

Parenting Apart Programme Social Impact Report 2019

Produced by Make an Impact CIC

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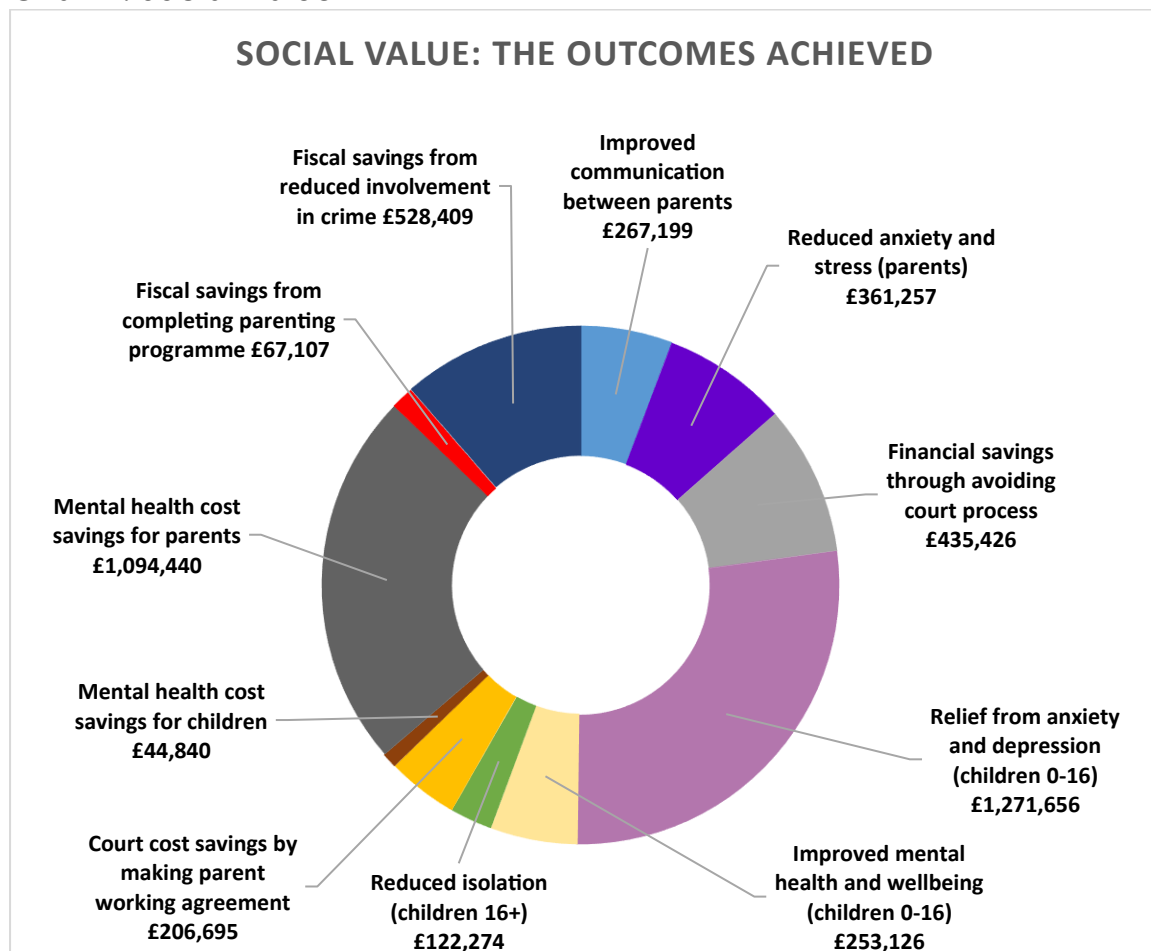
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1 Executive Summary

This report highlights the social value generated by the Parenting Apart Programme (PAP). PAP supports parents who have made the decision to separate or divorce. The programme offers unique and individual advice and support which enables the outcome to be positive and beneficial to the whole family whilst prioritising the emotional and physical wellbeing of the children.

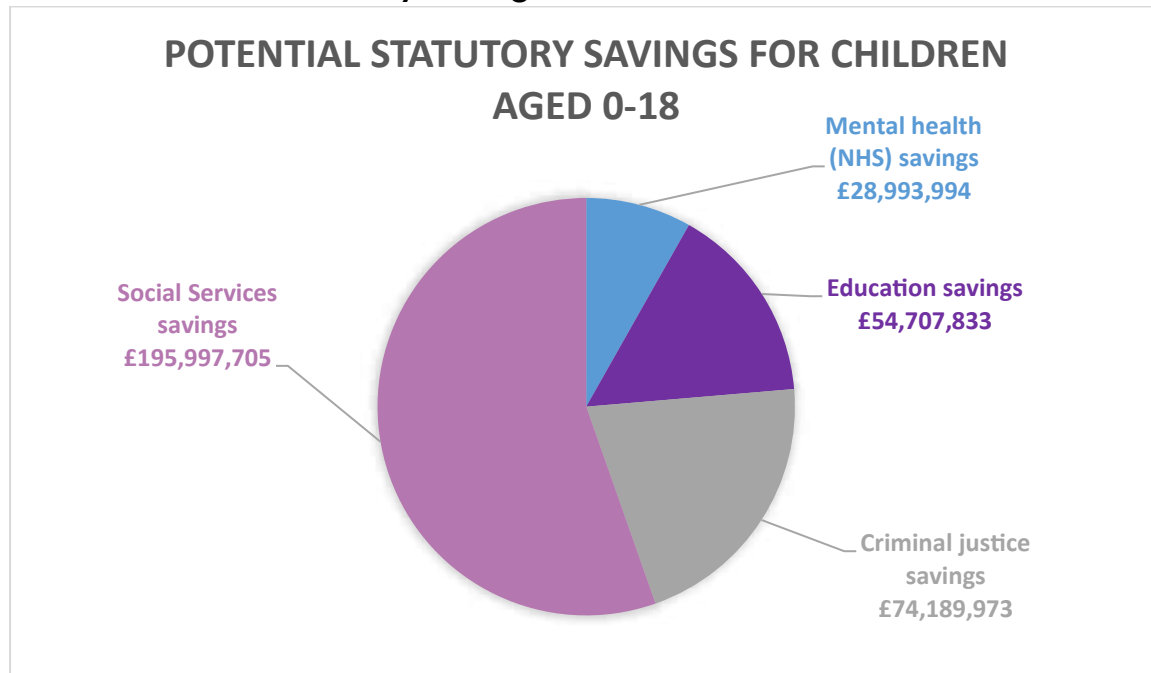
The report shows PAP delivers over £10.2 million of social value. In the year in which the parents attend PAP the social value delivered is over £4.65 million, through a range of outcomes, as shown in Chart 1. This works out at £31,649 of social value per couple that separates or divorces. For every £1 spent delivering the PAP a SROI of £46.52 was generated.

Chart 1: Social Value



As PAP is an early intervention that aims to prevent long-term negative impacts for children's emotional health and wellbeing, this report has calculated the potential total cost savings to statutory agencies if children do not receive support during conflict, separation or divorce, as shown in Chart 2.

Chart 2: Potential Statutory Savings for Children



The following sections summarise the information in this report.

1.1 Scope and Methodology

The report looked at the social value generated from the PAP that Claire Field Consultancy provides.

The report was produced by Make an Impact CIC using a Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology. SROI is carried out using a set of key principles (as defined by Social Value UK) that ensure the process is carried out consistently:

- Involve stakeholders
- Understand what changes
- Value the things that matter
- Only include what is material
- Do not over-claim
- Be transparent
- Verify the results

To ensure the SROI claimed is not overstated it is adjusted for a number of things including:

- Things that would have happened anyway
- Outcomes that won't be sustained
- Services that have been displaced
- Outcomes that are partly attributable to other agencies or organisations

As part of calculating the SROI financial proxies have been used. Standardised figures have been used as much as possible from existing statutory sources and research. Further details of the scope and methodology are available in Section 3.

1.2 The Parenting Apart Programme

The Parenting Apart Programme is a unique service supporting parents, and the emotional wellbeing of children, during conflict, separation and divorce.

The report focused on valuing the following outcomes:

- Improved communication between parents
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Improved mental health and the emotional wellbeing for children
- Reduced costs for statutory agencies (short term associated with the Court process of separation and divorce)
- Reduced costs for statutory agencies (long term from improved mental health and the emotional wellbeing of children, reduced likelihood of having educational issues or being involved in crime, and from being placed in the care system)

1.3 Feedback

Further feedback and case studies are shown in Section 5.

Mother: "We would not be here without the valuable support, guidance, advice and positive energy throughout the Parenting Apart Programme. Seeing our six year old Son flourish and show in various ways his increased sense of security, sense of feeling safe and happiness in the situation of being parented by divorced parents i.e different homes, lifestyle choices, has made me personally feel so much more confident and happier in parenting."

Father: "The Parenting Apart Programme has helped me to work out differences and compromises for the well-being of my son. It's also taught me how to engage with my ex and communicate in a good manner as a baby can pick up on behaviours... I would recommend The Parenting Apart Programme to anyone in the situation I have been in as I now to get to spend quality time with my son which is important for his upbringing."

Case Study from Barrister

“Allow me to give a recent example of success in a case that The Parenting Apart Programme undertook at my instigation: at the hearing on 9/12/13 there were significant arguments over residence, schooling, domestic violence, contact and supervision, and extended to bitterness amongst the extended family members. By 15/1/14, thanks to the resource of The Programme, the parents had agreed residence, change of schools, the setting aside of domestic violence allegations and the progression of contact in the family home to include the extended paternal family, with additional mid-week contact, not to mention a number of detailed agreements about finances and possessions to which the court process would have struggled to respond.

The resource, support, process of The Parenting Apart Programme is invaluable. I only wish I could watch the Family Consultants at work so that I could see how they do it, rather than just seeing the results of their work.”

2 Introduction

2.1 About Claire Field Consultancy

Claire Field Consultancy helps parents work in the best interests of their children, when they are going through conflict, breakdown in communications and/or making the decision to separate or divorce when there is a child or children involved.

Claire Field Consultancy provides specialist and impartial support that is designed to help parents who have made the decision to separate or divorce. The Parenting Apart Programme enables parents to form and develop a good respectful Parent Working Relationship. The support is a real lasting and proven alternative to the costs, time, and emotional damage of litigation.

2.2 Mission

Claire Field Consultancy's mission is to support parents during conflict, separation and divorce in order to minimise the impact on their children's emotional wellbeing and their mental health.

2.3 Vision

The vision for The Parenting Apart Programme is to be available to all parents that are going through conflict, divorce or separation in order to prevent longer term health and emotional wellbeing issues for their children.

2.4 Outcomes

The outcomes that have been included in this report are:

- Improved communication skills
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Financial savings to parents of avoiding full Court process
- Relief from anxiety and depression
- Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Reduced isolation
- Court cost savings
- Mental health services cost savings for children and parents
- Education sector savings through improved child behaviour
- Criminal justice savings from reduced involvement in crime and offending
- Social Services savings from not entering the Care System

3 About this SROI Report

This report covers the Parenting Apart Programme and is based on feedback and evaluations from 2017-19.

This report was produced by Make an Impact CIC, who assisted with the scoping, data analysis and the preparation of this social impact report.

3.1 Scope and Methodology

Claire Field Consultancy has not completed social impact reporting previously, and has chosen to focus on its Parenting Apart Programme, to undertake its first social impact report.

This has been undertaken by focusing primarily on the social value achieved and evidence available from:

- Data from evaluations completed by parents
- Feedback from parents and children
- Feedback from staff and statutory agencies involved in the process
- Case studies

The benefits of this approach are:

As it is the first social impact report it will offer an opportunity to introduce stakeholders to the concept of social value/social impact reporting and assist with future work in this area.

It will offer evidence of where outcomes are very good and where improvements can be made. This will mean Claire Field Consultancy can focus on where they can achieve further social value and use the information to drive what targets are set within the business plan.

3.2 SROI

This report has incorporated a SROI methodology. SROI is a method for identifying, assessing and valuing the impact a particular service has. Typically it is used where the services are commissioned from the public sector, funded by a grant making body or investor in order to provide a cost-benefit analysis, which is presented as a ratio showing how for every £1 invested £46.52 of benefit is produced. This clearly shows whether the intervention is worth investing in or not, and if the costs exceed the benefits, then continuing with the intervention may not be appropriate. It is also used where there are limited resources to help with decision making between different investments and services. Typically, SROI would form one element of a comprehensive investment appraisal system that also considers strategic, financial and other key criteria.

The reason for incorporating SROI, as well as qualitative data, is that it standardises the outcomes of interventions by converting them in to monetary values. SROI can incorporate a number of outcomes including:

Social outcomes – outcomes that primarily impact on individuals
 Economic outcomes – outcomes that lead to increased income for individuals or communities
 Environmental outcomes – outcomes that affect the environment
 Community regeneration outcomes – outcomes that affect communities more widely

SROI is ideal for summarising the impacts and benefits of a service, which can easily be understood by a funder, commissioner or investor.

3.2.1 SROI Principles

SROI is carried out using a set of key principles (as defined by Social Value UK). These principles ask some core questions:

- What are the outcomes, both positive and negative of the activity on stakeholders?
- How were stakeholders involved in determining outcomes, in deciding which impacts to manage and in measuring those?
- How were the outcomes that are going to be managed and reported on prioritised from the probably large number of outcomes that result from an activity?
- Were the outcomes of value to stakeholders and if so of how much value?
- How sure are you that the outcomes result from your activity or from the activity of your organisation and other partners?
- Can you follow the logic, the calculations and see any judgements that were made?

3.2.2 Limitations of SROI

SROI, like all forms of analysis, has limitations. SROI is a relatively new form of analysis, which aims to identify the value of interventions, and their outcomes – many of which are not tangible outcomes but softer, intangible outcomes, such as increased confidence. Each organisation preparing an SROI uses their own valuations, as there are no accepted conventions for valuing outcomes – although there is increasing standardisation of values (see Section 3.2.4). When deciding upon the values to use within SROI a variety of literature are used to identify values that can be used or alternatively valuations are sought from stakeholders (which typically results in higher valuations for outcomes). As a result, SROI ratios cannot be compared, and the case studies and other information become equally important in providing evidence of the effectiveness of a particular organisation or project.

3.2.3 The approach to SROI

The approach taken to the SROI process has followed the general principles (as defined by Social Value UK), and included the following elements:

- Involve stakeholders – stakeholders are key to the SROI process.

Understand what changes – through discussions with stakeholders identify the key changes and differences that the intervention provides.

Value the things that matter after identifying the key changes for the different stakeholder groups, the next step is then to give values to these key changes. Only include what is material – to ensure the SROI is valid and not too complicated, immaterial items have been excluded from the process.

Do not over claim – the SROI has been based on information from the surveys, and outcomes identified by the different stakeholder groups in order to ensure there is no over claiming. Where there are a number of options for the valuations, the highest valuation is not used so that benefits are not overstated.

Transparency – identifying and detailing all assumptions used, and the sensitivity of those assumptions to changes.

Verify the results – as this report has been produced by an independent organisation the results are less likely to be subject to bias.

3.2.4 Assigning values

The SROI has involved assigning values (financial proxies) to the outcomes, costs and adjustments (attribution, deadweight, drop off and displacement). For an explanation of these adjustments, please refer to section 4.2.2.

Financial proxies are used to value outcomes. This is particularly useful for soft outcomes, such as increased self-esteem, which does not have a specific monetary value. For hard outcomes, such as employment, financial proxies are used and are easier to calculate, as there is a monetary value for the wages the individual receives and any benefits they no longer receive. For the valuation of the outcomes, the financial proxies used to give a monetary value include three different types:

1. The cost of negative outcomes avoided, e.g. Court costs avoided, benefit costs avoided
2. Actual spending on similar outcomes, e.g. the cost of improving confidence by attending a confidence course
3. People's Willingness to Pay which asks people to hypothetically assign a value to an outcome, e.g. how much an individual would be willing to pay for improved wellbeing

Where there are a number of options available for valuing outcomes, the approach taken has involved research to find an appropriate value, rather than the largest valuation. An appropriate value is one that, if subject to external scrutiny, would appear reasonable based on the assumptions and limitations presented. Due to increasing standardisation of values, there are now a number of sources of financial values available to organisations that have been verified by Social Value UK. In this report, outcomes are valued using costs avoided and actual spending on similar outcomes as these are the most robust ways of valuing items.

The costs are based on the costs of delivering PAP. The adjustments are based on how realistic it is that the outcome achieved is a result of the support provided, and how realistic it is that the outcome will be sustained. In most cases, outcomes are based on a one-year period, as the impact of a service tends to reduce significantly after one year, and to continue to claim for an outcome beyond a one-year period could result in over claiming. For longer term outcomes for children these are based on the period until they reach 18. Outcomes that are claimed beyond the current year are discounted at a rate of 3.5%.

3.3 Stakeholders

3.3.1 Segmenting stakeholders

The parents were segmented in to sub-groups based on their ethnicity and geographical location to see if the outcomes differed. The analysis showed that the outcomes did not differ for these sub-groups so they were not segmented for the purposes of the SROI calculations. Children were segmented based on age, as research has shown that the outcomes differ based on children's age (with older children more likely to be impacted by isolation).

3.3.2 Stakeholders consulted

In order to complete the impact report, a number of different stakeholders were consulted. We took the decision to consult with key stakeholders only, and to utilise as much existing consultation data from a wider range of stakeholders. Most of the data and information is taken from evaluation forms.

The stakeholders consulted are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Stakeholders consulted

Stakeholder Group	Consulted this year (Yes/No)	Reason for inclusion/exclusion
Staff	Yes	Consulted through feedback on services and were involved in agreeing the scope of this report and data collection process.
Parents	Yes	Consulted through feedback on services and case studies, and responses to evaluations and questionnaires.
Children	Yes	Included via feedback, case studies and

		responses on questionnaires.
Statutory agencies	Some	Some provided feedback on the impact of PAP.
Funders	No	Not consulted this year.

3.3.3 Stakeholder Outcomes

Where possible the stakeholders were involved in identifying the outcomes that had been achieved through the consultations, so that the most relevant outcomes could be included in this report. This included parents and children identifying the outcomes they were interested in achieving from the Parenting Apart Programme.

3.3.4 Stakeholder involvement in adjustments

Stakeholders have provided feedback that has assisted with identifying how much of the changes are because of Parenting Apart Programme.

3.3.5 Stakeholder involvement in reviewing and verifying this report

As part of the process of verifying the results in this report, the report has been through an internal process of approval.

3.4 Data limitations

To ensure as much as possible that the analysis and results are credible, Make an Impact have considered the following areas:

3.4.1 Over-claiming

To avoid over claiming, only outcomes that have been verified through data that we collected have been included.

We have adjusted the calculations based on the adjustments stakeholders have provided to us. Professional judgements have been made where this data was not available – so that rather than not including any adjustment – one has been included based on those reported by similar services in other SROI reports or from other research.

3.4.2 Double counting

We have included outcomes based on the parent's reference number to make sure we do not double count people. We have also identified the key outcomes that are achieved so that these are valued, rather than all outcomes.

3.4.3 Errors in data and findings

To minimise errors in the data, the data and calculations have been reviewed and verified.

3.4.4 Unintended and negative outcomes

We have included unintended and negative outcomes where these have been reported. We recognise that there may be other unintended or negative outcomes and would look to explore this further through the review of this report, future consultations with stakeholders and future SROI reports.

3.4.5 Chain of events and outcomes measured

Our analysis has looked at the chain of events that occur for the parents and children as a result of the PAP, and whilst we know a wider range of outcomes are achieved than those we have measured, this analysis includes the most material outcomes. To include the other outcomes achieved would result in duplication of outcomes.

3.4.6 Completeness of information

All 294 parents attending PAP have completed evaluations at the end of each session. 15% did not complete their attendance of the four-week programme and did not fully evaluate the programme. Based on these numbers, for 99% confidence in the validity of the data, we would need 106 parents completing evaluations – which has been exceeded.

4 Programme Information

4.1 The Parenting Apart Programme

The Parenting Apart Programme supports parents who have made the decision to separate or divorce. The programme offers unique and individual advice and support which enables the outcome to be positive and beneficial to the whole family whilst prioritising the emotional and physical wellbeing of the children.

The Parenting Apart Programme is identified by Courts, Solicitors, Cafcass, NYAS, Psychologists, Family Therapists and other professionals. It is an integral process which allows parents to take full responsibility as separated parents. This has been proven to reduce stress, trauma, conflict, time as well as the financial aspects of divorce and separation.

The programme is facilitated over an initial four-week period and includes individual and joint face to face consultations, a personal Parent Working Agreement, review meetings, one-to-one support when needed, staggered arrival and departure times and continued advice and guidance through its duration.

The programme enables parents to communicate together, which creates a more stable environment for the children. This benefits the children enormously and prevents long term damage and negative impacts associated with unresolved emotional issues.

4.2 External Research

In the UK, in 2017, there were 101,669 divorces¹. The most recent year with data on the number of children involved in divorces is from 2013 when there were 114,720 divorces and 45,979 of these couples had no children. The remaining 68,741 couples had 136,068 children affected by divorce. 41,204 of the children were aged 16 or over, and 94,864 were aged under 16.² This figure excludes parents who are not married and separate. Private law applications for parental care or supervision in 2018 involved 123,334 children.³

There is wide spread data and research on the impact of divorce on children in the short term and long term, in particular on their mental health, wellbeing, educational attainment and likelihood of being involved in criminal activity. Post separation conflict is damaging for children as the

¹ ONS Divorces in England and Wales, 2017

² ONS Children of divorced couples England and Wales, 2013

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/jul/03/family-courts-running-up-a-down-escalator-due-to-increase-in-cases>

children are at risk of on-going self-esteem issues and psychological distress.⁴ Other research indicates that separation and divorce has significant financial issues, with many children moving in to poverty, which affects their longer term life chances.⁵

4.3 Social Impact

Data was collected from parents attending the Parenting Apart Programme sessions and feedback was gathered from children where they were involved in the programme. This was primarily through a range of questions which assessed improvements in communication and a reduction in conflict, as well as understanding regarding children's emotional wellbeing.

For this report the outcomes that have been measured and reported on are:

- Improved communication skills
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Financial savings to parents of avoiding full court process
- Relief from anxiety and depression
- Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Reduced isolation
- Court cost savings
- Mental health services cost savings for children and parents
- Education sector savings through improved child behaviour
- Criminal justice savings from reduced involvement in crime and offending
- Social Services savings from not entering the Care System (for calculating potential statutory savings)

Detailed below is the process from inputs through to the outcomes, and Table 2 shows these for the Parenting Apart Programme.



Inputs are the resources that are required to deliver the service/activities, e.g. staff, money, premises and other facilities.

Activities are the key services provided, e.g. one to one sessions.

⁴ Amato and Booth, 1997: *A Generation at Risk. Growing up in an Era of Family Upheaval*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press

and Cockett and Tripp, 1994: *The Exeter Family Study*. Exeter: University of Exeter

⁵ Aviva Family Finance Report (2018) *The Hidden Cost of divorce and separation*.

Outputs are the results of the activities (and are usually the number of activities/services delivered) e.g. 294 parents attending the Parenting Apart Programme

Outcomes are the changes that occur as a result of the delivery of the activities and achievement of the outputs e.g. improved communication or improved wellbeing.

Impacts are final differences that are made and reflect the proportion of the outcomes that can be claimed as a result of the Parenting Apart Programme. In order to calculate the impact, various adjustments are made to the values assigned to the outcomes (as detailed in Section 4.2.2).

Table 2: Inputs, Activities, Outputs and Outcomes by Stakeholder

Stakeholder	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Parents	Staff time & other resources	Attending PAP	Complete PAP	Improved communication between parents
Parents	Staff time & other resources	Attending PAP	Complete PAP	Reduced anxiety and stress
Parents	Staff time & other resources	Attending PAP	Complete PAP	Financial savings through avoiding court process
Children aged 0-4 (14.3% of children based on ONS survey, and average number of children per couple is 2)	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Relief from anxiety and depression
Children aged 0-4 (14.3% of children based on ONS survey, and average number of children per couple is 2)	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing
Children aged 5-10 (30.5% of children)	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Relief from anxiety and depression
Children aged 5-10 (30.5% of children)	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing
Children aged 11-15 (25% of children)	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Relief from anxiety and depression

Children aged 11-15 (25% of children)	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing
Children aged 16+ (30.3% of children)	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Reduced isolation (older children tend to isolate and withdraw)
Courts	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Court cost savings by making Parent Working Agreement
Mental Health services	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Mental health cost savings for children
Education sector	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Fiscal savings from completing parenting programme
Criminal justice	Staff time & other resources	Parents attending PAP	Parents completing PAP	Fiscal savings from reduced involvement in crime
Mental Health services	Staff time & other resources	Attending PAP	Complete PAP	Mental health cost savings for parents

The following outcomes were not valued in the SROI, although there were included in calculating the potential savings to statutory agencies:

- Reduced number of children in to care
- Reduced number of exclusions from school
- Cost savings from not being sent to prison for criminal activity

4.2.1 Social Return on Investment

This section details the calculations.

Table 3 details the outcomes and the financial proxy used to value each of the outcomes that were shown in Table 2. The quantities have been calculated based on the number of parents who have attended the PAP (294 individuals/147 couples). The number of children is based on an average of two children per couple, and the age breakdowns are based on data for England and Wales. The values have been inflated at 3% per annum to give values for 2019.

Table 3: Financial proxies

Outcomes delivered	Quantity	Financial Proxy	Value £	Source/Info
Improved communication between parents	294	Cost of communication training	1,740	training.gbdirect.co.uk/courses/communication_skills/communicate_effectively.html
Reduced anxiety and stress	294	Improved mental health	2,353	hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukgwacnf.html?url=http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_economic_%20functional_analysis.htm.%202010%20edition.%20%20Basingstoke:%20Palgrave%20Macmillan(2010)
Financial savings through avoiding court process	147	Average cost of child custody proceedings per couple	5,671	Aviva Family Finance Report - the hidden cost of divorce and separation (2018)
Relief from anxiety and depression	42	Wellbeing value to an individual aged <25 and living in the UK but outside of London	11,819	HACT Wellbeing Model
Improved mental health and wellbeing	42	Improved mental health	2,353	hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukgwacnf.html?url=http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_economic_%20functional_analysis.htm.%202010%20edition.%20%20Basingstoke:%20Palgrave%20Macmillan(2010)
Relief from anxiety and depression	90	Wellbeing value to an individual aged <25 and living in the UK but outside of London	11,819	HACT Wellbeing Model
Improved mental health and wellbeing	90	Improved mental health	2,353	hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukgwacnf.html?url=http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_economic_%20functional_analysis.htm.%202010%20edition.%20%20Basingstoke:%20Palgrave%20Macmillan(2010)
Relief from anxiety and depression	74	Wellbeing value to an individual aged <25 and living in the UK but outside of London	11,819	HACT Wellbeing Model

Improved mental health and wellbeing	74	Improved mental health.	2,353	hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukgwacnf.html?url=http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_economic_%20functional_analysis.htm.%202010%20edition.%20%20Basingstoke:%20Palgrave%20Macmillan(2010)
Reduced isolation (older children tend to isolate and withdraw)	89	Social cost of isolation	2,630	http://www.mojo-programme.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/MOJO_SROI_Report.pdf (2015)
Court cost savings by making parent working agreement	147	Cost of a day in Court	2,692	Analysis by the Law Society 2018. Assumes one day of savings on average per case (although this is likely to underestimated)
Mental health cost savings for children	294	Average cost of service provision for children/ adolescents suffering from mental health disorders, per person per year - total fiscal cost (to the NHS)	292	New Economy Manchester Unit Cost Database
Fiscal savings from completing parenting programme	294	Fiscal savings to the education sector from the delivery of parenting programmes for parents of children aged five with conduct disorder, per child over a 25 year period (to age 30)	437	New Economy Manchester Unit Cost Database
Fiscal savings from reduced involvement in crime	294	Crime - average cost per incident of crime, across all types of crime (fiscal, economic and social values)	3,441	New Economy Manchester Unit Cost Database
Mental health cost savings for parents	294	Average cost of service provision for people suffering from mental health disorders, per person per year, including dementia (all ages,	7,127	New Economy Manchester Unit Cost Database

including children, adolescents and adults) - fiscal and economic costs

4.2.2 Adjustments to SROI values

The SROI value has been adjusted to take into account:

Deadweight – this has been estimated as 10% because Parenting Apart Programme is an alternative to Court proceedings, and where Mediation has failed, so Parenting Apart Programme is often the last resort.

Attribution – this is an adjustment for the contribution of other agencies to the achievement of the outcomes. This has been calculated as 25% as Parenting Apart Programme actively works with a number of agencies.

Drop off – this is an adjustment for outcomes that will not be sustained. This has been calculated based on the number of couples that did not complete the PAP programme as 15%.

Displacement – this is an adjustment for other activities that have been displaced as a result of the Parenting Apart Programme. This has been calculated as 9% based on the number of divorces in the UK that involve legal proceedings over child custody⁶.

4.2.3 SROI Results

Based on these values and adjustments, the total social value achieved is over £10.2 million, giving an SROI of £46.52 for every £1 spent on the PAP as shown in Table 4. The social value generated in the year in which the parents attend PAP is £21.10, with total social value of over £4.65 million.

Table 4: Social Value and SROI

Outcomes delivered	Impact/Social Value	SROI
Improved communication between parents	534,398	
Reduced anxiety and stress	722,513	
Financial savings through avoiding Court process	433,426	
Relief from anxiety and depression	1,221,451	

⁶ Aviva Family Finance Report, 2018. The hidden costs of divorce and separation.

Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing	243,132	
Relief from anxiety and depression	2,617,396	
Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing	520,997	
Relief from anxiety and depression	1,632,368	
Improved mental health and wellbeing	324,926	
Reduced isolation (older children tend to isolate and withdraw)	348,524	
Court cost savings by making Parent Working Agreement	206,695	
Mental health cost savings for children	211,248	
Fiscal savings from completing parenting programme	67,107	
Fiscal savings from reduced involvement in crime	528,409	
Mental health cost savings for parents	1,094,440	
Total Social Value/SROI	10,258,409	

5 Feedback and Case Studies

This section details feedback from parents and case studies.

5.1 Feedback from parents

Mother "I could not be happier with the service that the Claire Field Consultancy provided through The Parenting Apart Programme. Not only was it professional throughout, I can honestly say that it was incredibly supportive through some of the more difficult times. The support continued after Court was finalised also and I couldn't be more thankful for that."

Father "The Parenting Apart Programme has helped me to work out differences and compromises for the well-being of my son. It's also taught me how to engage with my ex and communicate in a good manner as a baby can pick up on behaviours... I would recommend the Programme to anyone in the situation I have been in as I now get to spend quality time with my son which is important for his upbringing."

Mother "After a difficult break up with my ex-partner and the stressful, scary and emotional process of going to Court over contact issues we were introduced to Claire Field Consultancy... The Parenting Apart Programme has enabled us to build a positive relationship with my ex-partner that has been immeasurable for our son in so many ways."

Father "The Parenting Apart Programme is a more cost effective solution to the Court process and furthermore, the Programme and the support leads to an easier/softer path as contact progresses. No parent should want to embroil themselves in litigation if it can be avoided..."

5.2 Feedback from other agencies

"I would have no hesitation in recommending the Parenting Apart Programme to couples struggling to come to terms with the responsibilities they face in parenting apart. The benefits to me as a Social Worker were huge."

Social worker – Cornwall

“I have seen the Parenting Apart Programme transform families and parents in ways that no other course, training, Mediation or method can.”

Kristina Brown, Family Barrister – No5 Chambers Birmingham

“The Parenting Apart Programme really is unique. There simply is no other programme out there which provides the kind of one to one support which parents often need to overcome the issues at the heart of a dispute.”

Mark Hands – Family Solicitor, Irwin Mitchell LLP

5.3 Case Studies

Case Study from Barrister

“Allow me to give a recent example of success in a case that The Parenting Apart Programme undertook at my instigation: at the hearing on 9/12/13 there were significant arguments over residence, schooling, domestic violence, contact and supervision, and extended to bitterness amongst the extended family members. By 15/1/14, thanks to the resource of The Programme, the parents had agreed residence, change of schools, the setting aside of domestic violence allegations and the progression of contact in the family home to include the extended paternal family, with additional mid-week contact, not to mention a number of detailed agreements about finances and possessions to which the court process would have struggled to respond.

The resource, support, process of The Parenting Apart Programme is invaluable. I only wish I could watch the Family Consultants at work so that I could see how they do it, rather than just seeing the results of their work.”

This report was produced by:



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