



Home Office

Meeting parents' needs for information: evidence from the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey

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Home Office Online Report 48/04

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Executive summary

Ensuring that all parents have access to the advice and information they require is an important part of supporting parents (Home Office, 1998). However, meeting all parents' requirements for information and advice is a challenging task, particularly in view of the increasing diversity in family structures in England and Wales today. Nevertheless it continues to remain an important policy objective across a number of government departments such as the Department for Education and Skills, the Youth Justice Board and the Department of Health. The 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey (HOCS) allows us to explore some of the issues surrounding need for advice and information across different groups of parents who are of key interest to policymakers. The survey provides information about parents' use and views of both formal sources and informal sources of parenting advice. Formal sources are defined in the HOCS as those provided by organisations such as social services, health services, religious organisations and family charities such as the National Family and Parenting Institute. Informal sources of advice and help are defined as that provided by relatives or friends and neighbours. This report, *Meeting parents' needs for information: evidence from the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey*, presents the findings of further detailed analysis of the data, building upon the initial analysis presented in the main report of the survey, *2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey: people, families and communities* (Home Office, 2003).

Although initial analysis of the 2001 Citizenship Survey found that 89 per cent¹ of parents stated that they were satisfied with the amount and quality of parenting advice available to them, existing research has shown that reported satisfaction with advice and information services does not necessarily mean that services are adequately addressing parents' needs (La Valle, 2000). Further detailed analysis of the data was required to examine whether certain key sub-groups of parents appear to have issues surrounding need for advice and information services. This analysis provides a broad picture of parents' patterns of use of formal and informal sources of parenting advice and information services, their overall satisfaction with existing provision, and identifies whether there appear to be issues surrounding need for services among sub-groups of parents who are of key interest to policymakers.

Key findings

- *Fathers* were less likely than mothers to be aware of, or to have used, at least one formal source of advice and information on bringing up children and were also less likely than mothers to have asked for advice or received regular practical help from informal sources.
- *Younger parents*² were more likely than parents from older age groups to have used both formal and informal sources of parenting advice and information. Younger parents were also more likely than parents from older age groups to have used more than half the formal sources they were aware of.
- *Disabled parents*³ were less likely than able-bodied parents to report being satisfied with the amount and quality of parenting advice and information available. Furthermore disabled parents were more likely than able-bodied parents to mention an aspect of bringing up children on which they wanted further information.

¹ This figure pertains only to those parents who answered the question; it excludes those who responded 'don't know'.

² Aged from 16 to 29 years.

³ Disabled parents are defined as those who reported having a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited their daily activities or the work they could do.

- *Lone parents* were less likely than parents living as a couple to report being satisfied with the advice and information available on bringing up children.
- *Parents with non-resident children*⁴ were less likely than parents with resident children to report being satisfied with the amount and quality of formal advice and information available on bringing up children.
- *Parents from minority ethnic groups* reported levels of satisfaction with the amount and quality of formal parenting advice did not differ significantly from those of White parents. The initial analysis of the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey found that Black parents were more likely to report being dissatisfied with formal sources of parenting support. However, this more detailed analysis of the data shows that these higher rates of dissatisfaction among Black parents can be explained by the higher rates of lone parenthood and socio-economic deprivation within this group.
- *Asian parents*, however, were less likely than White parents to be aware of at least one formal source of parenting advice and information. However, patterns of use by Asian parents suggest that they may have an equal if not greater need for services as they were more likely than White parents to have used more than half of the sources they were aware of. Therefore, increasing Asian parents' awareness of services is crucial to ensure their needs are being addressed.
- *Parents with lower levels of educational qualifications* tended to access both informal and formal sources of parenting advice and information less than parents with higher qualifications. Parents with lower levels of educational qualifications were also less likely to be aware of at least one formal source of parenting advice.

Policy and research implications

This analysis has identified certain groups who may have issues surrounding the need for information and advice services.

- *Fathers, Asian parents, and parents with lower levels of educational qualifications* were less likely to be aware of formal sources of advice and information. The reasons for their lack of awareness need to be more fully addressed by both practitioners and researchers.
- *Fathers and parents with lower levels of educational qualifications* were less likely to use formal sources of parenting advice and information. Further research is needed to explore reasons for this to ensure that parents from these groups are able to access the services they require.
- *Disabled parents, lone parents and parents with non-resident children* were all less likely to report being satisfied with the amount and quality of parenting advice and information available. Further research is needed to explore the reasons for lower rates of satisfaction among these groups.
- *Younger parents* appear to have higher rates of accessing both formal and informal sources of advice. Whilst this does not necessarily reflect greater levels of need among

⁴ Non-resident parents were defined as parents who have children, adopted children or step-children aged under 16 who did not normally live with them (namely more than four nights a week).

this group of parents, further research is required to explore their needs to ensure they have access to the information services they require.

- *Older parents*⁵ were not the focus of this research; however, during the course of the analysis it became apparent that parents from this group were less likely than younger parents⁶ to be aware of or to have received advice and information from formal sources. They were also more likely to respond 'don't know' when asked whether they were satisfied with the amount and quality of parenting advice and information available, which perhaps reflects a lack of engagement with existing services. Furthermore, they appear to access informal sources of advice and regular practical help less than parents from younger age groups. Further research is needed to explore the reasons for the lack of awareness and engagement with parenting advice services amongst older parents to ensure that there are not unmet needs for advice and information amongst this group of parents.

⁵ Defined here as parents aged 50 years and above.

⁶ Aged between 16 and 29 years.

Introduction

Supporting parents is a key element of the Government's remit, as existing research has shown that supporting parents can produce a range of positive outcomes for children, parents and the wider community (Little and Mount, 1999). Providing information and advice on bringing up children is an important part of supporting parents, though meeting parents' needs for information and advice is a challenging task, particularly given the variation in family structures in England and Wales today. However, it is important to retain this as a policy objective and to try and ensure that all parents have access to the information and advice services they require. The 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey (HOCS) allows us to explore some of the issues involved in meeting needs for information and advice across different categories of parents including minority ethnic parents, parents with non-resident children and disabled parents.

The 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey comprises a nationally representative sample of 10,015 people in England and Wales and an additional sample of 5,640 people from minority ethnic groups. The Survey addressed five key themes.

- What it means to be a good citizen.
- Perceptions of prejudice and discrimination.
- People's involvement in their neighbourhoods and communities.
- Active participation in communities.
- Family networks and parenting support.

The section on parenting support was intended to provide a general picture of patterns of use of advice and information services across different categories of parents. The section contained seven questions on informal and formal sources parents use. The two questions on informal sources of advice and help were:

- which, if any, friends or relatives parents had asked for advice or information on bringing up children in the past 12 months; and
- from which, if any, friends or relatives parents had received regular practical help (such as childcare, transport or help with domestic tasks) with bringing up children in the past 12 months.

The following five questions examined parents' use and satisfaction with formal sources of advice.

- Which, if any, formal sources of advice and information parents were aware of.
- From which, if any, of these formal sources parents had received advice or information on bringing up children in the past 12 months.
- Which, if any, of these formal sources parents would prefer to use if they needed advice or information on bringing up children.
- How satisfied or dissatisfied parents were overall with the amount and quality of advice and information available for bringing up children.
- Which aspects of bringing up children, if any, parents would like more information about.

Overall the initial analysis of the data showed that 89 per cent of parents who answered the question were satisfied with the amount and quality of parenting advice available to them. However, existing research indicates that parents' requirements for information and advice

services are more complex and that reported satisfaction with services does not necessarily mean that parents' needs are being adequately addressed (La Valle *et al.*, 2000). Therefore further detailed analysis of the data was undertaken to examine patterns in parents' access to both formal and informal sources of parenting advice, to identify whether there appeared to be any issues surrounding requirements for information and advice services among some groups of parents.

This report, *Meeting parents' needs for information: evidence from the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey*, presents the findings of this further detailed analysis, building upon the initial analysis of the data presented in the main report of the survey, *2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey: people, families and communities*. Using multivariate analysis techniques (logistic regression)⁷ the research examined whether certain groups of parents identified as being of key interest to policymakers appeared to have particular issues in accessing the information and advice they require on bringing up children. Whilst it is not possible to establish whether existing information and advice services are fully addressing parents' needs using the data from the 2001 Survey alone, this report is intended to act as a discussion paper and identify groups of parents for whom there may be issues surrounding their need for advice and information services.

⁷ For further details regarding the methodology please refer to Appendices 2 and 3.

Meeting parents' needs for information: evidence from the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey

Parents' needs for information and advice on bringing up children are complex and influenced by a variety of factors. It is not possible to accurately determine whether parents' requirements are being met by existing services using data from the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey (HOCS) alone. However, the data do allow us to gain an overall picture of patterns in use of informal and formal sources of information and advice across different categories of parents and to identify whether there may be particular issues surrounding the need for and access to services among some groups of parents.

This section examines whether there appear to be particular requirements for information and advice services among the following key groups of parents identified as being of interest to policymakers.

- Younger parents (16 to 29 years of age).
- Fathers.
- Disabled parents.
- Lone parents.
- Parents with non-resident children.
- Minority ethnic parents.
- Parents with lower levels of educational qualifications.

The section looks at patterns of accessing both formal and informal sources of advice and information within in each group. In terms of use of informal sources, the section specifically examines:

- whether parents had asked for advice or information on bringing up children from friends or family in the past 12 months; and
- whether parents had received regular practical help (such childcare, transport or help with domestic tasks) with bringing up children from family and friends in the past 12 months.

In terms of patterns of accessing formal sources, the section examines:

- whether parents were aware of at least one formal source of advice and information on bringing up children;
- whether parents had received any advice and information on bringing up children from at least one formal source in the past 12 months;
- whether parents had used more than half the formal sources of advice and information that they were aware of;
- whether parents mentioned an aspect of bringing up children that they would like more information on; and
- whether parents were satisfied with the amount and quality of advice and information on bringing up children.

Based upon this information, the section goes on to identify those groups of parents among whom there may be issues surrounding need for advice services and areas for further research.

Younger parents (16 to 29 years of age)

This analysis of the 2001 HOCS suggests that younger parents exhibit greater levels of use of both informal and formal advice and information sources. In terms of informal support, the analysis found that younger parents were more likely to have asked for advice or to have received regular practical help with bringing up children (such as childcare, transport or help with domestic tasks) from family and friends than parents from older age groups.

In terms of formal sources of parenting advice and information, younger parents were also more likely than parents in older age groups to have received advice and information from at least one formal source of parenting advice or to have received advice and information from more than half of the formal sources they were aware of. They were not significantly more likely to report being dissatisfied with existing information services than parents from older age groups.

The apparently higher rates of engagement with informal and formal sources of advice could indicate that there is a greater need for advice and information services amongst this group. Further detailed research is needed to establish whether the reported higher rates of receipt of advice and information among younger parents reflect a genuine greater need for provision among parents from this group.

Fathers

The National Family and Parenting Institute's (2001) mapping exercise of family services in England and Wales found few parenting support services specifically for fathers. Yet there is increasing evidence that promoting fathers' involvement in childcare can enhance developmental outcomes for children (Ghate *et al.*, 2000). However, despite the benefits that fathers' involvement in childcare can bring, Lewis (2000) found that men appear reluctant to use advice services and that their tendency not to discuss parenting problems was compounded by the fact that the services are often targeted at mothers.

This analysis of data from the 2001 HOCS found that fathers were less likely than mothers to have received advice and information from both formal and informal sources. In terms of formal sources of parenting advice, fathers were less likely than mothers to be aware of or to have received advice or information from at least one formal source of advice. They were also more likely to respond 'don't know' when asked whether they were satisfied with the amount and quality of parenting advice and information available, which perhaps reflects a lack of engagement with existing services. In terms of informal sources of support, fathers were significantly less likely than mothers to have asked for advice or to have received regular practical help with bringing up children from friends or family.

Although fathers were less likely than mothers to engage with both informal and formal sources of advice and information, and are less likely to report requiring further information, it should not be assumed that fathers have no need for advice and information services. Further research is required to explore fathers' needs for information and advice services in greater detail and more specifically their levels of awareness of and engagement with existing services.

Disabled parents

The 'Supporting Families' document (Home Office, 1998) stated that the Government aims to ensure all parents have access to the advice and support that they need, including parents who have some type of disability. However, there is a paucity of information regarding disabled parents' needs for advice and information services and the types of support available to them. The 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey helps to address this knowledge gap by providing a

broad picture of disabled parents' patterns of accessing both informal and formal sources of advice.

The Survey found that disabled parents had similar rates of receipt of both informal and formal advice and information to those of able-bodied parents. In terms of informal sources of support, there were no significant differences in the likelihood of disabled parents and able-bodied parents having requested advice or received regular practical help with bringing up children from family and friends in the previous 12 months. There were also no significant differences between able-bodied and disabled parents in terms of the likelihood of them being aware of or having received information from at least one formal source of parenting advice. However, disabled parents were less likely than able-bodied parents to report being satisfied with the amount and quality of parenting information and advice and were more likely than able-bodied parents to mention an aspect of bringing up children on which they wanted more information.

Although reported levels of dissatisfaction and further requirements for advice and information do not necessarily reflect greater levels of need, the findings from this survey indicate that there may be issues surrounding need for advice and information amongst parents from this group. Further research is needed to explore disabled parents' requirements for advice and information.

Lone parents

The past 30 years has seen a rapid rise in the number of lone parent families (McRae, 1999). In 2000-01, 26 per cent of families with dependent children in Great Britain were headed by a lone parent, three times higher than 1971 (Office for National Statistics, 2002). Lone parents may have specific requirements for information and advice services as they lack a cohabiting partner with whom to share the responsibility of bringing up children. Research also suggests that lone parents can have more limited family and social networks to draw upon for informal support (Ghate and Hazel, 2002) and are more likely to be experiencing poverty. A lack of both social and familial networks and financial resources may mean that lone parents have different requirements in terms of advice and information services.

This analysis of the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey found that there were no significant differences between parents who were living in couple households and lone parents in terms of having requested advice or received regular practical help from informal sources, such as friends or family. In terms of their use of formal sources, again there were no significant differences in the likelihood of lone parents or parents living in a couple household being aware of or having received information from at least one formal source of parenting advice or information in the previous 12 months.

However, lone parents were less likely than parents who were living in couple households to report being satisfied with the advice and information available on bringing up children. Whilst this in itself does not mean that current services are not meeting lone parents' needs, specific, further research is required to examine whether lower levels of satisfaction reflect problems surrounding needs for advice and information services.

Parents with non-resident children

Contact between parents and their children is different when they are no longer co-resident and may be restricted by psychological, social, financial or geographical constraints (Burghes, Clarke and Cronin, 1997). Research by Simpson *et al.*, (1995) has indicated that due to the specific difficulties they face, non-resident parents, and in particular non-resident fathers, have different needs from other parents. Hence their requirements for advice and information may be very different.

This analysis of the 2001 HOCS results found that there were no significant differences between parents with non-resident children and those with only resident children in terms of their requests for advice from informal sources or their awareness and receipt of information and advice from formal sources. Parents with non-resident children were also no more likely than parents with only resident children to mention an aspect of bringing up children on which they would like further information.

However, parents with non-resident children were less likely to report being satisfied with the amount and quality of advice on bringing up children available to them than other parents. This suggests that there may be an issue surrounding needs for advice and information services among this group; further research is needed to explore this.

Minority ethnic parents

Previous research has indicated that minority ethnic parents are more likely to be interested in, or open to, using parenting support services. The MORI (2001) survey found that parents from minority ethnic groups tended to be more open to the need for information and advice about bringing up children; Moorman and Ball (2001) found that parents from ethnic minority groups were more likely to say that they might use 'parental support services'. However, the NFPI (2001) mapping exercise found that there were few services targeted specifically at minority ethnic parents. Furthermore, minority ethnic parents were less likely to access the services that were generally available (Moorman and Ball, 2001).

This analysis of the 2001 HOCS found that in terms of use of informal sources of advice and help, there were no significant differences in the likelihood of parents from minority ethnic groups and White parents having requested advice with bringing up children from family and friends. In terms of receiving practical help from informal sources, only Chinese/other parents were significantly less likely than White parents to have received regular practical help from family and friends. This analysis also found that having a mother in the UK appeared to be a significant factor as to whether parents accessed informal sources of advice. Those with mothers outside the UK were less likely to have requested advice or received regular practical help with bringing up children from informal sources. As parents from minority ethnic groups may be disproportionately likely to have a mother outside the UK, their access to informal advice may be limited; however, further research is needed to explore this.

In terms of formal services, there were no significant differences between parents from minority ethnic groups and White parents with regard to having used at least one formal source of parenting advice. Asian, Black and Chinese/other parents were all more likely than White parents to have used more than half the formal sources they were aware of. However, Asian parents were less likely than White parents to be aware of at least one formal source of parenting advice.

In terms of satisfaction with formal services, there were no significant differences between levels of reported satisfaction amongst parents from minority ethnic groups and White parents. Nor were there any significant differences in the likelihood of parents from minority ethnic groups and White parents mentioning an aspect of bringing up children on which they wanted further information. Earlier descriptive analysis (Home Office, 2003) found that Black parents were significantly more likely than White parents to report being dissatisfied with available parenting advice. However, once factors such as lone parenthood and having a non-resident child were controlled for, this difference between Black and White parents was no longer statistically significant.

Although minority ethnic parents had similar rates of access to and satisfaction with formal and informal sources of advice and information, the lack of awareness of services among Asian parents needs to be examined. Furthermore, it should not be assumed from the results of this analysis that because minority ethnic groups appear to report similar rates of satisfaction with services as White parents, their needs for information do not differ.

Parents with lower levels of educational qualifications

Parents with lower levels of qualifications may have difficulty in accessing advice and information services for a variety of reasons; for example, lower levels of education may mean that written information is less accessible to them. Overall, this analysis⁸ found that level of education was strongly associated with accessing both informal and formal sources of information and advice on bringing up children. Parents with no qualifications were significantly less likely than parents with higher levels of education to have requested advice or received regular practical help with bringing up children from family and friends in the past 12 months. In terms of their awareness of and receipt of information from formal sources of support, parents with no qualifications were also less likely than parents with higher levels of qualifications to be aware of or to have received advice from at least one formal source of parenting advice.

In terms of their satisfaction with available services, parents with qualifications above A-level were less likely than parents with no qualifications to report being satisfied with the amount and quality of available parenting advice. Parents with qualifications above A-level were also more likely than those with lower levels of education to mention an aspect of bringing up children on which they would like more information.

Although parents with qualifications above A-level were less likely to report satisfaction with the amount and quality of advice services than parents with no qualifications, it should not be assumed that these groups have a relatively greater need for advice and information. The findings show that better educated parents have more engagement with formal services, therefore they may be more able to report whether they are satisfied with the quality and amount of what is available. This analysis suggests that this may be the case as parents with higher levels of education were less likely than parents with lower levels of qualifications to respond 'do not know' to the question regarding their satisfaction with the amount and quality of services. Further research is needed to explore the reasons for apparently lower levels of engagement with both formal and informal sources of parenting advice among parents with lower levels of education to determine whether there are unmet or specific needs amongst this group of parents.

Conclusion

Overall, our analysis found that mothers, younger parents and parents with higher qualifications were more likely than other parents to use both informal and formal advice sources and were more likely to mention an aspect of bringing up children on which they would like further information. Of these groups, younger parents were more likely to have used more than half the sources they are aware of. This may reflect the fact the majority of services are targeted at this group or it could suggest a greater need for advice and information amongst this group. Further research is required to examine whether demands for services amongst younger parents equate to greater levels of need within this group.

This analysis has also highlighted certain groups of parents who are less likely to be aware of formal sources of parenting advice. Fathers, parents with no qualifications and Asian parents were all less likely than other groups of parents to be aware of formal sources of parenting advice. Fathers and parents with no qualifications were also less likely use both formal and informal sources of advice and information. Further research is required to explore the reasons for lack of awareness and use of services amongst these groups.

⁸ Level of education is highly correlated with socio-economic group (NSSEC) therefore class was controlled for in the analysis.

The research has also highlighted lower levels of satisfaction with the amount and quality of advice and information on bringing up children among parents with qualifications above A-level, non-resident parents, disabled parents and lone parents. Lower levels of reported satisfaction with existing advice and information services among these groups do not necessarily mean that they have unmet needs (particularly in the case of better educated parents). However, in the case of non-resident parents, lone parents and disabled parents, there is evidence from other research to suggest that these groups experience difficulty in accessing the parenting services they require (Ghate and Hazel, 2002). Further research is required to investigate requirements for advice and information services among these groups to ensure that services are addressing their needs.

Although older parents (aged 50 years and above) were not the focus of this research, during the course of the analysis it became apparent that parents from this group were less likely than younger parents to be aware of or to have received advice and information from formal sources. Furthermore they appear to access informal sources of advice and regular practical help less than parents from younger age groups. Further research is needed to explore the reasons for the lack of awareness and engagement with parenting advice services amongst older parents to ensure that there are not unmet needs for advice and information amongst this group of parents.

Appendix A. 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey methodology

The Home Office Citizenship Survey was carried out for the first time in 2001 and in future will be carried out every two years. The survey for 2001 will provide a baseline and later surveys will provide trend data. Together the survey findings will be used to inform the Government about the development, implementation and measurement of policies about racial equality, community cohesion and civil renewal.

The questionnaire covers five core areas of activity: family policy, active community, racial prejudice, social capital and rights and responsibilities.

The 2001 survey had a nationally representative sample of 10,015 people aged 16 and over living in private households in England and Wales⁹. The response rate was 68 per cent.

It had a minority ethnic booster sample of 5,460 people. This was drawn by using a combination of two approaches.

- Over-sampling in areas where, according to the 1991 Census, greater than 18 per cent of households contained people from minority ethnic groups.
- Focused enumeration – sampling at households three doors either side of each household drawn in the main sample, where households contained people from minority ethnic groups.

In all, the Citizenship Survey gathered information from 6,109 people from minority ethnic groups. It is the largest survey of its kind from minority ethnic groups undertaken in England and Wales and will examine differences between individual minority ethnic groups and between minority and majority ethnic groups.

A consortium of BMRB and IPSOS/RSL conducted the interviews between March and September 2001. Interviews lasted approximately one hour and were conducted using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).

Due to methodological and contextual differences data from the Citizenship Survey are not strictly comparable with those from other surveys.

Data set out in the text are based upon analysis of the 4,685 parents in the full combined sample of 15,475 people from the nationally representative and minority ethnic booster samples.

The 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey Technical Report, which contains a detailed discussion of the methodological issues, is available on request from citizenship.survey@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

⁹ Selected by random probability without replacement stratified by minority ethnic density, population density, non-manual head of household and unemployment.

Appendix B. Analysis methodology

This research used multivariate analysis techniques to assess which, of a selection of relevant independent variables, were statistically relevant to a given indicator or dependent variable when all other variables under consideration were taken into account. For example, the initial descriptive analysis presented in the main report of the survey showed that Black parents were more likely than White parents to report being dissatisfied with the amount and quality of parenting support available. Multivariate analysis enabled us to determine whether this relationship remains true after other factors, such as whether parents have non-resident children, are taken into account.

Some key indicator variables were chosen from the questionnaire. As all the indicator variables were dichotomous, binary logistic regression was the most appropriate multivariate analysis tool to use (linear regression analysis cannot be used in this situation because when the dependent variable can only have two values the assumptions necessary for linear regression are violated). Most of the questions from the family module of the questionnaire resulted in categorical variables on the dataset and these were converted into simpler binary variables that could be analysed using the logistic regression procedure. In choosing these indicator variables it was necessary to ensure that there were reasonable numbers of parents in each of the two categories.

The final indicator variables chosen for analysis were as follows:

1. Whether received advice on bringing up children from friends and family in past 12 months.
2. Whether received regular practical help with bringing up children from friends and family in past 12 months.
3. Whether aware of at least one formal source of advice on bringing up children.
4. Whether received advice and information on bringing up children from at least one formal source in past 12 months.
5 ^a . Whether received advice and information from more than half the formal sources of advice on bringing up children that they were aware of in the past 12 months.
6. Whether mentioned an aspect of bringing up children that they would like more information on.
7. Whether satisfied with the amount and quality of advice and information available on bringing up children.
8 ^b . Whether answered 'don't know' when asked if satisfied with the available advice on bringing up children.

Notes:

^a Variable 5 looks at parents' propensity to use the sources that they are aware of.

^b Variable 8 is included because 15 per cent of parents answered don't know to this question so it is possible that this could be an indicator of lack of engagement with services.

The final choice of independent variables was determined both by background knowledge from initial descriptive analysis of the data and information from other research in this area. Weights were not used in the modelling procedure but in order to control for the way the sample was constructed, the variables used to construct the weights were always included in the regression analysis (see Block 1 in Table B.1).

Table B.1: The full set of independent variables used in the final model

Block	Variable	Variable description
1. Design	Stratum	Which design stratum the respondent is from.
	Boost	Whether the respondent is in the boost sample.
	No. of adults in hhold	Number of adults in the household.
	Acorn 3	Acorn classification collapsed into just 3 categories.
	GORcat	Government Office Region (recoded to have London as last category)
2. Demographic	Agep	Age of parent (3 age bands)
	Gender	Sex
	Ethnicity	Five categories of ethnicity
3. Socio-economic	Education	Highest level of education (recoded into 3 categories)
	NSSEC	NSSEC recoded into 3 categories. (Note that since the design variables include an ACORN area classification, the NSSEC variable represents an <i>additional</i> household within area socioeconomic effect.)
4. Household/family	Lonep	Whether a lone parent.
	Nonres	Whether a parent reports a non-resident child.
	Mother in UK	Whether parent has a mother either within the household or outside the household but inside the UK
	LLTI	Whether parent is disabled i.e. has a limiting long-term illness.

The following tables present the results of the logistic regression analysis and set out the odds ratios for each of the variables. Logistic regression provides a measure of how each of the dependent variables is related to the independent variables. If an odds ratio is less than one, it means there is a negative relationship between the two variables: as one goes up, the other goes down. An odds ratio greater than one means there is a positive relationship between the two variables: as one rises so will the other. Very large odds ratios indicate that the relationship is strongly positive. Very small odds ratios indicate the relationship is strongly negative.

Appendix C. Tables of results from logistic regression models

Table C.1: Whether asked for advice or information on bringing up children from friends or family in the past 12 months

Block	Variable	Categories	Odds ratios
Design variables	Stratum	0 (reference)	1.000ns
		1	1.006ns
		2	1.137ns
		3	1.420ns
	Boost No. of adults in hhold	1 (reference)	1.000ns
		2	1.011ns
		3+	0.861ns
	Acorn3	Wealthy areas (reference)	1.000
		Comfortable areas	0.812*
		Less prosperous areas	0.858ns
	GORcat	London (reference)	1.000ns
		NE	0.525**
		NW	0.877ns
		YH	0.755*
		EM	0.789ns
		WM	0.779*
EE		0.754ns	
W		0.679*	
SE		0.747*	
SW		0.666*	
Demographic variables	Gender	Mother is the reference category	0.509***
	AgeP	16-29 (reference)	1.000+++
		30-49	0.460***
		50+	0.262***
	Ethnicity	White (reference)	1.000ns
		Mixed	0.795ns
		Asian	0.966ns
Black		0.757ns	
Chinese/other		0.791ns	
Socio-economic variables	Education	No qualifications (reference)	1.000+++
		Below A-level	1.686***
		Above A-level	2.419***
	NSSEC	Managerial/Professional (reference)	1.000ns
		Intermediate	0.984ns
		Routine/semi-routine Never worked /unemployed/student	0.957ns 0.772*
Family/Household variables	LoneP		1.153ns
	Nonres		0.822ns
	Mother in UK		2.070***
	LLTI		0.830ns
Total N (unweighted)			4662

Significance of difference from reference category *p<0.05 **p<0.01 ***p<0.001

Significance of group of variables +p<0.05 +++p<0.01 ++++p<0.001

Table C.2: Whether received regular practical help with bringing up children such as childcare, transport or help with domestic tasks from friends or family in the past 12 months

Block	Variable	Categories	Odds ratios
Design variables	Stratum	0 (reference)	1.000ns
		1	0.996ns
		2	1.036ns
		3	1.306ns
	Boost No. of adults in hhold	1 (reference)	0.771ns
		2	1.000+++
		3+	1.028ns
	Acorn3	3+	0.650*
		Wealthy areas (reference)	1.000ns
		Comfortable areas	1.041ns
	GORcat	Less prosperous areas	0.972ns
		London (reference)	1.000ns
		NE	0.999ns
		NW	1.087ns
		YH	1.057ns
		EM	0.856ns
WM		0.847ns	
EE		0.849ns	
W		1.040ns	
SE		0.983ns	
SW	0.835ns		
Demographic variables	Gender AgeP	Mother is the reference category	0.770***
		16-29 (reference)	1.000+++
		30-49	0.537***
	Ethnicity	50+	0.212***
		White (reference)	1.000++
		Mixed	0.742ns
		Asian	1.140ns
Black	0.933ns		
Chinese/other	0.646*		
Socio-economic variables	Education	No qualifications (reference)	1.000+++
		Below A-level	1.597***
	NSSEC	Above A-level	1.930***
		Managerial/Professional (reference)	1.000+++
		Intermediate	1.036ns
		Routine/semi-routine	0.801*
Never worked /unemployed/student	0.683**		
Family/Household variables	LoneP		1.266ns
	Nonres		0.773ns
	Mother in UK		2.345***
	LLTI		0.841ns
Total N (unweighted)			4675

Significance of difference from reference category *p<0.05 **p<0.01 ***p<0.001
Significance of group of variables +p<0.05 ++p<0.01 +++p<0.001

Table C.3: Whether aware of at least one formal source of advice and information on bringing up children

Block	Variable	Categories	Odds ratios	
Design variables	Stratum	0 (reference)	1.000ns	
		1	0.997ns	
		2	0.837ns	
		3	1.213ns	
	Boost			1.123ns
		No. of adults in hhold	1 (reference)	1.000ns
		Acorn3	2	0.804ns
			3+	0.671ns
			Wealthy areas (reference)	1.000ns
	GORcat		Comfortable areas	0.867ns
			Less prosperous areas	1.023ns
			London (reference)	1.000ns
			NE	0.925ns
			NW	0.997ns
			YH	0.946ns
			EM	0.865ns
WM			0.847ns	
EE			1.515ns	
W			0.813ns	
SE	1.480ns			
SW	0.857ns			
Demographic variables	Gender	Mother is the reference category	0.610***	
	AgeP	16-29 (reference)	1.000++	
		30-49	0.777ns	
		50+	0.491***	
	Ethnicity	White (reference)	1.000++	
		Mixed	1.691ns	
		Asian	0.520**	
		Black	0.684ns	
Chinese/other		0.574ns		
Socio-economic variables	Education	No qualifications (reference)	1.000+++	
		Below A-level	1.563***	
		Above A-level	2.055***	
	NSSEC	Managerial/Professional (reference)	1.000ns	
		Intermediate	0.863ns	
		Routine/semi-routine	1.011ns	
Never worked /unemployed/student	0.813ns			
Family/Household variables	LoneP		0.716ns	
	Nonres		0.769ns	
	Mother		1.574***	
	LLTI		1.126ns	
Total N (unweighted)			4685	

Significance of difference from reference category *p<0.05 **p<0.01 ***p<0.001

Significance of group of variables +p<0.05 ++p<0.01 +++p<0.001

Table C.4: Whether received advice and information on bringing up children from at least one formal source in the past 12 months

Block	Variable	Categories	Odds ratios	
Design variables	Stratum	0 (reference)	1.000+	
		1	1.327*	
		2	1.291ns	
		3	1.727**	
	Boost No. of adults in hhold	0.998ns		
		1 (reference)	1.000+++	
		2	0.824ns	
	Acorn3	3+	0.554***	
		Wealthy areas (reference)	1.000ns	
		Comfortable areas	0.862ns	
	GORcat	Less prosperous areas	0.927ns	
		London (reference)	1.000*	
		NE	0.542**	
		NW	1.078ns	
		YH	1.061ns	
EM		0.985ns		
WM		0.957ns		
EE		1.212ns		
W		1.020ns		
SE		1.249ns		
SW		1.005ns		
Demographic variables	Gender	Mother is the reference category	0.664***	
		16-29 (reference)	1.000+++	
	AgeP	30-49	0.497***	
		50+	0.332***	
		Ethnicity	White (reference)	1.000ns
			Mixed	0.889ns
			Asian	0.897ns
Black	0.855ns			
Chinese/other	1.159ns			
Socio-economic variables	Education	No qualifications (reference)	1.000+++	
		Below A-level	1.288**	
		Above A-level	1.848***	
	NSSEC	Managerial/Professional (reference)	1.000ns	
		Intermediate	0.990ns	
		Routine/semi-routine	1.105ns	
		Never worked /unemployed/student	1.182ns	
Family/Household variables	LoneP		0.800ns	
	Nonres		1.012ns	
	Mother		1.133ns	
	LLTI		1.193ns	
Total N (unweighted)			4685	

Significance of difference from reference category *p<0.05 **p<0.01 ***p<0.001

Significance of group of variables +p<0.05 ++p<0.01 +++p<0.001

Table C.5: Whether received advice and information from more than half the sources of advice on bringing up children they were aware of, in the past 12 months

Block	Variable	Categories	Odds ratios
Design variables	Stratum	0 (reference)	1.000+
		1	1.069ns
		2	1.292ns
		3	1.946**
	Boost		0.876ns
	No. of adults in hhold	1 (reference)	1.000+++
		2	0.847ns
		3+	0.540**
	Acorn3	Wealthy areas (reference)	1.000ns
		Comfortable areas	0.961ns
		Less prosperous areas	0.925ns
	GORcat	London (reference)	1.000ns
		NE	0.593ns
		NW	1.033ns
		YH	0.924ns
EM		0.887ns	
WM		1.120ns	
EE		0.977ns	
W		0.882ns	
SE		1.060ns	
SW		0.836ns	
Demographic variables		Gender	Mother is the reference category
	AgeP	16-29 (reference)	1.000+++
		30-49	0.520***
		50+	0.480***
	Ethnicity	White (reference)	1.000+++
		Mixed	1.333ns
		Asian	1.827***
		Black	1.473*
Chinese/other		2.944***	
Socio-economic variables	Education	No qualifications (reference)	1.000ns
		Below A-level	0.956ns
		Above A-level	0.938ns
	NSSEC	Managerial/Professional (reference)	1.000+++
		Intermediate	1.272*
		Routine/semi-routine	1.545***
Never worked /unemployed/student	1.682***		
Family/Household variables	LoneP		0.733ns
	Nonres		1.257ns
	Mother		0.809**
	LLTI		1.099ns
Total N (unweighted)			4109

Significance of difference from reference category *p<0.05 **p<0.01 ***p<0.001

Significance of group of variables +p<0.05 ++p<0.01 +++p<0.001

Table C.6: Whether mentioned an aspect of bringing up children on which they would like more information

Block	Variable	Categories	Odds ratios	
Design variables	Stratum	0 (reference)	1.000ns	
		1	0.989ns	
		2	0.935ns	
		3	0.923ns	
	Boost			1.076ns
		No. of adults in hhold	1 (reference)	1.000ns
			2	0.892ns
	3+		0.777ns	
	Acorn3		Wealthy areas (reference)	1.000ns
			Comfortable areas	1.005ns
			Less prosperous areas	0.980ns
	GORcat		London (reference)	1.000+++
			NE	0.635*
			NW	0.605***
			YH	0.751*
		EM	0.789ns	
		WM	0.751*	
		EE	0.789ns	
		W	0.738ns	
		SE	0.740*	
		SW	0.479***	
Demographic variables		Gender	Mother is the reference category	0.732***
	AgeP	16-29 (reference)	1.000+++	
		30-49	0.946ns	
		50+	0.544***	
	Ethnicity	White (reference)	1.000ns	
		Mixed	1.017ns	
		Asian	0.744ns	
		Black	0.914ns	
Chinese/other		1.007ns		
Socio-economic variables	Education	No qualifications (reference)	1.000+++	
		Below A-level	1.621***	
		Above A-level	2.471***	
	NSSEC	Managerial/Professional (reference)	1.000+++	
		Intermediate	0.842*	
		Routine/semi-routine	0.653***	
	Never worked /unemployed/student	0.781*		
Family/Household variables	LoneP		0.935ns	
	Nonres		1.095ns	
	Mother		1.089ns	
	LLTI		1.334**	
Total N (unweighted)			4685	

Significance of difference from reference category *p<0.05 **p<0.01 ***p<0.001

Significance of group of variables +p<0.05 ++p<0.01 +++p<0.001

Table C.7: Whether satisfied with the amount and quality of advice and information available on bringing up children

Block	Variable	Categories	Odds ratios	
Design variables	Stratum	0 (reference)	1.000ns	
		1	1.161ns	
		2	1.427ns	
		3	0.949ns	
	Boost			0.770ns
		No. of adults in hhold	1 (reference)	1.000ns
			2	1.122ns
	3+		0.959ns	
	Acorn3		Wealthy areas (reference)	1.000ns
		Comfortable areas		1.085ns
		Less prosperous areas		1.164ns
	GORcat		London (reference)	1.000ns
		NE		3.020*
		NW		1.145ns
		YH		0.922ns
		EM		0.906ns
WM			1.050ns	
EE			1.051ns	
W			0.772ns	
SE			1.081ns	
SW			1.418ns	
Demographic variables	Gender	Mother is the reference category	0.979ns	
		AgeP	16-29 (reference)	1.000ns
			30-49	0.830ns
		50+	1.195ns	
	Ethnicity		White (reference)	1.000ns
		Mixed		0.883ns
		Asian		0.938ns
		Black		0.800ns
Chinese/other			0.838ns	
Socio-economic variables	Education	No qualifications (reference)	1.000++	
		Below A-level	0.899ns	
		Above A-level	0.646**	
	NSSEC		Managerial/Professional (reference)	1.000+
		Intermediate		0.854ns
		Routine/semi-routine		1.265ns
Never worked /unemployed/student			0.967ns	
Family/Household variables	LoneP		0.615*	
	Nonres		0.608*	
	Mother		0.936ns	
	LLTI		0.708*	
Total N (unweighted)			4129	

Significance of difference from reference category *p<0.05 **p<0.01 ***p<0.001

Significance of group of variables +p<0.05 ++p<0.01 +++p<0.001

Table C.8: Whether answered 'don't know' when asked if satisfied with the amount and quality of advice available on bringing up children

Block	Variable	Categories	Odds ratios
Design variables	Stratum	0 (reference)	1.000++
		1	0.888ns
		2	1.401ns
		3	0.830ns
	Boost No. of adults in hhold	1 (reference)	1.132ns
		2	1.000ns
		3+	1.093ns
	Acorn3	Wealthy areas (reference)	1.421ns
		Comfortable areas	1.000ns
		Less prosperous areas	1.086ns
	GORcat	London (reference)	1.096ns
		NE	1.000+
		NW	0.976ns
		YH	0.580**
EM		0.721ns	
WM		0.957ns	
EE		1.044ns	
W		0.562*	
SE		1.034ns	
SW		0.703ns	
1.158ns			
Demographic variables	Gender	Mother is the reference category	2.208***
	AgeP	16-29 (reference)	1.000++
		30-49	1.391*
		50+	2.032***
	Ethnicity	White (reference)	1.000ns
		Mixed	1.180ns
		Asian	0.857ns
Black		0.875ns	
1.180ns			
Socio-economic variables	Education	No qualifications (reference)	1.000++
		Below A-level	0.777*
		Above A-level	0.648***
	NSSEC	Managerial/Professional (reference)	1.000ns
		Intermediate	0.911ns
		Routine/semi-routine	0.850ns
		Never worked /unemployed/student	0.732ns
Family/Household variables	LoneP		1.567*
	Nonres		0.988ns
	Mother		0.829ns
	LLTI		0.862ns
Total N (unweighted)			4685

Significance of difference from reference category *p<0.05 **p<0.01 ***p<0.001

Significance of group of variables +p<0.05 ++p<0.01 +++p<0.001

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