



## Changing family expectations

Women (as do dads) now expect a good dad to be involved in birth plans, child care and decision-making about children. Most dads think they currently spend too little time with their children and too much time at work. We also know that children want more involvement from their dads<sup>1</sup>.

## Changing services

We know that children are likely to be smarter, healthier and happier if their dads are positively involved. Over the past thirty years, the positive contribution that can be made by dads to child development, welfare and protection has now been established and this can be seen in positive attitudes to schooling, keeping out of trouble and taking care of personal health; the fruits of a positive father contribution can also be seen in children's later-life emotional and social well-being.

So services for children and families will deliver their best when they involve dads. We also know that services that include dads mean that the responsibilities for child care and domestic work don't fall to women alone.

The Scottish government has signalled its interest in developing services for fathers in its [National Parenting Strategy](#). This top level commitment was expressed by the Minister for Children and Young People on Fathers Day 2012:

*Dads being fully involved in their children's lives has all sorts of positive benefits for the wider family and community. However, we need to go further to ensure that as a society we truly value and support dads in the role that they play.*

Let's make this happen.

Now read on for our evidence, successes and the practical ways to build on or develop your services.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Research evidence is available for all our statements, see the end of this foreword for our sources.

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More resources for employers, service providers and families are available at: [www.yearofthedad.org](http://www.yearofthedad.org)

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