



Parental and Carer Involvement for Looked After Children: Messages from Research

Kevin Pilkington

k.pilkington@strath.ac.uk



Introduction and Content



- **Who are the parents of looked after children?**
- **What is legal status of the parents of looked after children?**
- **Research messages: what do children and young people want?**
- **Research and parents – what do we know?**
- **What can policies and reports tell us about how parents are viewed?**

Who are the parents of looked after young people?

- Poverty and Looked After Children
- Gender and Looked After Children
- Preparedness of Residential Childcare Staff

Legal Status of Parents Of Looked After Children

Local authorities should work in partnership with families to promote...so far as this is consistent with safeguarding and promoting their welfare (children)...links between children and families (CSA 1995, R and G).

- Welfare Principle
- Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968
- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006
- Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001
- Human Rights legislation.

What do Children and Young People Want?

Young people spoke to us about how vital it is to stay in contact with families and frequently rated it as one of the most crucial standards (Care Commission, 2004).

- Representation of children in research messages?
- They want staff to be committed to work with their families and increased contact.
- Relationships with family linked to 'success'.

What can research tells us about parents?

- **Evidence based practice.**
- **What do we know about parents?**
 - Children's Hearings
 - Care Plans
 - Education
 - Health
- **Ofsted Report (2008) – Parents Views.**

What can policies and reports tell us about how parents are valued?



- **Development of the partnership principle.**
- **Challenges to the partnership principle.**
- **Corporate Parenting – a return to substitute care?**
- **Inquiries into abuse in Residential Child Care – the contribution of parents?**