

Prepare Enrich Newsletter – Autumn 2009



What we do Matters

Every Family Matters is a major new report on family law reform published in July by the Centre for Social Justice. It builds on earlier work outlining the benefits that marriage can bring (such as the *Family Breakdown* report earlier in the same Breakthrough Britain series), and proposes a stronger endorsement for marriage preparation, and a cooling-off period for couples considering divorce. Earlier in 2009 The Relationships Foundation and 2-in-2-1 produced the report *Building Strong Foundations: The Case for Couple Relationship Education* which demonstrated that it was feasible to develop a resource base that could meet the needs of marriage support in the UK. The newsletter this quarter focuses on some of the ways that we as practitioners can contribute practically to this goal. (*For links, see the end of this newsletter*)

Newsletter Highlights

Spreading the good work – adding more strings to your bow

Seeking new practitioners

New Prepare/Enrich leaflets

Spreading the good work

Many of the practitioners we work with seem to focus on either pre marriage or within marriage work. The options and issues can vary across these applications, but the basic process works well on both.

Now is a good time to work with couples who are getting married next year – the ideal is often 9 to 12 months before the wedding as closer to the planned wedding date the opportunity to step back and take stock reduces.

Working with married couples can be an all the year round activity. It's good to vary couple to couple options with group activity, and use the range of excellent materials available.

We've just produced some new leaflets which can be used to promote and develop both these areas – see below.

We've also been looking at widening the awareness of Prepare/Enrich. Before the summer we approached a number of theological colleges, with a view to developing marriage support capability for ministry. The interest generated is now being followed through. If you would like to be involved with this either at a college you attended or at one geographically local to you, please tell us!

Seeking New Practitioners

Do you know people who would make good Prepare/Enrich practitioners? There's always a need both to grow capacity, and to replace active practitioners who move on to other areas. Do think about this, and let us know if you'd like any information/leaflets that you can pass on to those you identify. If there are four or more potential practitioners in an area we can set up bespoke training.

Our next training events are in

Southampton – Oct 3

Newcastle – Oct 31

West Midlands – Nov 7

Devon – December (date to be confirmed)

New Prepare/Enrich leaflets for marrying and married couples

We've just printed some attractive leaflets suitable for passing on to couples who potentially will use the programme. Over the next months we will include a few of these with the reports we return to you, but if you'd like some in advance or are interested in larger quantities do contact us. (You can see samples on the website under the "Printed materials" section of <http://www.prepare-enrich.co.uk/prac/resources.htm>)

Relationship MOT at Lee Abbey

The next events at Lee Abbey, for both married and engaged couples, are over the weekends of December 4-6 2009, and March 19-21 2010. See the Prepare Enrich web site for more information.

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Find this newsletter at www.prepare-enrich.co.uk/newsletters/Sep09.pdf

Links:

Breakdown Britain reports: <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/default.asp?pageRef=266>

Especially

Every Family Matters:

http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/WEB%20CSJ%20Every%20Family%20Matters_smallres.pdf

Family Breakdown:

<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/family%20breakdown.pdf>

Relationships Foundation: <http://www.relationshipsfoundation.org/>

2-in-2-1 <http://www.2-in-2-1.co.uk/>

Building Strong Foundations: The Case for Couple Relationship Education

<http://www.relationshipsfoundation.org/download.php?id=251>