



Supporting Families
Strengthening Schools

“The family support worker is proving to be a wonderful asset to the school and her bilingual abilities really help families to engage.”

Anne Banks, Head teacher
The Rosary Catholic Primary School, Birmingham

“She does some brilliant work with some tricky issues and is regarded very much as part of the team.”

Julie Pattison, School's Mentor
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Birmingham

“The benefit of having a positive male role in school and his natural sense of humour makes him very easy to work with and be part of our team.”

Clare Smith, Head teacher
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
Banbury, Oxford

“The Family Support Workers are an invaluable resource for the Catholic community that our school serves. The practical support that both workers afford our families and our school is essential in helping important relationships develop in a fruitful manner.”

We really appreciate the flexibility shown by your worker to work within the daily dynamics of a busy school.”

Paula Kavanagh, DSL / Family Support Lead
Our Lady and St Rose of Lima Catholic Primary School, Birmingham

Garrett Murray, St John Fisher Secondary School,
Newcastle Under Lyme

Family Support can **strengthen** your school

The Family Support Service increases parental engagement with schools, improves pupil behaviour and attendance and boosts pupil attainment. It is delivered by trained professionals with extensive experience of supporting families with multiple and complex needs.

Provided by Father Hudson's Care, Family Support alleviates the workload of teaching and pastoral staff by providing a dedicated worker to suit the requirements of your school. This worker intervenes directly with disengaged families, supporting with wide-ranging problems from first contact through to successful resolution.

Our intensive, tailored support increases willingness to learn, raises aspirations and improves self-esteem, thereby improving attainment and enabling pupils to re-engage with learning. The service promotes positive parental engagement with schools by forming a bridge between the home and the school and improving relationships between schools and families.

The Family Support Workers receive regular supervision, training and support from a Project Manager, who is a qualified Social Worker. The service has successfully delivered Family Support in schools across the Archdiocese of Birmingham, an area stretching from Worcester to Rugby and from Newcastle-under-Lyme to Henley-on-Thames, since 2006.

Our empowering and holistic approach encourages pupils and parents to take responsibility and effect lasting change.

“Without Family Support I would probably have a depressed daughter who didn’t want to go to school.”

Parent of eleven-year-old child



Family Support will **benefit** your school

Vulnerable or challenging children and young people can take up significant amounts of staff time and adversely impact on school targets in areas such as attendance, behaviour and student attainment.

Even experienced pastoral support staff may struggle to deal with the range and complexity of issues they present. Father Hudson's Family Support Workers are a dedicated, professional and experienced resource appointed solely to support such pupils and their families and resolve difficulties. This reduces the amount of time spent by school staff on dealing with disengaged families.

Progress is achieved by building a bigger picture of all factors that may be influencing children's lives, by working with them at home and school and supporting them to assess their own positives as well as needs.

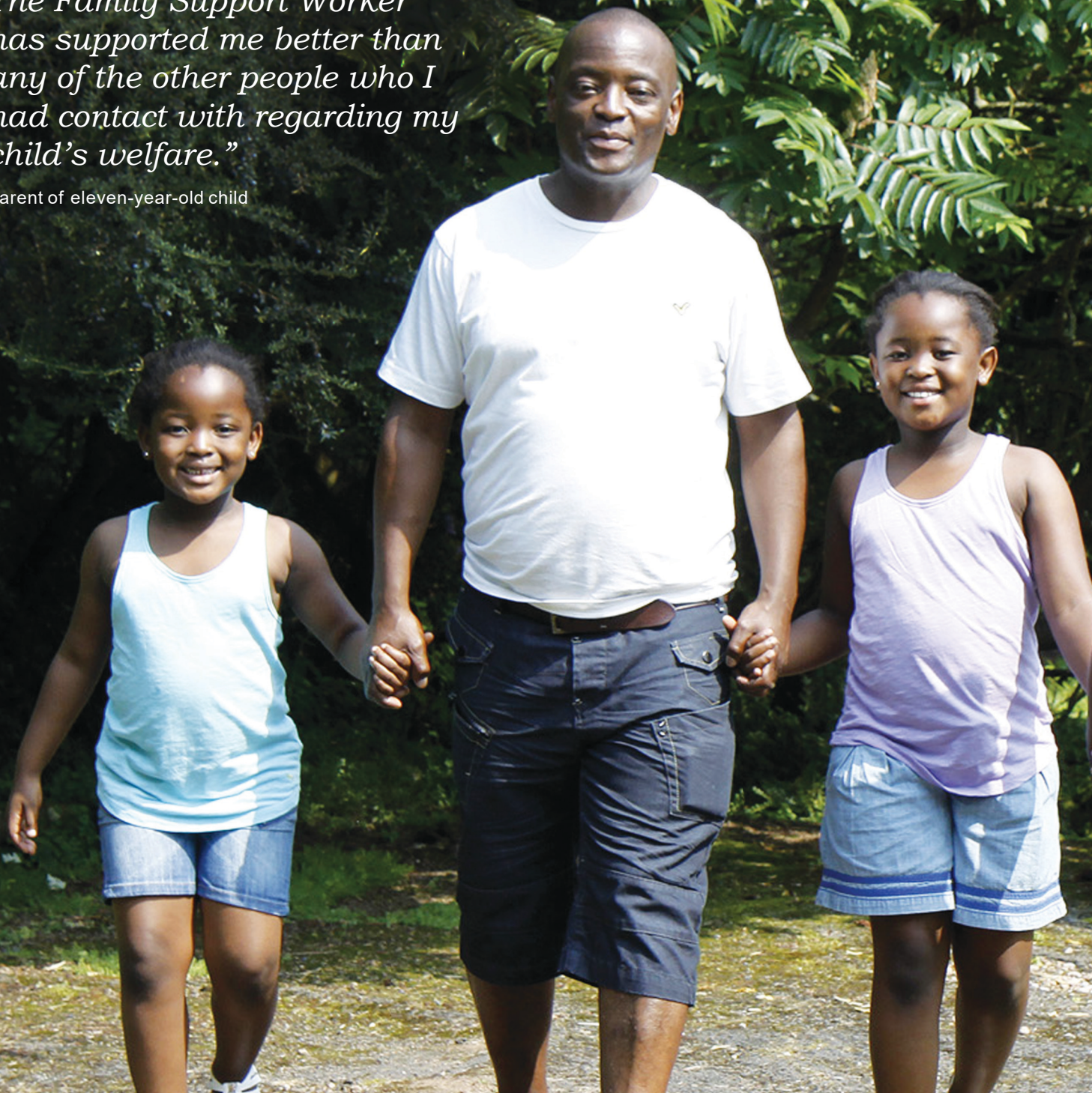
Family Support Workers work closely with parents, teachers and pupils to develop effective strategies to manage and change behaviour.

The intervention of our Family Support Workers has been proven to:

- Improve school attendance
- Improve behaviour at school
- Raise pupil attainment through improved self-esteem and aspiration
- Improve relationships within and between families and schools
- Ensure a smoother transition from primary to secondary school
- Improve parent-child relationships

*“The Family Support Worker
has supported me better than
any of the other people who I
had contact with regarding my
child’s welfare.”*

Parent of eleven-year-old child



Addressing the causes of poor school engagement

Family Support Workers engage and work directly with hard-to-reach families where children and young people are having difficulties at school. Working collaboratively with families and other agencies, they aim to identify and address the underlying causes of poor school engagement.

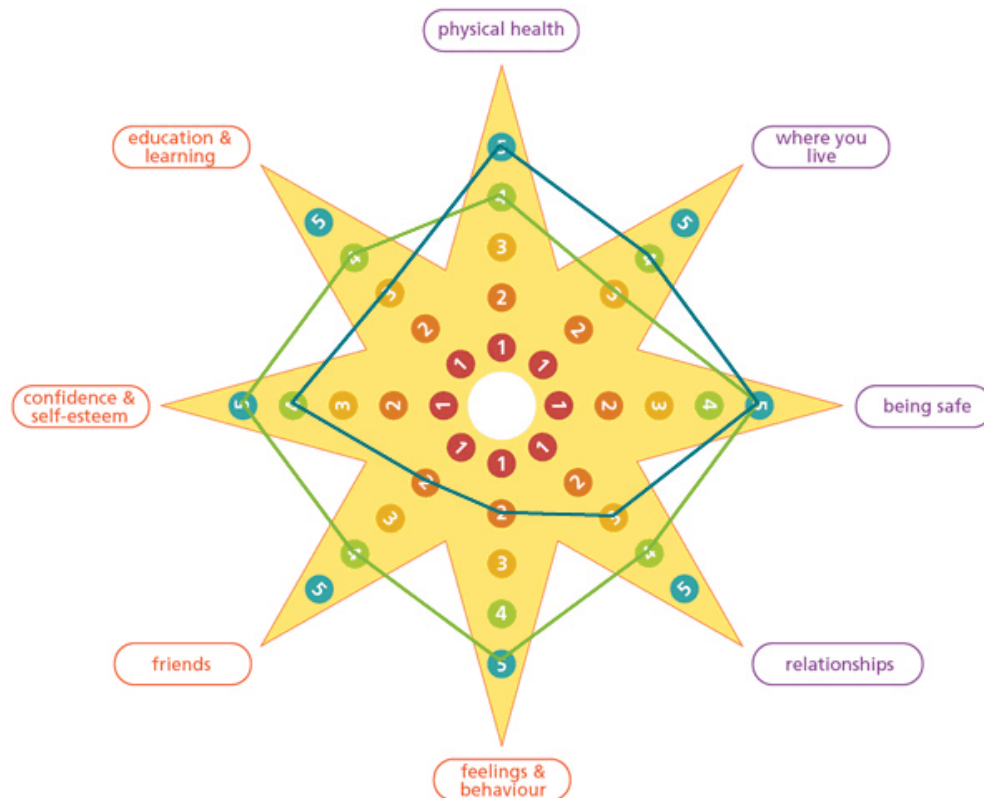
These may include neglect, abuse or substance misuse which can cause anxiety, difficulty concentrating, withdrawal, depression, health issues and academic problems. Family breakdown through separation or divorce, bereavement and parental ill health can lead to anger, mood swings, loss of skills or confidence, depression, poor behaviour and risk taking.

Individual schools may commission one or more days or may pool resources and share the costs as a cluster or multi academy group.

The cost of the service depends on the number of days bought in. Father Hudson's makes an investment in ensuring staff are trained in delivering evidence based interventions. The service can be tailored to meet the needs of your school and can be discussed with us to reach an ideal solution.

By investing in early intervention and prevention, you will witness the positive difference it makes to a child, their wellbeing and educational attainment.

My Star assessment for a primary aged child



Key



First Assessment, 1 May 2015



Second Assessment, 16 Oct 2015

We know Family Support **really works**

Individual progress is measured using the Outcomes Star tool. The support worker will often focus on a few key areas of the pupil's life in which they need support, such as emotional wellbeing as demonstrated in the case example.

First Assessment

Feelings and Behaviour

I feel sad these days and want to be happy again. I don't feel happy all the time.

Confidence & Self-Esteem

I am brave still but sometimes I get nervous.

Education & Learning

I like school but don't like the girls in my class. They are so mean to me for no reason.

Second Assessment, five months later

Feelings and Behaviour

I am happier than before because I am seeing mummy and daddy now. The arguing has stopped a little bit between them. I put my hands on their mouths which sometimes stops them arguing.

Confidence & Self-Esteem

I have been much happier than I was before. I am glad that I am back at this school and seeing mummy.

Education & Learning

I am learning new things at school and have enjoyed learning maths. I like adding because it keeps me calm. I am reading books every night which I am really enjoying. I am getting along with my friends a little bit more.



“For a long time Anna would not speak to me. She became angry with me. She wanted to protect her mum.”

How Family Support helped Anna

Anna was referred to me aged fifteen. Her mum suffered from depression, was alcohol dependant and had been admitted to hospital after self-harming while drunk.

Mum would leave Anna alone at home while she went drinking. When she returned late at night, drunk, Anna had to clean up after her, put her to bed and take care of her. Their relationship was fraught with arguments.

When I began visiting, Anna was reluctant to engage. For a long time Anna would not speak to me. She became angry with me. She wanted to protect her mum.

Anna cooked, did the housework and looked after her mum. Social Services and Young Carer Services were involved but Anna wouldn't work with them. Anna's mum brought strangers back home, including men. Social Services became concerned for her safety.

I continued my visits, delivered food hampers and school uniforms, and offered a friendly ear to listen. After a long time, Anna began to open up. Mum continued to drink.

Over the next year, they were evicted due to rent arrears and rehomed in a shared house. Anna refused to go into foster care as she didn't want to leave her mum. The police were called several times following incidents at the house.

Eighteen months after being referred to me, Anna became subject to a Child Protection decision due to parental neglect. After months of intensive support, she had the confidence to leave her abusive home and enter foster care.

During my involvement, Anna's school attendance increased from below 40% to nearly 100%. Her grades were well below average for her age group. Now, she has graduated from school and entered sixth form where she is studying A-levels. She plans to go to university.

Her self-esteem has improved, she shows better self-care, is happier and healthier. She is able to look after her own needs and seek to improve her future. Anna now sees that she has worth.

Names have been changed to protect identity.



Father Hudson's Care

St George's House, Gerards Way
Coleshill, Birmingham B46 3FG
www.fatherhudsons.org.uk

Contact us today to find out more.
Call 01675 434000

Zena Wedgwood

Schools' Family Support Project Manager
E: zenawedgwood@fatherhudsons.org.uk
T: 07823 526789

Joanne Walthew

Head of Fostering and Schools' Family Support Project
E: joannewalthew@fatherhudsons.org.uk
T: 01675434021/ 07393 237443

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