

Lifelong Learning Centre



Seminar Series



Why Work with Dads?

Dr. Anna Tarrant and Joe Luscombe

Wednesday 19 October, 6.00—7.30pm

Venue: University of Leeds, School of Music

Interested?

Please register for a place at:

[whyworkwithdads.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.whyworkwithdads.eventbrite.co.uk)

For more information, please contact Georgina Collins on 0113 3436892/g.collins@leeds.ac.uk

Dr. Anna Tarrant will begin the seminar by providing an introduction to the practice, policy and research agenda concerned with engaging men who are fathers. Attention to men's roles in families is only relatively recent on the policy and research agenda. Existing evidence indicates that the value of involved fatherhood is increasingly being recognised, yet fathers continue to be excluded and overlooked at the level of practice and service provision for men remains patchy. Drawing on lessons from research, Anna's presentation will consider how men can be engaged effectively and will introduce new developments at the level of policy, including the establishment of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in Fatherhood and the Fatherhood Development Programme.

Joe Luscombe's presentation will draw from his experiences as a children's social worker and men's group facilitator to consider the current reality of social care engagement for men. Historically, men have been under-involved in family social work interventions. This has often meant that women have borne the majority of the oversight from social workers, and men have been given various simplistic labels in their absence. Joe will consider the reasons for this, and look at the attempts in Leeds to change. He will use the group work programme *Caring Dads* to explore how working in depth with men can impact positively on families and minimise risk.

Dr. Anna Tarrant @dratarrant

Anna Tarrant is a Leverhulme Trust funded Early Career Research Fellow in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. Her current project employs a qualitative longitudinal methodology to examine how men provide care in low-income families. This study builds on research interests in men and masculinities; family life and care; poverty and qualitative longitudinal methods. She is also the Principal Investigator on 'Responding to Young Fathers in a Different Way', a one-year project which involves collaboration with partners from the third and voluntary sector, aiming to develop policy and practice around young fatherhood.

Joe Luscombe

Joe Luscombe has a background as a journalist and a playworker. He qualified as a social worker at the University of Bedfordshire in 2012, and worked in a council children and families team before being seconded to Leeds City Council's Domestic Violence team, where Joe helped launch the Caring Dads project – a 17-week group-based programme for men who have exposed their children to abuse. Joe is currently developing peer-to-peer interventions for men who have completed the Caring Dads programme.

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