

SCIE conference 2005: Workshop 4: Supporting families where parents have a mental health problem

Marie Diggins and Mary Sainsbury, Practice Development Managers, Social Care Institute for Excellence, Steve Gilles, Senior Practitioner and Claire Dempster, Family Systemic Psychotherapist, SLAM, Lambeth CAMHS, led the workshop.

The workshop addressed the following issues:

- Describing the parental mental health and child welfare network and its aims and objectives.
- SCIE 's forthcoming work in this area of practice:
 - ❖ A systematic review of evidence and health and social care practice
 - ❖ Developing national guidelines
 - ❖ Promoting evidence based practice
 - ❖ Work on supporting disabled parents.
- Discussing the main issues for parents children and professionals in this area of practice.

The workshop was successful and we encouraged delegates to complete evaluation forms so these will provide useful feedback too.

The key issues from the discussions were that delegates think that SCIE's future work should include:

- a link with direct payments work and promotion of adults with mental illness being empowered to access direct payments for help with parenting
- a regional / rural perspective
- important to enable black and minority ethnic users to engage in the work
- important to address organisational barriers, as the work is not just about individuals' pathologies and needs.