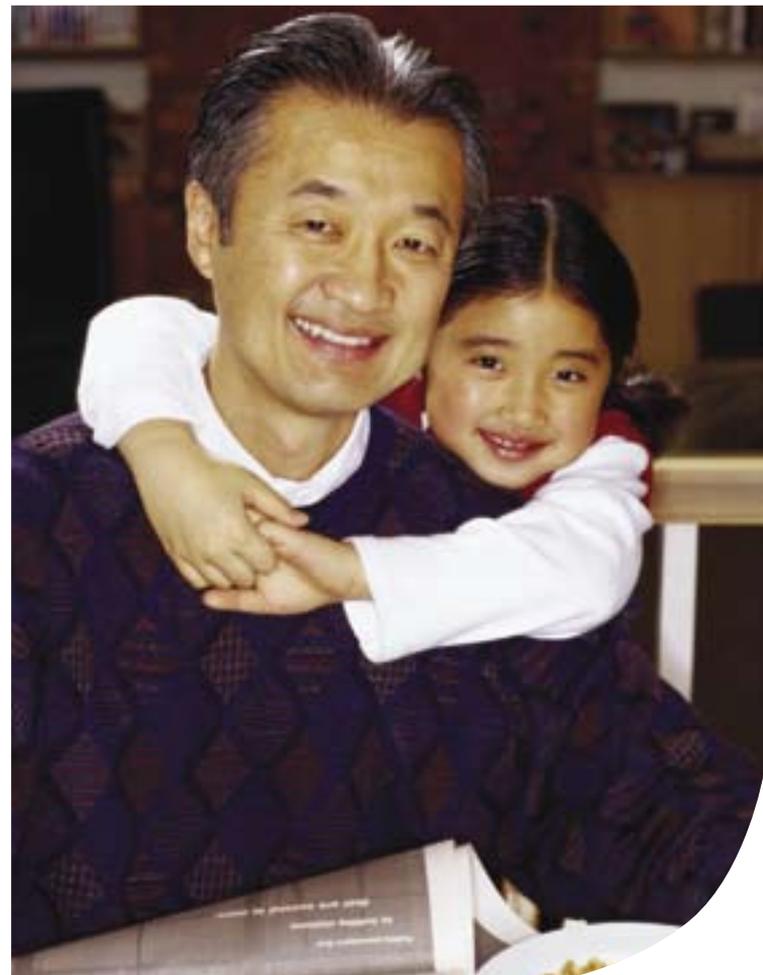
Simon Payne, Lincolnshire County Council

■ ■ Your involvement in the Parent Information Sessions in Schools project, and the authority and professionalism that you brought to it, was absolutely critical ■ ■

Simon Richey, Gulbenkian Foundation

■ ■ Cultural Competence in Family Support is a great piece of work and I cannot wait to use it in my professional life ■ ■

Practitioner working with minority ethnic families





Parents' Week

Our annual awareness week highlights and celebrates the work of practitioners to support parents and raises awareness of the big issues in families' lives. This time round, the theme was "Time for Families" and was sponsored by Vodafone UK. It saw 3000 packs distributed to a wide variety of groups across the country.

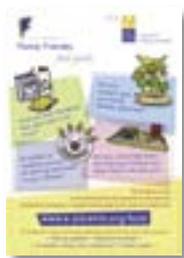
We launched our web-based *Family Friendly Food Guide*, because parents have told us they could do with tips about how to encourage picky children to eat the right food. It was launched at our House of Commons reception attended by many ministers and parliamentarians, and addressed by Beverley Hughes MP, Minister for Children Young People and Families

At Old Trafford Football ground, we brought a group of parents together to meet Beverley Hughes MP. The parents were drawn from many communities across Manchester including representatives from the Chinese community and young homeless mothers. The parents had a great deal to say to the Minister on the Government's Respect Agenda and parents were of one voice in urging more easy-access parenting support. They talked about their worries for their teenage children and their sense of helplessness against drug, bullying and crime culture.

Our thanks go to Manchester Utd Football Club for hosting the event and for allowing parents the chance to take their children on a tour of Old Trafford.

■ ■ Having a dedicated week to support and celebrate the rich and diverse aspects of parenting can only be a positive thing. Enabling parents from a wide and diverse background to meet, talk and celebrate their extraordinary parenting work is healthy and very necessary ■ ■

Howard Delmonte, Coordinator family support service at PACE



■ ■ Parents' Week is an excellent opportunity to emphasise the importance of partnership with parents in order to develop, deliver and promote services for families ■ ■

Chris Tully, Lead Officer for the Children's NSF, Derby City Primary Care Trust



Parenting Fund

The Institute runs the Parenting Fund on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills. This year we continued to support 134 national and local Parenting Fund projects, working with thousands of families who are struggling.

The Parenting Fund aims to spread learning, and in the spring and summer of 2005 we jointly ran workshops with Parenting UK (PESF) in each of the Fund's 18 local areas. We learned a great deal about the shape, variety and development of parenting support services. This information was put to good use in shaping Round Two of the Fund. In November 2005 we held a conference for the 55 national projects showcasing what works. Among those we heard from were teenage fathers, parents with mental health and substance abuse problems, parents with a disability and rural families who were getting parenting programmes for the first time.

In November we began work on Round Two of the Fund. It runs from 2006-8 and concentrates on 23 localities only with no national grants. Two areas of work have been added. Firstly, support for projects that fit the Government's Respect agenda, for example working with the parents of challenging teenagers. Secondly, work with parents on their couple relationship as we know this can make a radical difference to children. .

The fund available for Round Two is just over £14m and by March 2006 we had received more than 600 applications. These will be assessed in April by PricewaterhouseCoopers and a shortlist of recommendations will be reviewed by our independent grants advisory panel. The panel is made up of experts in the field and NFPI Trustees. Final recommendations will be made by the panel to the DfES and projects should get underway in the autumn of 2006.

The message from parents is how much they welcome the opportunity to learn together with others and what a boost it gives them to know others have problems, too.

“ With the Parenting Fund (project) what was really good for me was that someone was on my side. I'd been fighting this battle on my own, holding all this stuff together. They were really empowering, saying 'Look at all you've done, look at what you do now and how you've coped' ”



Parent information sessions in schools

The model we piloted in schools for information sessions on child development and local services for parents has influenced government to roll out a version of the programme nationally. Our handbook and CD-ROM for practitioners wishing to adopt the model is spreading the word and available through our website.



Influencing practice

The Institute publishes toolkits and studies, supports practitioners and service providers and helps them develop effective family and parenting services. This year has seen the publication of:

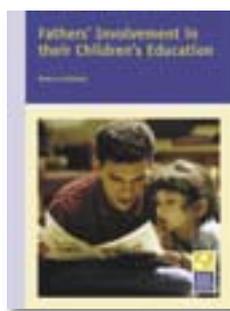
Cultural Competence in Family Support: A Toolkit for Working with Black, Minority Ethnic and Faith Families

A very well received toolkit which clearly presented a set of practical materials to help practitioners working with Britain's marginalised and/or racialised families in need. Covering developments in social work theories and with in-depth factsheets on the major religions, it explores the meanings of culture, family and discrimination.

Fathers' Involvement in their Children's Education

A major report and the most comprehensive look to date at UK fathers' involvement in their school-aged children's learning and education. It asks:

- ✦ To what extent are fathers involved in both mainstream education and family learning programmes?
- ✦ What approaches are schools and family learning programmes using to involve fathers and overcome barriers?
- ✦ What are the implications for policy and education practice?



Every Child Matters: getting it right

The Institute's publication, *Implementation of the Every Child Matters Green Paper*, reviewed the events that had taken place since the publication of *Every Child Matters* and provided a comprehensive overview of the major changes that have occurred.

We carried out research for the Department for Education and Skills examining how aspects of Every Child Matters had been implemented and gauging the success:

- 

Linking up Directories of Children's Services focused on the ways in which and the extent to which local authorities are meeting the *Every Child Matters* requirements of providing a comprehensive and up to date directory of local services which is accessible to parents, professionals, children and young people.
- 

Best Practice for Family Support Services in Children's Centres and Extended Schools which investigated the methods used by Children's Centres and Extended Schools in the provision of family support services, reaching "hard to reach" families and the perceived "added value" of integrated services. This project is still ongoing.
- 

Best Practice in Parent's Involvement in their Children's Education a project supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aimed to identify and disseminate best practice in parental involvement in schools and education.
- 

Best Practice in Developing Local Parenting Support was supported by the DfES and used the experiences of areas with services supported by the Parenting Fund to identify best practice models for developing parents' services.



Listening to parents and making their voices heard

Our research and activities are firmly grounded in the real world. We listen to what parents say and empower them to have their opinions heard at the very highest of levels.

Making parents' voices heard

Since our inception, one of our most important roles has been to make the voices of parents heard. We have urged government to consult properly with parents when considering policy with family implications and, thanks to our pressure, consultations with parents are taking a central role in the policy making process.



Listening to parents

In order to make sure that our work addresses the concerns and issues that really affect parents and offers them practical advice that they can use, we hold focus groups for parents, invite them to comment on our work and enable them to get involved in the policy making process. During Parents' Week, for example, nearly 500 parents responded to a questionnaire asking about their views on television parenting programmes. The information given was used as part of a report to a seminar organised with the NSPCC which looked at the reach and role of such programmes.



Parents' Panel

The 706 members of our Parents' Panel give us feedback on our campaigns and literature and help to keep our material relevant to the needs of parents today. They attend events we hold and take part in our discussions and debates and our members are recruited through our website and through our literature and events.

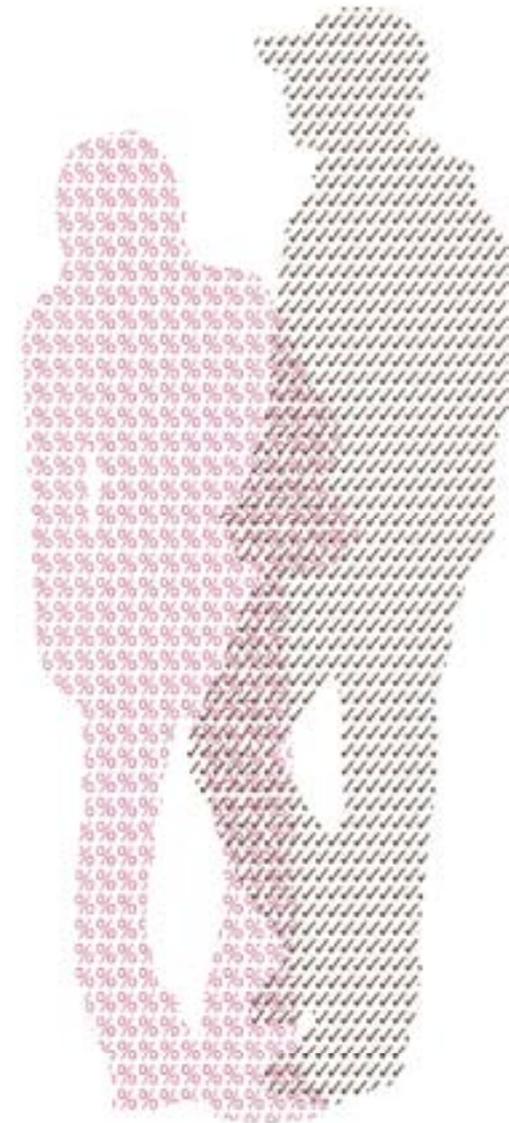
This year, over one hundred members contributed their advice and tips to our Family Friendly Food Guide on a range of subjects including Talking to Your School about Food, Mealtime Troubles and Pester Power. The tip sheets, which can be downloaded from our website, are designed to be used by practitioners in group or one to one settings, or by parents themselves.

Focused discussion groups with parents form a key part in many of our projects. Over the last year, parents have contributed to reports on the Youth Green paper, their views on the Government's developing Respect agenda and they have also inputted to a Ministerial meeting on Trust schools and choice.

Much of what we do would not be possible without our Parents' Panel members giving up their busy time to help us and we thank them all for their time and valuable insight.

Media liaison

We maintain a lively and fruitful relationship with the media and are the first port of call for many journalists for issues relating to families and parenting. Notable coverage last year included the launch of the Family Commission report and our response to the Respect Action Plan. We continue to have a visible presence in mainstream and trade press and use this presence to articulate our views and the views of parents.



Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ending 31 March 2006

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2006 £	Total Funds 2005 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
<i>Voluntary income:</i>				
Donations	500	2,000	2,500	300
<i>Activities for generating funds:</i>				
Interest receivable	114,374	-	114,374	54,310
Rent	3,607	-	3,607	4,673
Incoming resources from charitable activities:				
Contracts	628,017	-	628,017	819,867
Parenting Fund Grants	-	9,806,916	9,806,916	5,498,204
Other Grants - received	783,000	108,918	891,918	974,444
Publications, Subscriptions and Conference	58,351	-	58,351	41,186
Research Consultancy	108,308	-	108,308	26,752
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	1,696,157	9,917,834	11,613,991	7,419,736
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds:				
Fundraising	87,417	-	87,417	74,983
Charitable expenditure:				
Parenting Fund	530,186	10,144,796	10,674,982	5,737,448
Communications and Public Education	244,866	19,826	264,692	290,137
Information to Parents	253,817	16,735	270,552	354,587
Policy and Research	362,754	95,012	457,766	560,711
Governance Costs	36,123	-	36,123	33,522
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	1,515,163	10,276,369	11,791,532	7,051,388
Net Incoming Resources before Transfers:				
Net Income for the Year	180,994	(358,535)	(177,541)	368,348
Transfers between funds	(5,069)	5,069	-	-
Net Movement in funds	175,925	(353,466)	(177,541)	368,348
Total Funds at 1 April 2005	539,085	450,983	990,068	621,720
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2006	715,010	97,517	812,527	990,068

Trustees' statement for summarised accounts

The attached summarised financial statements are not the statutory accounts but have been derived from the audited financial statements, which were approved by the Trustees on 26 October 2006. The full statements have been audited and given an unqualified report. Copies of the full statements have been submitted to the Charity Commission and to the Registrar of Companies.

The summary accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information, the full accounts including the audit report may be obtained from the NFPI.

Approved by the Trustees on
26 October 2006 and signed
on their behalf by:



Fiona Millar, Chair



Kate Green, Treasurer

Balance sheet at 31 March 2006

	2006	2005
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	5,350	21,710
Current Assets		
Debtors	91,237	133,928
Cash at bank and in hand	2,317,347	3,722,217
	2,408,584	3,856,145
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	1,542,407	2,887,787
Net Current Assets	866,177	968,358
	871,527	990,068
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	(59,000)	-
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	812,527	990,068
Funds		
<i>Unrestricted:</i>		
Designated	205,350	151,710
General	509,660	387,375
	715,010	539,085
<i>Restricted</i>	97,517	450,983
	812,527	990,068



Independent Auditor's statement to the Trustees of the National Family and Parenting Institute

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the National Family and Parenting Institute.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial information in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP 2005.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' report. We also read other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1996/6 "The auditors statement" issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and Trustees' report of the NFPI for the year ended 31 March 2006.

Kingston Smith LLP

Chartered Accountants and
Registered Auditors
Devonshire House
60 Goswell Road
London EC1M 7AD

Date: 27 October 2006

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Family and Parenting Institute is the operating name of the National Family and Parenting Institute (NFPI).

NFPI is a company limited by guarantee.

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Registered company number: 3753345.

Registered office: 430 Highgate Studios,

53-79 Highgate Road, London NW5 1TL.

Registered Charity No. 1077444

VAT Registration No. 933024365



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Mary MacLeod
Chief Executive

Richard Allen
Director of Parenting Fund

Clem Henricson
Director of Research
and Policy

Mary King
Director of Finance
and Operations

Lucy Lloyd
Director of Communications
and Fundraising
(From October 2005)

Honor Rhodes
Director of Business
Development
(From October 2006)

Vicki Shotbolt
Director of Communications
and Fundraising
(Until July 2005)

NFPI funders

Albert Hunt Trust
CAFCASS

Calouste Gulbenkian
Foundation
CapGemini

Department for Education
and Skills

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Lloyds TSB Foundation for
England and Wales

Vodafone UK

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(From October 2006)

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(Treasurer until October 2006)

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(Until September 2005)

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(From October 2006)

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Ed Straw

Professor Janet Walker
(Vice Chair)

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(From October 2006)