

# Safeguarding Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Lockdown Fathers: the untold story

During the Spring 2020 lockdown in Britain, fathers spent more time at home with their families than at any point since the Industrial Revolution.

Lockdown Fathers: the untold story, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, details their experiences and their aspirations for ways of working post-pandemic. Fathers want to maintain the balance widely achieved during lockdown of working effectively while parenting their children better.

Drawing on a nationally representative survey-sample of more than 2,000 men with children aged under-12, the study explored the lockdown's impact on physical and mental health (20% reported improvement), relationships with children and partner - and parenting skills. Two-thirds report a better father-child relationship post lockdown, two-fifths feel more confident as parents and better able to support their children's schoolwork, and three-fifths report greater awareness of the importance of fathers spending time with their children. Aspirations include more remote working (63%) and more flexibility in working time (76%).

The majority of fathers in the survey said they emerged from the lock-down experience more confident as parents, in better relationships with their children, understanding them better, and feeling closer to them.

The Fatherhood Institute is a registered UK charity whose work focuses on policy, research and practice to reach their vision of a society where there's a great dad for every child.

You can read more about the 'Lockdown Fathers' report here:

<http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/2021/fathers-seek-more-home-flexible-working-to-maintain-covid-transformation-in-childcare/>



## Black Country FDAC Programme

The Black Country Family Drug and Alcohol Courts (FDAC) programme is a new innovative approach to working with families to support them to keep their children within their care. The programme works with parents who have alcohol or substance misuse issues, which are affecting their ability to provide good enough parenting for their children.



FDAC provides an alternative method of support to help parents achieve abstinence from drugs and alcohol and improve their ability to care for their children.

The parents are supported by a multidisciplinary team, who provide a range of holistic wrap around support. FDAC Judges also have fortnightly reviews with families to support them and track their progress across the 26 week programme. The Black Country FDAC programme works across the areas of Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley with 32 support places available across each year.

You can find more information here: <https://www.changegrowlive.org/black-country-fdac>