

Stakeholder Meeting Men, poverty and lifetimes of care research project

12.25 Social Sciences Building
University of Leeds, 14/07/2015



Dr Anna Tarrant, Project PI
Dr Ged Hall, Innovation and Enterprise Senior Training and
Development Officer

timescapes
An ESRC Qualitative Longitudinal Study



The Leverhulme Trust



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Executive Summary

**Stakeholders meeting for ‘Men, poverty and lifetimes of care’ research
(14th July 2015, University of Leeds)**

Project funded by Leverhulme Trust and University of Leeds

Meeting Objectives:	<p>The meeting gathered stakeholders from the third and voluntary sectors in Leeds.</p> <p>It had the following objectives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to gain an understanding of local third sector goals and priorities,- to gain an understanding of the existing needs and issues of men living in low-income areas in Leeds,- to develop the research project aims and questions in light of these priorities
Main output/results:	<p>The meeting met its objectives by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bringing the project stakeholders together to share their goals and priorities,- Generating outcomes such as a stakeholder analysis; an understanding of the issues men seek support for; reflections on the existing evidence; gaining suggestions for developing the research questions.
Participants:	<p>The participants were individuals from the third sector in Leeds who have met with Anna previously. The meeting gathered representatives from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Grandparents Association,- Health For All- GIPSIL- A men’s walking group- The WY-Fi Project
Meeting organiser and facilitators	<p>Dr Anna Tarrant, Project PI, School of Sociology and Social Policy, a.tarrant@leeds.ac.uk Ged Hall, Innovation and Enterprise Senior Training and Development Officer, University of Leeds; G.Hall@adm.leeds.ac.uk</p>
Total no. Participants	5

Report Structure

1. Introduction.....	p. 5
1.1. Context.....	p. 5
1.2. Policy and Research Gap.....	p. 6
1.3. Meeting aims and objectives.....	p. 7
2. Organisation of the meeting.....	p. 8
2.1. Prior to the meeting.....	p. 8
2.2. Meeting structure and activities.....	p. 9
3. Outcomes of the activities.....	p. 10
3.1. Introductions to each organisation.....	p. 10
3.1.1. Key Points.....	p. 16
3.2. Stakeholder analysis.....	p. 16
3.2.1. Key Points.....	p. 19
3.2.2. Additional comments.....	p. 20
3.3. Responses to secondary analysis.....	p. 21
3.3.1. Locality and the peer group.....	p. 21
3.3.2. Barriers to men’s participation.....	p. 23
3.3.3. Men and violence.....	p. 24
3.3.4. Men and relationships.....	p. 25
3.3.5. Summary of key points.....	p. 26
3.3.6. Additional contacts in the local area and ideas for impact.....	p. 27
3.4. The research aims and questions.....	p. 28
3.4.1. Response from Group One.....	p. 29
3.4.2. Response from Group Two.....	p.30
3.5. Development of the research questions.....	p. 31

4. Key Outcomes and observations.....	p. 32
4.1. Themes the research should explore.....	p. 33
4.2. Additional Action Points.....	p. 33
5. References.....	p. 33

Appendix;

1. Email invitation to stakeholders.....	p. 35
2. Secondary analysis outcomes document.....	p.36
3. Meeting organisation plan.....	p. 40
4. Response document for developing the research questions.....	p. 43

1. Introduction

This report summarises a meeting held with five stakeholders to the research project, 'Men, poverty and lifetimes of care', led by Dr Anna Tarrant¹. These stakeholders form an advisory group comprising individuals currently working for the third sector in Leeds that have shown an interest in co-producing the project. The meeting was designed in consultation with Dr Ged Hall, who also facilitated the activities that were run. Ged works in staff development at the university and the main part of his role is to help academics to engage with wider society and to steer researchers to conduct research that has a positive impact.

1.1. Context

The third sector in Leeds comprises a number of voluntary organizations, charities, community groups, informal self-help groups and the community work of faith groups. The Young Lives Leeds Forum (YLL), which aims to improve partnership and joint working across the sector, is a strategy and development partnership that was established for organizations that work with children, young people and their families (Child Friendly Leeds, 2014). There are a number of identifiable services providing support to families living on a low-income, some of which are targeted specifically at men or that support men in a number of areas of their lives.

However, these stakeholders have rarely had the opportunity to share their experiences and to discuss together, the specific kinds of issues that men living in a low-income face in the local area and the kinds of support that is currently available to them.

The stakeholder meeting gathered five participants, who represented the third sector in Leeds and some of the existing services currently supporting men in this area. They represented the following organisations;

- Grandparents Association,

¹ The project has a website that is regularly updated (<http://menandcare.leeds.ac.uk>)

- GIPSIL (Gipton Independent Supported Living),
- Health For All,
- The men's walking group,
- The WY-FI project (West-Yorkshire Finding Independence Project).

Apologies were sent from Carers UK and the WYCCP (West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project), who were sent invitations because they had expressed interest in the project on previous occasions. They remain on the advisory board for the project.

1.2. Policy and research gap

Before starting the activities that were designed to meet the aims of the meeting, Anna provided an overview of the research project, including discussion of the current policy context and the research gap.

There is currently a strong rhetoric in social policy describing working class men in particular, as 'absent and feckless fathers'. This is accompanied by the arguably melodramatic view that there are whole areas of the UK that might be described as 'man deserts'. The Fractured Families (2013) report authored by the Department for Work and Pensions argues that:

- Around one million children grow up with no contact with their father,
- There are concerns that many young men are in "man deserts" and have no male role models in sight,

A press release about the report by the Centre for Social Justice (2013) posited that:

'For children growing up in some of the poorest parts of the country, men are rarely encountered in the home or in the classroom. This is an ignored form of deprivation that can have profoundly damaging consequences on social and mental development. There are 'men deserts' in many parts of our towns and cities and we urgently need to wake up to what is going wrong.'

Discourses such as these, construct the absence of men as being risky to children and continue to hold sway in popular, media and political arenas. This is despite emerging research evidence about men's desires to be involved in their children's lives that is beginning to counter these ideas (see Neale and Davies, 2015). Implicit in this rather simplistic statement, which is unsubstantiated by robust evidence, is that men and their absence, presumably predicated on their immoral behavior and lack of interest in their children, are to blame for many of the UK's societal ills. Such an approach renders the social structures that might operate to absent men from families, such as poverty, gender and family breakdown, invisible. The statement aligns with a more individualized explanation of outcomes, rather than one that is critical of the structural inequalities that absent men and have negative implications for child development.

A review of the academic literature about the gendered dynamics of poverty reveals that there is actually very limited research evidence about men's experiences of poverty (Bennett and Daly, 2014). Some research has found that men are more likely to live in 'in-work' poverty because of their family circumstances but there is limited data about the impact of being non-resident or paying child-maintenance on men's risk of poverty and consequently, what influences their ability to maintain relationships with their children.

1.3. Main aims and objectives

Having established that there is a research gap, the overall aim of the meeting was to get some feedback about the project from individuals from the third sector who are currently working with men. It aimed to ensure that the research is designed to address real questions that challenge third sector workers in their everyday working lives, in this instance, with the men on which the project will focus. The meeting provided an opportunity to develop the research aims and questions in light of local third sector priorities and was organized around a number of activities seeking to understand what services are currently being provided. A final aim was to consider ways of developing the project to ensure that it produces evidence that might have a direct impact

on their practice and challenge policy makers and practitioners who work with men of all ages to see them as a resource, rather than a risk to their children and those they care for. The main objectives were:

- To bring together stakeholders currently working in the third sector in Leeds to provide them with a space to share their experiences and meet with other providers,
- To gain an understanding of the current goals and priorities of the local third sector, particularly in relation to men living on a low-income,
- Carry out a stakeholder analysis of the local third sector landscape, based on their knowledge and their understandings of which agencies have local capacities to affect change and levels of potential interest in the research,
- To generate insights about their current work with men in the local area, as informed by an analysis of existing qualitative longitudinal data collected by previous research teams at the University of Leeds,
- To develop the research aims and questions in light of the priorities and experiences discussed.

2. Organisation of the meeting

In this section of the report, the organisation of the meeting is described, including information provided to the participants prior to the meeting and the structure and planning of the activities that were designed prior to the meeting to elicit information. This section is a record of how the meeting was organized and provides context to the outcomes described later in the report.

2.1. Prior to the meeting

Prior to the meeting, all confirmed attendees were sent specific information about the meeting aims and objectives via Email (see Appendix 1). Attached to this email was also a document that presented the outcomes of a qualitative secondary analysis conducted on two existing datasets that were analysed by Anna, in respect of the interests of the project; namely, men's experiences of negotiating their care responsibilities in low-income localities over time (see Appendix 2). The datasets, Intergenerational Exchange (IGE)

and Following Young Fathers (FYF), are stored in the [Timescapes archive](#) at the University of Leeds, which is a resource of qualitative longitudinal datasets. They open up possibilities to analyse data through time, over the life course and across generations but importantly, were selected for their insights into the experiences of men as teenagers (FYF) and as mid-life grandparents (IGE). Key themes were drawn from both datasets to demonstrate some of the shared challenges teenage boys and mid-life men face in negotiating and managing their care responsibilities in low-income families in Leeds. Significantly however, they were used to develop new research aims and questions for the 'Men, poverty and lifetimes of care' project and to hypothesise that there may be cumulative impacts of poverty for men that influence the extent to which they can fulfill their care responsibilities. It is clear from the existing evidence that services, particularly those delivered by the third sector, provide vital support to these men across the life course although there is scope to generate additional evidence about the kinds of support men need over time.

At the end of the document, the research aims and questions developed through reviewing the academic and policy literature and conducting the secondary analysis are listed. Participants are directed to questions about how these might be adapted in a process of co-production so that the research might have some impact, for the men being researched and for practitioners and policy makers working with men.

2.2. Meeting Structure and activities

The meeting structure and each of the activities (presented in Table 1, appendix 3) was designed prior to the event in collaboration with Dr Ged Hall, Innovation and Enterprise Senior Training and Development Officer at the University of Leeds. Prior to the meeting, we debated a number of approaches and ideas that we felt might help us to meet the aims and objectives of the meeting.

The following methodological approach was used in order to achieve these aims and objectives:

- The creation of spaces to foster ideas and discussions from the stakeholders based on the presentation slides and the qualitative secondary analysis outputs that were sent prior to the meeting,
- The creation of opportunities to encourage exchanges between the stakeholders in relation to their experiences of working with the men upon which the project will focus,
- Group discussions about the research aims and questions, including consideration of who to include in the research itself and how the questions might be developed,
- Collection of materials and resources based on the activities to be shared with the group and to contribute to project development.

3. Outcomes of the activities

The meeting was structured around four activities that were designed to meet the aims and objectives of the meeting. These included:

1. A round of introductions to each stakeholder, including reflection on why they were interested in the project,
2. A stakeholder analysis exercise of the local context and key influencers, including analysis of their level of capacity to affect change and potential level of interest in the research,
3. Reflections on the data from the qualitative secondary analysis in the context of their current experiences and priorities,
4. Group discussions of the current research questions and their appropriateness for generating relevant evidence for the third sector in Leeds.

The outcomes of each activity are now presented in the Sections 3.1. to 3.4.

3.1. Introductions

Following Anna's introduction to the research project, each participant was asked to explain their role in their organization, as well as their interest in the

project itself. The aim of this activity was to generate a clear understanding of the people who have formed the project advisory group and to learn more about why they may have a vested interest in the project and its outcomes. The following is a summary of their biographies (personal and employment) and their interests in the research:

Tom Senior: Health For All, Young Dads Project, Belle Isle.

health for all

Changing Lives, Transforming Communities



Tom was appointed by Health For All in December 2014 to support young dads into employment and education and to provide signposting in terms of any advocacy issues they may have. The Esmée Fairburn Foundation funds his role and the support groups and activities run at the centre. Tom works with four groups per week in Belle Isle. These include:

- Monday, Child's Play. Dads bring their children to do creative activities in a 'safe environment'. Men are encouraged to bring their children and advice is offered on request,
- Tuesday evenings, DIY skills. They are currently working on a mural project that celebrates family and community. Group members take turns with cooking after the session,
- Friday, working on allotments in the Beeston area (nature and nurture) followed by football at Leeds Sports Centre,
- Saturday, Middleton Park dads' group. Involves activities with games and toys.

Tom describes these groups as a safe environment and a place where they can socialize. He argues that when men move into fatherhood they can become isolated so it is important to include social aspects into all forms of support. Men can also ask for advice including about benefits and bidding on housing. He argues that the young dads require a lot of advice around form filling and navigating the system. Form filling can be an insurmountable barrier

for some of these men, in terms of reading and writing so support in filling in forms can be invaluable to them.

Tom also provides 1:1 support and has completed the Caring dad's training. Alongside running the groups he is in regular contact with the dads to try and get them to take part.

Sarah Duffy, GIPSIL, established in 1993.



Sarah agrees with Tom that young and middle age men are isolated, including in Leeds. GIPSIL was established in 1993, in Gipton in Leeds. At this time, demographic differences and changes were substantial, even in this small geographical area. At the time, there were a lot of void social housing properties that weren't being sustained. There was also a lot of anti-social behavior in the area. GIPSIL was set up to support the young people living in these tenancies.

Sarah joined GIPSIL in 2001. It is part of a consortium providing supported accommodation and has a council contract to provide supported accommodation alongside Leeds Housing Concern and Foundation Housing. GIPSIL is the lead partner because it has the most units. It focuses predominantly on east and northeast Leeds. They also support care leavers citywide.

The core service is an advice service. She suggests that people can't concentrate on engagement and look constructively for employment opportunities when they don't know where their money is coming from and this is what their service is designed to address. They also assist people to act in an informed way and advocate for them. GIPSIL have had several pots of funding to work with groups other than their core service users. They do

engagement work and run opportunity shops that are tailored to the individual. They also provide some leisure activities including gardening and a boxing circuits group.

Sarah is interested in the project because GIPSIL has very strong views in relation to social policy and is very committed to providing advice. They respond to key consultations, such as the Frank Field poverty consultation and they are on the board of Advice Leeds.

Dave Cousins, Grandparents Association.



Dave has lived in Leeds for 27 years and has been doing community work, social work, youth work and credit union work during this time. He was involved in the set up of GIPSIL and has also worked for Health For All. He has been the project manager for Grandparents Association, a national charity, for 10 years in Leeds. Leeds started out with two volunteers staffing a helpline, which usually provided information about legal issues e.g. adoption of grandchildren. Based on his background of church and community work, Dave identified a need for support groups for grandparents to bring them together.

Volunteers are trained to run the helpline and the support groups. They are also trained to be advocates. The advocate's role usually revolves around making formal meetings less threatening for grandparents who often feel terrified or threatened because they lack understanding of procedures. The advocates are now also recognised by judges.

There are currently nine support groups in Leeds that support grandparents raising children through significant trauma and abuse. Grandparents Association runs the HUGGS (Helping Unite Grandchildren with

Grandparents) group for grandparents who are denied access to grandchildren. The issues grandparents face are daily and there are a lot of families breaking down because of domestic violence and abuse. Women mostly attend the groups but some men attend as well. They did run a group for granddads in Rothwell called 'Men Behaving Dadly'. The only way to get men to attend the group was to offer them a bacon butty.

Dave observes that now that legal aid is gone there is a lot more work because it impacts on individuals, couples and children as well. Dave also goes to parliament to lobby with good support from local MPs.

John Battle (Ex Leeds West Labour MP, Founder of men's walking group)

The walking group grew out of John's community work, including with [BARCA](#), a multi-purpose charity in Bramley in Leeds that provides services to help people to overcome a range of issues. He has an interest in the men's prison in Armley where 50 men a day come out of the jail, 40% of whom have been in care. Most have drug, alcohol and mental health problems and they often can't read or write. He also mentions a report that was done on suicide in the Clyde Area in Wortley Towers. Single men of all ages would jump off the towers. As a result he tried to find a way of getting men to engage. They met people in the pub and betting shops and tried to get people to gather in the New Wortley community centre. The men's walking group was born from these meetings and now meets every Friday at 9:30am to walk around different urban areas of Leeds. The men who take part have a very clear of ideas of 'places that are not for me' in Leeds, like the local museums.

The men who attend the group watch out for each other; making sure people turn up and going to find men who don't 'watch out for each other'. Humour is the life and energy of the group; it is a community builder and strength is in the group. John is adamant that it is not a mental health group; it is completely informal. He advocates walking shoulder-to-shoulder with men, so that the service is not front end on. The group always has a meal after the walk (3

courses). He listens to the men's stories and encourages men to seek out other groups and support. It is an element of community building to encourage other ways to ground men now that workplaces do not.

Mark Crowe, Wy-Fi (West Yorkshire Finding Independence)



West Yorkshire - Finding Independence
Delivering Fulfilling Lives:
Supporting People with Multiple Needs Programme

Mark is the research and evaluation coordinator for Wy-Fi, the West Yorkshire Finding Independence project, which covers the whole of West Yorkshire. The project works with people with multiple issues who experience a combination of re-offending / addiction / mental health / homelessness. The project helps people to access services but is not a service in itself. It is an intervention that provides support for people to navigate services that already exist that they may have barriers from accessing or have been barred, or otherwise excluded from.

There are 6 years of funding for the project and it is currently in year 1. The project is heavily evaluated (nationally and locally), led by Sheffield Hallam University. The evaluation focuses on cost effectiveness. In the first year the project has deliberately worked with people who are known to services. These are often white males who are entrenched drinkers and/or street sleepers. Mark's interest in the WY-Fi project and the 'Men, poverty and lifetimes of care' project is that national research shows that while this cohort are defined as single people, not necessarily living in family units, 60% are in contact with their children in some way. 40% appear to have been domestic abusers. They are a risk to themselves and are often perceived as a risk to others. A high percentage of the men they work with are care leavers or have experienced family break-up or other traumas and they are almost invariably in poverty. Mark thinks that individual single bullet interventions are less helpful than considering the whole contexts in which somebody lives.

3.1.1. Key points

Some common themes and shared interests emerged during the introduction activity including examples of some of the issues men living in Leeds are facing and examples of good practice in working with men. Based on their experiences of working with low-income men in Leeds some key points that emerged included:

- A key issue faced by young and middle aged men in Leeds is social isolation,
- Many experience multiple and complex issues. Drug, alcohol and mental health problems are prevalent and many have been in care and/or prison,
- Good support is about providing advice, advocating and assisting people in an informed way,
- Men can be difficult to engage with services but they can be found (e.g. in pubs, betting shops) and with persistence, will engage longer term,
- Services must provide a safe environment for men and must focus on working with, and alongside men, rather than in a formal, head on fashion.

3.2. Stakeholder analysis

Following introductions, we asked the group to help us to conduct a stakeholder analysis of the local support context. We asked the group who they worked with or were aware of, and of these, who they thought could be key influencers and what level of interest they might have in developing services that are better placed at supporting men in all their complexities.

Using an A0 piece of paper we drew a stakeholder analysis grid (see Figure 1) and asked the group to do two things:

- 1) To identify those organisations, individuals and/or agencies in Leeds that they work with or are aware of, who may have some interest in the research outcomes and some degree of influence in using the evidence,

- 2) To identify what the level of potential interest and influence would be for each individual, organization or agency.

We gave each participant post-it notes and asked them to place the post-it in the corresponding area:

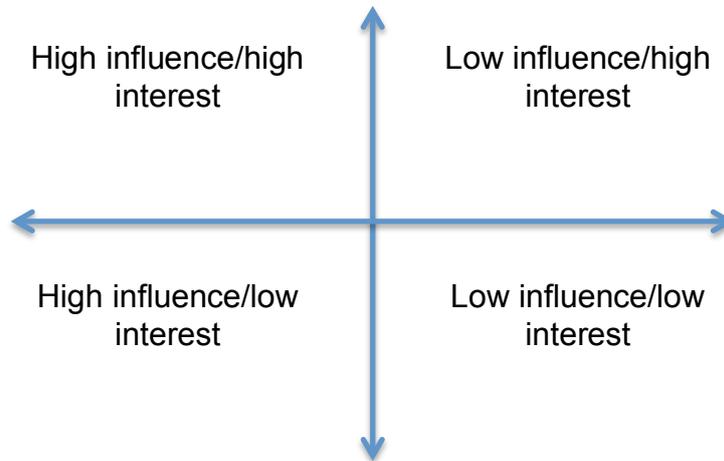


Figure One: Stakeholder analysis grid

In response to the activity, some of the group members were critical of the term influencers because of current problems inherent in present systems. Dave for example argued that present systems are incapable of dealing with human beings in all their complexities, trying instead to deal with smaller problems. It was determined that capability (rather than influence) to make change would be a more useful way of approaching the task. Plate 1 is an image of the final outcome of the task.



Plate 1: Outcome of the stakeholder analysis.

Table 1 shows the organisations, individuals and agencies that were considered for each area of the grid:

	High Interest	Low Interest
High capability	Personal Support Unit GIPSIL NHS Faith Across Leeds Health For All Archway young person's project Mencap (Leeds) Extended family Leeds City council – Citizens and Communities board Financial Inclusion Board Food Aid Network Homestart (Leeds) Families Need Fathers BARCA, Leeds Leeds Older People's Forum	Department for Work and Pensions Leeds Youth Offending Service Local MP's Local Councilors Housing Opinions Police Probation Leeds City Council (children's services) Prisons Leisure and Culture Services Health Services/GPs

	Bramley Elderly Action Men's Group Zest Trussell Trust LCC Social Care Carers UK Local activity groups Money Buddies Foundation UK St Vincent support centre St Georges Crypt New Worsley community association WYPCC	Courts System Education services Policy Think Tanks HMP Leeds (Jigsaw)
Low capability	The grandparents themselves The men themselves Families Church Food banks Sports Clubs	Children's services CAMHS Drugs Service Leeds City Council, Kinship Care Reference Group.

3.2.1. Key Points

The stakeholder analysis was a useful activity because it confirmed that Anna had been getting in contact with groups who have high capacity to influence change and impact and helped to identify other organisations and agencies that may also be able to advise and provide some access to men living on a low-income in Leeds.

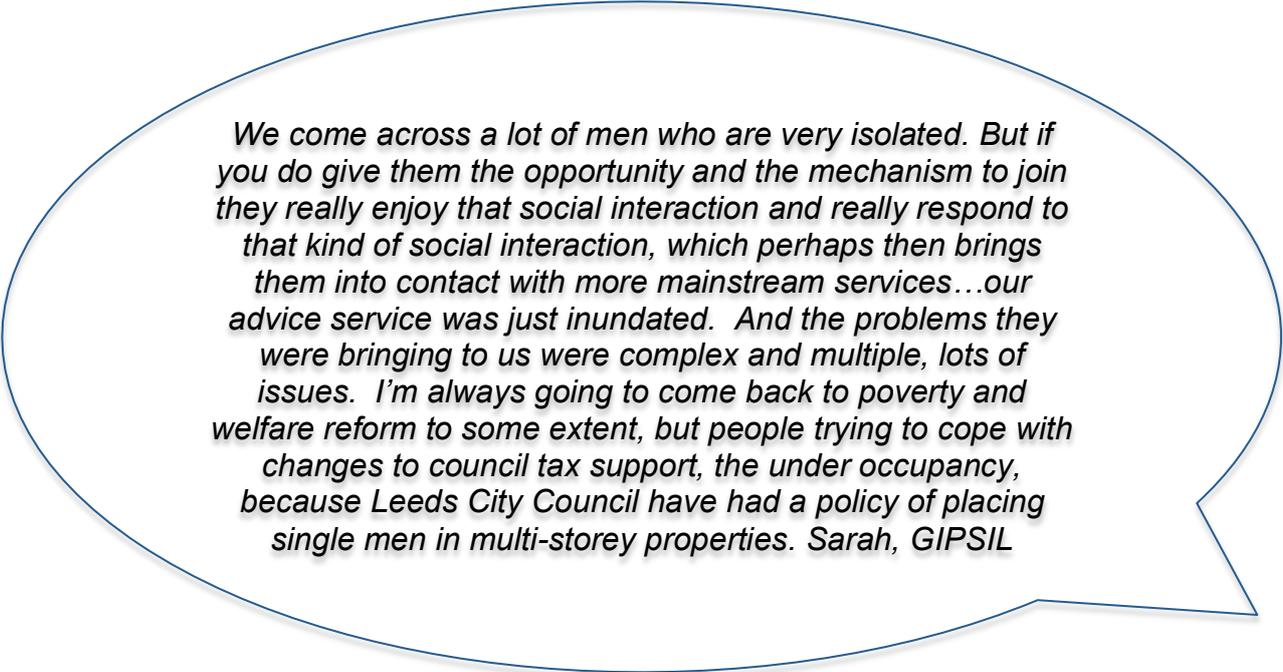
Perhaps most evident, is that local third sector organizations like BARCA and Health For All, were considered to be more likely to have a higher interest in the project and capability to affect change than at the national level such as by the government and other policy think tanks. This is perhaps an

unsurprising finding given that the group work predominantly for the third sector, although later in the meeting it was suggested by one participant that it can take 2 to 3 years to affect local level change and as many as ten to fifteen years to be heard at a national level. There was some disagreement about the extent of interest Leeds City Council would have in the project and different departments of the council were placed in different areas of the grid.

The low capability/high interest box provided information about who might want to be involved in the project and therefore have some indirect but limited capability to affect change and also highlighted possible places of access to men, including sport's centres, churches and food banks.

3.2.2 Additional comments

During the course of the activity the participants made additional comments. Sarah for example re-emphasized that a key issue for men living on a low-income in Leeds is social isolation. She argues that social interaction is key to bringing men into mainstream services and theorises that both poverty and welfare reform are key factors in contributing to this isolation:



We come across a lot of men who are very isolated. But if you do give them the opportunity and the mechanism to join they really enjoy that social interaction and really respond to that kind of social interaction, which perhaps then brings them into contact with more mainstream services...our advice service was just inundated. And the problems they were bringing to us were complex and multiple, lots of issues. I'm always going to come back to poverty and welfare reform to some extent, but people trying to cope with changes to council tax support, the under occupancy, because Leeds City Council have had a policy of placing single men in multi-storey properties. Sarah, GIPSIL

3.3. Responses to secondary analysis

The previous two activities uncovered information about the local third sector in Leeds: about some of the often complex and multiple issues men are experiencing; and the context in which men living on low-incomes currently receive support. The third activity aimed to generate further discussion about the participants' experiences of working with men, based on the findings from the qualitative secondary analysis conducted by Anna prior to the meeting. This evidence had already been sent to the participants three weeks before the meeting (see Section 2.1 and appendix 2). Anna presented the quotes from the evidence again on PowerPoint slides, explained her interest in them from an academic perspective and posed the following question to the participants; does this pique any interest for you? The participants were given the opportunity to share their experiences and key points were written on post-it notes by Ged. This was quite an organic process and there were time constraints so not all of the themes from the secondary analysis were discussed. The themes that did emerge are explored below and provided a helpful steer in relation to the topics that the project could explore.

3.3.1. Locality and the peer group

A key point that was made in relation to this theme was about the importance of locality and of the social networks that men engage in. The participants agreed that both familial and peer group relations beyond fathers and grandfathers are important to young men. A key point made in this discussion was that peer groups are important in encouraging men to attend services. This led to further discussion about what works for men in services including how they identify particularly with other men who have been through similar experiences:

John: They gather in the gym. And one of the lads had been on that course [about being a good dad] and I said, "Do you remember that course? You were really good on that course. If you get across to Fairfield Community Centre and we'll set up a group there with dads to talk about being a good dad, how do you help with the kid." And first week, two

people, second week, three, second week back to two, then the next week twenty odd. The reason is it got around that he'd been in prison and they turned up. A lot of that was peer group. And so it's not older people like me telling them how to be a good dad, because I'm a granddad, but what can you do with peer groups?

Mark: We use people with lived experience as part of the project and part of the workforce on the project as well. And certainly when it comes to dealing with people who are particularly entrenched or outside the system then it's their ability to engage, it's not me. I haven't done engagement for toffee, but (laughs) when they've seen somebody who's been through and is coming out the other side

John: It comes out in their story.

Mark: Absolutely.

John: It's much more powerful and they'll take it from them but not from another—

Sarah: Or it's people that they actually look up to and have respect.

Additional points made during this discussion in relation to each theme from the secondary analysis were recorded on post-it notes, summarized below:

1. Men value their children as fathers and grandfathers
 - Narratives from one generation to the next are very different
2. Looking out for family members in the locality
 - Nigel at BARCA – mum and tots group – met with Blair and Brown but worried as he had been in prison,
 - Identity from locality not from working,
 - Engagement by men comes from seeing men like them and seeing someone they look up to,

3.3.2. Barriers to men's participation

As the discussion progressed the participants began to identify key factors that they considered to be influencing men's participation. This began with focus on the lack of opportunities for young men, including the erosion of educational opportunities and concern over recent changes in the Conservative Government's summer budget (Summer Budget, 2015):

Sarah: one of the things I find is people, often they will mistake a lack of education for a lack of intelligence. It's so offensive. And it's about opportunities that are available... what I see from our core work, which is with young men, is the lack of opportunity. And that's just getting worse. And yet they're born into this narrative of being required to be this great provider and to have this great job. And I just don't see those great jobs that are actually open to the young people that I'm working with. And they get so frustrated, who wouldn't? And so the stress that that then invokes and the stress that is involved in poverty.

Mark: It either comes out as stress, frustration, anger, or it becomes the other way, despair and a kind of inertia.

John: Suicide.

Mark: Well, suicide. Yes, in the way that you end up getting caught in that – certainly in the benefit system, where you can't have – you don't have any assets to get out of it and you can't exploit any of the assets that you've got

John theorises that the notion of getting people into work to alleviate poverty is highly flawed because work simply is not there for these young men. Similarly, the impact of poverty on young men has serious implications for how they experience fatherhood, both key transitions into adulthood:

John: But there is this notion of driving people into work that's not there, that's the problem. Rather than developing the whole person.

Sarah: The thing with young people as well, the thing about fatherhood, we are often going through both the young women and the young men as well, and it's this sense of – a real sense of excitement, the same as any of us would have felt having a child. It's almost like this is a blank page, this is a really good start. But the stress then of having a newborn baby when you're a young person but more crucially you're in poverty just taints the whole experience to such an extent that it's a wonder that any of them get through it.

3.3.3. Men and violence

The conversation progressed to a discussion about men and violence suggesting that some evidence about violence might be an area to be developed in the project. Examples of violence (including violence both perpetrated and experienced by men)) was certainly evident in the two datasets analysed prior to the meeting:

John: I think there's something about men and violence, there's a real systemic problem in our society of what men are expected to do....I think there's a whole thing, how to be a good dad. But I think the violence thing is a big issue that we're not tackling about how you protect your family with violence but how do you discipline your children without using violence? And it's getting the violence out of the system...allowing for the emotional without it turning into violence, isn't it? How do we manage our emotions?

Mark: I did this street research in Manchester amongst people with complex needs and we found a really surprisingly high proportion, I forget what it was, but a high proportion of men who'd been victims of domestic violence in that. And that was just one of those things that was really striking. I never got to really follow it up but I would be interested to think about that.

3.3.4. Men and relationships

Finally, the group discussed the importance of relationships to men. They argued that work is not just an economic activity but also one where relationships and social interaction take place. They identify a gap in service provision where men are brought together to build relationships:

John: How do we get people into relationships? In a sense if the relationship is too intense and they just internalise it, pull them out, let them compare notes, that's what they need to do, isn't it, and setting up those contexts. Now who is going to pay for it is part of the problem, because you need a bit of brass to just oil the wheels to make it happen and buy a cup of tea. And it's there I think society has just shut down all that, assumes the relational is happening and we've turned it all into a highly transactional commissioning system, and people are just falling through the cracks.

Sarah: The thing is, work isn't just an economic activity.

Mark: No, absolutely.

Sarah: And what would be happening is that men would have those relationships in those workplaces. And quite often they're in workplaces that were predominantly male. And those opportunities are simply not available. And I think that comes across with a lot of sixty year olds, they're actually used to – it's a myth that men don't talk, they do....we are kind of generalising, but the men that we've worked with both young and old, given the chance to be able to sit down and actually participate they were more than happy to do so. I do think that work brought so many other benefits. And the value of work.

Additional points were again summarized on the post-it notes in relation to the themes of barriers to participation, violence and relationships:

Barriers faced by men

- Having to wait for benefits,
- Changes to the welfare system – long term impacts,

- Benefits changes will increase barriers, particularly for young people,
- Lived experience needs to be balanced out from risk,
- Judgment, environment, society,
- Lack of education does not equate with lack of intelligence but association and judgment remains,
- Second chances are disappearing i.e. getting into education, further or higher education almost out of reach,
- Years ago Youth Training Scheme (YTS) awful but now a wonderful option,
- Apprenticeships closed to young men due to funding pressure.

Emotional responses

- Born into narrative of provider but opposite of emotional response,
- What are men expected to do? Violence 'to be a man',
- Allowing emotions, managing them,
- Cross reference to women and domestic violence in the research.

3.3.5. Summary of key points

Informed by the findings of the secondary analysis, the discussions and the post-it notes provided a useful understanding of the perceptions of men's issues from the perspectives of these third sector service providers. These findings directly oppose those of the Fragmented Families report and recognise some of the structural barriers and tensions that affect men's behaviours and need for support. The key themes highlighted are briefly summarized here and provide insight into some of the current service gaps and themes to be considered in the design of the research questions and interview schedules:

- Peer groups and shared experience were described as an important way of engaging men in services. Past practice suggests that men can also be engaged in services if found in the right spaces, like pubs and betting shops – this is an important methodological finding in terms of accessing isolated men for the project,
- The participants challenge the neoliberal rhetoric that characterizes contemporary family policy and that was described at the start of the meeting. Local service providers in Leeds recognize, and are concerned, about structural issues and their particular impacts on men.

For young men this includes the effects of the erosion of educational opportunities, poverty, gendered expectations, such as being a provider and policy change (such as those announced in the 2015 Budget). For older men, there are concerns about a loss of relationships resulting from being at work,

- Structural barriers such as these can result in anger, frustration, stress and violence. The group identified a need to understand contexts of violence better, including men as perpetrators but also victims of violence,
- The participants identified a loss of opportunity for men to form relationships and suggested that as a society, there is an assumption that the relational is always happening, meaning that men actually fall through the cracks in relation to support. They argue that work is not just an economic activity; it supports social interaction. Worklessness is therefore not just an economic risk to men but a social risk as well,
- Finally, they make the point that when men, young and old, are given the opportunity, under the right conditions and in the right spaces, they do engage and they do participate.

3.3.6. Additional contacts in the local area and ideas for impact

Through the discussion, a number of other projects and organisations were highlighted that have provided, or currently provide support, to men in Leeds:

- ‘How to be a good dad project’ – a play, drama focused on parenting skills like nappy changing and responding to babies. This led to the BATHS project in Bramley, a gym session for ex offenders,
- Leeds Rhino’s Community Foundation – young dad’s project

These might be approached as additional gatekeepers for the purposes of accessing men in the local area who might like to take part in the research. The ‘how to be a good dad’ drama is also an interesting example of using the arts for the purposes of affecting change at the local scale.

3.4. The research aims and questions

Having gained an understanding of the local third sector in Leeds (including their goals and priorities), and my participants' experiences of working with men living on low-incomes, including their understandings of their issues, the final activity was designed to focus on developing the research project in a way that it could generate potentially useful evidence. Time was more limited for this activity so the group were split into two (Tom had had to leave early so did not participate in this activity or the one previously) and given two of the four questions each to reflect upon and discuss. The questions were designed as a prompt to reflect on the key areas that might be explored under a broader umbrella question asked by the project: How do men living on a low income define, experience and balance their care responsibilities over time?

Each group was given an A3 sheet with their assigned questions (see Appendix 4). Anna and Ged, who each attended a group, recorded the discussions. Group one, including John and Mark, were given the first two research questions relating to men's biographies and experiences:

1. How far do men's personal histories influence their ideas of care responsibilities and their ability to fulfill these responsibilities?
2. How far do men's personal histories shape their hopes for the future?

Group two, which comprised Dave and Sarah, were asked to reflect on the last two research questions relating to the barriers men considered to influence their abilities to negotiate their care responsibilities:

3. What do men think is 'good' care and what are the key barriers and constraints (perceived and actual) to them providing this care over time?
4. What do you think are the key barriers and constraints on these men?

Both groups were asked how relevant these questions were to them and their organisations and whether or not they had any other comments or considerations.

3.4.1. Response from Group One

In relation to the first two research questions, Mark and John made the following points and identified key areas of interest where evidence from this project might contribute. Questions they would like to be answered by the project include:

- Who creates 'their' responsibilities or are those responsibilities imposed? Does this come from society (and state) / culture (local / national)?
- Resilience is important; interested in how this is built and how that can be evidenced.
- Also interested in points at which the 'hopes for the future' change and what causes those changes e.g. a lifelong junkie (whose default setting is often negative), going clean (whose default setting changes to positive).
- Are negative histories more 'remembered' than positive histories and, if so, why?
- How do men create the space to define their responsibilities and build their abilities to care?
- Personal shared histories can help to build solidarity and community (gentle / informal / relational)

They also made the following points:

- How does the aggregation of the different stories come to 'mean' something? perhaps leading to change or evidence for change?
- Poverty (and the ability to provide) and lack of resources; how should this be addressed to allow space to build capabilities?
- What are the biggest causes of the constant 'grind / struggle'?
- Subsistence living prevents any resources being devoted to social / relationship building,
- Systems tend to look at deficits, which hinders any analysis of assets/ capabilities.

3.4.2. Response from Group Two

In relation to the first two research questions, Sarah and Dave made the following points and identified key areas of interest where evidence from this project might contribute. Questions they would like to be answered by the project include:

- Sarah reflected on the myth's about family as represented by adverts such as the John Lewis Christmas advert. She questioned where these myths come from and how people measure themselves up to those adverts as 'good' parents. She queried if these encouraged people to go to door-to-door lenders. Dave suggested that for grandparents raising grandchildren Christmas can actually be a real battle that are not represented by the images sold – so how do images of 'good families' impact on these men's experiences and perceptions of themselves?
- GIPSIL would benefit from evidence of what is being seen on the ground i.e. men's experiences. Sarah suggested that the Big Society could be promoted but not while people are living destitution,
- Is there a link between substance use and lack of opportunities?
Seeing others do things that they themselves cannot do?

The second questions (any other considerations? What should I add?) received additional responses:

- Dave argued a need to address the issue of FASD (referring to Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder), which he has observed is contributing to the helplessness grandparents (including grandfathers) feel when raising their grandchildren with the condition,
- Is there a prevalent fear of interacting with children?
- Can the importance of communication be evidenced? What works?
They felt that walking alongside men was a more positive and successful approach and that groups with a more practical and pragmatic approach have attracted more men in the past.
- Believing in men and giving them a treat is also an important approach.

3.5. Development of the research questions

The discussions provided several avenues and themes for exploration that would generate relevant evidence for their organisations and support the men they work with. Many of the points made confirmed that an exploration of men's personal histories and biographies and the barriers men face could provide useful evidence. As such, questions 1 to 3 in particular, which will provide the structure to the design of the interview schedules, could help to generate relevant evidence. The exploration of different experiences, such as those of grandparents raising grandchildren with FASD for example, can also be built into the sampling and access process. Similarly, the generation of evidence about men's histories (both positive and negative), their perceptions of fatherhood and the barriers they face, can all be answered by the project as it currently stands.

During the course of the discussion it was pointed out however that questions 3 and 4, which focus on the barriers men both perceive and experience in relation to their care responsibilities, are fairly similar and would not necessarily generate different evidence or responses as they currently stand. There is scope for the project to explore another area that will respond to the overall research question about how men define, negotiate and experience their care responsibilities over time.

Two themes that repeatedly emerged in the course of the meeting were:

1. The importance of creating the right conditions and spaces of support for men and,
2. The importance of using these spaces to build men's capabilities and not just focus on their limitations.

Given the desire to co-produce the initial project design with the third sector, it would be useful to ask the men about their experiences of support and about more positive ways of building capabilities and providing spaces for men. So far, the research questions focus more on the men's experiences and the barriers they face and do not address where support has been received and

where gaps in that support have identified over the life course by the men themselves.

Resulting from this meeting, the four areas that the project will now explore, and framed as research questions, are:

1. How far do men's personal histories influence their ideas of care responsibilities and their ability to fulfill these responsibilities?
2. How far do men's personal histories shape their hopes for the future?
3. What do men think is 'good' care and what are the key barriers and constraints (perceived and actual) to them providing this care over time?
4. What support have men received over time and what spaces and types of support could be put in place to develop their capabilities to provide care?

4. Key Outcomes and observations

The meeting achieved its main aims and objectives. Participants were given the space and opportunity to meet and share their experiences, including the goals and priorities of their organization and their experiences of working with men living on a low-income in Leeds. The discussions contributed to the mapping of the existing care landscape in Leeds and in identifying possible gaps in evidence for developing support opportunities for men living on a low-income.

For Anna, the discussions provided invaluable support in terms of developing the research questions in light of key stakeholder priorities through the generation of a number of outputs including; a stakeholder analysis; knowledge about the issues that men seek support for; an understanding of some of the causal factors that the third sector currently consider to influence men's experiences of poverty over time and; reflections on existing research evidence and suggestions for developing the research questions.

4.1. Themes the research should explore

As mentioned, the meeting provided important information about what evidence would be useful to the third sector in relation to men living on a low-income. The project should try to generate evidence with regards to the following themes if possible, both in relation to their causes and how men experience them:

- Social isolation and the contexts causing it,
- The importance of locality and the peer group,
- Barriers to social participation,
- Violence and emotion,
- Creating support opportunities for relationships.

Empirical evidence about each of these issues may help to support some of the observations being made by individuals currently working in the third sector and inform policy and practice more broadly.

4.2. Additional Action Points

The following are action points for Anna following the meeting:

- Review the stakeholder analysis outcomes and continue to engage relevant third and voluntary sector organisations not already approached i.e. BARCA, Leeds Rhino's,
- Contact advisory board members following the meeting as a follow up and to begin the process of access and recruitment for the field work,
- Develop the interview schedules for the research participants in light of the key themes identified at this meeting.

5. References

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Appendix 1: Invitation to stakeholders to participate

Dear [stakeholder name],

It was lovely to meet with you earlier in the year. I am getting in touch again because I now in a position to be able to invite you to become a member of an advisory group for my project. A brief outline of the project aims is attached to remind you. After an intensive year of analyzing existing data about men's care responsibilities in low income localities, as well as consulting with local formal and informal third sector providers, I am now also able to share some findings with you and would like to seek your guidance for a new research project that I am currently developing.

I will be holding an advisory group meeting on Tuesday 14th July 2015, 9.30am until approximately 12.30am, Room 12.25, Social Sciences Building, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT.

I would be delighted if you could attend. The meeting will be an opportunity for you to share more information about your current priorities as an organization, in relation to providing support for men, and with your advice and expertise, will allow me to shape the research so that it can have real value and impact for socially disadvantaged men and their families, living in Leeds. In particular, I am interested in understanding the relevance of the existing evidence to your organization and seeking suggestions about how these might be fed into the new project that is due to enter the fieldwork stage in three months time. While my research is predominantly focused on men's informal care networks in low-income families, I would be really interested in understanding more about how we can make men's experiences more visible via this research, which we discussed last time we met.

If you can attend the workshop on this date please let me know by Wednesday 1st July 2015. Upon confirmation of your attendance I will forward you some research materials to be read prior to the meeting. This will include a brief summary of the findings from the secondary analysis I have been conducting.

If you are unable to attend the workshop on that day but would still be interested in advising on the project, I can add you to a members list and send you further information about the project as it develops. I always welcome any comments you may have,

Finally, if you know of anyone else who may be interested in the research, becoming an advisory board member or attending the meeting, please do let me know or ask them to get in touch,

Kind Regards
Anna Tarrant

Appendix 2: Secondary Analysis outcomes document

Men, poverty and lifetimes of care

While a growing body of evidence of qualitative research is beginning to emerge about the ‘lived experiences’ of low-income families living in poverty, the experiences of family men (i.e. fathers and grandfathers) and the cumulative effects of living in conditions of poverty and disadvantage, is still a significant gap in knowledge.

In response, two sets of archived qualitative longitudinal data, held in a research archive at the University of Leeds (Timescapes), have been analysed: 1) to explore men’s everyday and long-term experiences of family life when living on a low-income and 2) to generate new research questions that derive from, and take into account, these findings. The first dataset, ‘Following Young Fathers’ (FYF) provides evidence of the experiences of teenage fathers; the second, ‘Intergenerational Exchange’ (IE), contains narratives of the lived experiences of mid-life grandparents (including grandfathers). Both sets of participants live in low-income localities in a northern city in England and when brought together, show the diverse ways in which men experience poverty and social exclusion over time, influencing the extent of support and care that they can provide and that they also receive.

In this pamphlet, I present fragments of the stories of the men from both datasets to demonstrate that men value their roles as fathers and grandfathers but that over time, they struggle to balance their responsibilities within particularly constrained circumstances. My intention is that these findings resonate with you and your own practice and it would be really beneficial to explore those questions that you think will best support you, in both your practice and in policy making. All of the quotations used in this pamphlet are from the participants that were interviewed for the two archived projects and have been anonymised.

Men are committed to the people in their families and value their roles as fathers and grandfathers.

Across the datasets, men engage in a range of care practices. Most of the men are fathers and grandfathers and they value these roles highly. They describe parenting as a process and one that is learnt over time. For young men, fathering is a positive and valued role. Aspirations for fatherhood provide them with motivation and emancipate them from the trappings of their localities. For older men, grandfatherhood is a second chance to parent again and to learn from mistakes made in the past:

It’s changed my personality and who I am and that. I mean I need to be a right little...but yeah I’ve, it’s made me realise that I need to do good and that and try and stay out of trouble and, so yeah. . .I mean if I didn’t have them I wouldn’t have, I probably wouldn’t be like this. I won’t, well I know I would have gone into college and done all that. But it’s made me stronger. It’s made me look towards my life and yeah so it’s changed me a lot yeah. . . yeah motivated. It’s just put in me right direction. It’s made me think ‘oh look I’ve, I’ve gotta show ‘em that, how to be a good dad when they are older. And you need to bring them up right and that. And that’s how I’ve seen it so yeah.

Callum, age 19, father of twins, separated (FYF)

Well, I always say that having grandkids gives you a second chance at life, you know what I mean cos you’ve learned by your mistakes....and now you can only teach them, you know what I mean. Cos when you first get married, you get kids, hey there is no manual you know, saying do this do that. You’ve got to learn by your mistakes, haven’t you?, Interviewer: Yeah, yeah. But I mean once you’ve learned that and you’ve got your grandkids, you’ve realised then that you know what to do.

Bob, age 56, grandfather (IE)

As well as being fathers and grandfathers, men also look out for each other in their localities as uncles and brothers.

Like I’m not close wi’ ma mum at all. We always fight. I’m close wi’ ma grandma but not as close as what I am wi’ ma two uncles. It’s like one a’ ma uncles, he’s always looked after me. And like if anyone’s hurt me he’s always gone and stuck up for me. And ma other uncle, he’s like, he’s always there for me to talk to. And he’s helped me with money and that. Like if I need money, he’ll give me it.”

Jimmy, age 16 (FYF)

Interviewer: ...you stopped [younger brother] doing what you and [Jamie’s twin brother] had done (getting in trouble around the estate).

Jamie: Well that’s obvious, he’s my younger brother, you know what I mean, I wouldn’t let him do the things what I did when I was younger, I might not have been caught for anything like it, you know what I mean, but it still, I didn’t do it, but I still want, I wouldn’t want my younger brother to do it.

Jamie, son of Sheila (IE)

However, over time, men may be unable to fulfill their care responsibilities because of continuing constraints on their resources.

For a variety of reasons, including ongoing constraints on their time, money and relationships, men's choices can become harder and they are not always supported in the fulfillment of their caring responsibilities. Some examples of this are outlined below:

- Geography, relationships with partners and a lack of state support

The young men want to be involved in their children's lives but face a number of constraints. Living on a low-income makes it difficult to see children, especially if fathers are non-resident, like Jake, and if ex-partners and their families are controlling access. In the long term, legal processes are costly and Legal Aid is harder to access, rendering some men additionally vulnerable in terms of being able to fulfill their care responsibilities.

I can't go up there every day and she can't, well she don't wanna come to mine. And like I want to see Riley. So if she don't want to bring him to see me or she won't let me take him out then it'd have to go through courts wouldn't it. And I don't wanna do that 'cause then it'll just cause bigger, worse argument.

Jimmy, age 17, non-resident, in a volatile relationship (FYF)

I: If legal aid was still that in place do you think you would have contacted the solicitors?

Richard: Yeah straight away. She knows that I'm getting cash in hand so she can't like do anything,

I: What do you mean she can't do anything?

R: She like, she's been saying like, 'oh I'm taking you to CSA'. I said, 'go on then'.

I: Oh right.

R And stuff like this. I said, 'listen you aren't getting no money off me. If she [daughter] wants stuff, tell me what she wants and I'll go get it myself so I know you're not wasting money on this, that and the other'. So I know that I'm buying it, the money's going on her, not you'. Do you know what I mean?

Richard, age 16, separated (FYF)

- Men are not just 'absent' dads. They make decisions about their responsibilities in relation to their resources and within complex family circumstances.

The issue of child maintenance is complex and at present, does not support men to fulfill their care responsibilities across the life course. Daniel would prefer to care for his son full time rather than pay child maintenance to his ex-partner. Victor has multiple care responsibilities and is highly invested in the lives of his stepchildren, foster children and step-grandchild in his current marriage. However several factors mean that he is viewed as an absent father by the Child Support Agency. In both examples, including those above, men's lives remained tied to the circumstances of their ex-partners.

At the moment she hasn't approached me for maintenance, which I feel ... once she either goes into full time work or if she goesto university or whatever...I think she's going to approach me. I can't imagine why she wouldn't approach me. It seems to be in her favour to get money outta me. Which, is very annoying when I've been forced into this predicament and on top of it, I'm being told 'you're paying this money'. It's like 'well I'll have him full time' [laughs]

Dominic, age 19, separated, works full time (FYF)

*...from when I left my ex, I was paying her maintenance, but she was refusing to let me see [son from previous relationship] ... my ex partner, she's never worked and she's always sat on benefits, which then affected what happened to me, then, with the Child Support Agency... What she did was, she took two part time jobs, the emphasis then was on me...They weren't legal jobs. The emphasis was then on me to grass her up for working on the side whilst at the same time being pursued for maintenance by the Child Support Agency. I couldn't convince them, because they saw me just as an **absent father**, who was disgruntled and would say anything, and, erm, they, the Child Support Agency, although I had four step-children, dismissed [names step-children with Carolyn] and said that they, and they actually wrote to us...They said, "They do not count, you are an absent parent. It meant [current partner] was worse off and her children were worse off than before I moved in, and I thought that was intolerable.*

Victor, age 44, re-partnered father (IE)

The effects of care responsibilities and constraint on men's well being; emotional responses

Despite wanting the best for their children and grandchildren, the balancing of care needs and responsibilities alongside additional external pressures from those that intervene in their lives, can be a struggle for these men and they talk a lot about trying to control their emotions. The daily struggle of finding money to care for young children is also a problem for the younger men and affects finances when parenting. Older men are more at risk of experiencing breakdowns under the pressure of providing care at the expense of being able to work. They require support to manage the emotions that arise from difficult circumstances.

Every day, all the time. All we ever do is struggle. But we figure a way out....I'd like to be able to say when he asks for stuff 'oh yes you can have it'. But most the time I've gotta say 'right, you'll have to wait until we've got enough money'

Darren, in a relationship, receiving welfare benefits (FYF), age 21

[In maternal grandparents care] [son] 's been found to have some bruising on his leg...it's...we've gone to a paediatrician to see, find out if it's non accidental or anything...and they've ruled out that it, it's not an accident, someone's done it deliberately. But I'd rather not think like that. So, but upsetting. So he's back on the child protection plan again which, which was established yesterday. So [his mum] reported it to the social worker who then reported it to, well no I didn't get, I didn't get found out until the next day cause I'm always kept out of the loop by then...So it's a bit, even more frustrating for me... I've had a few times where I could have hit a wall say.

Adam, age 17, (FYF)

I mean I'm quick tempered don't get me wrong I'm very quick tempered because me dad were same but like say if [granddaughter] started and all that I have to walk away. Cos I know I've told her many times I have to walk away and it's hard, it's an' hard thing to do walking away you know what I mean? A little kid's having a go at you and it's, it's an hard, your own grandkid's having a go at you...It's an hard thing to walk away, it is (laughs) you know what I mean it's, it's very hard I find it difficult you know...

...this is the hard part I can't get, get me head round you know what I mean. This is the worst part for me because like [third sector practitioner] said I've worked all me life and like I say I had to give a good job up financially. I couldn't take it, there were so much pressure on me

Geoff, age 59, kinship carer, in care as a child (IE)

Key messages

- Men tend to be painted as dangerous or risky, yet they do play active *care-giving roles* in their families and over time, continue to invest in care-giving,
- Care responsibilities are not limited to fathering and grandfathering. Men look out for the people in their personal networks of care and try to protect them from the trappings of their locality,
- Men do not just become ‘bad dads’ over time and abandon their children, as broader stereotypes such as the ‘absent’ and ‘feckless’ father would suggest. They have strong aspirations to be involved in their children’s lives from a young age and when they look back as grandfathers, they relish the opportunity of a second chance to learn from their mistakes,
- They face a number of constraints over time however that impact upon the extent to which they can fulfill their care responsibilities. These include:
 - Negotiating sometimes difficult relationships with the mothers of their children,
 - Balancing multiple responsibilities; Following relationship breakdown in particular, men must make constrained choices about how they spread their resources, both financially and emotionally,
 - Trying to manage the emotional consequences of negotiating care responsibilities in constrained circumstances (as separated or non-resident dads, or kinship carers),
 - Lack of knowledge about rights and dwindling financial and legal support.

New empirical project based on emerging evidence

The evidence indicates that there may be significant cumulative effects for men that influence the extent to which they can fulfill their care responsibilities. These effects might start in the men’s early life, and build up over the lifecourse. **We lack research on how continuing hardship and/or changing family circumstances influences the decisions men make about distributing their limited resources within their personal networks of care at different times in their lives.** This study will therefore involve looking at men’s care responsibilities in low-income localities over time.

Central question of the research: How do men living on a low income define, experience and balance their care responsibilities over time?

This may break down into these areas:

1. How far do men’s personal histories influence their ideas of care responsibilities and their ability to fulfill these responsibilities?
2. How far do men’s personal histories shape their hopes for the future?
3. What do men think is ‘good’ care and what are the key barriers and constraints (perceived and actual) to them providing this care over time?
4. What do you think are the key barriers and constraints on these men?
5. How might your organization better support men in low-income localities when they have multiple care responsibilities?

What should I add?

Who I expect to involve in the research:

- Men living in low-income localities in the north of England, who have circumstances that may be described as chaotic or ‘troubled’,
- Men across all age groups with multiple care responsibilities, within and across households (fathers, grandfathers),

Who should I add?

Appendix 3

Table 1: Meeting organization Tuesday 14th July 2015. 12.25, Social Sciences Building, University of Leeds.		
Time	Activity	Resources
9:30 – 9:35	Anna to outline aims of the meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Last seven months been developing project via engagement with existing evidence, some of which you have seen, b) Aim is to find out from you how this evidence is relevant to you and your work and to attempt to feed some of your concerns and questions into the research strategy. c) Meeting as an exploratory meeting or consultation and about developing the research project so that it is co-produced and will provide relevant evidence for practice, d) Explain time-frames and funding, e) Introduce Ged as facilitator. 	Audio recorder and consent forms.
Before we start the activities, I will take 5 mins to give a brief overview of the research that has been funded and a reminder of the focus of the research and the direction it is taking. I expect to develop these with your guidance today but the research must continue to relate more broadly to this area of interest.		
9:35 – 9:40	Presentation by Anna - brief overview of the project. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Brief overview of my research background b) Research Background – Policy concerns about deadbeat dads, absent fathers and ‘man deserts’. c) The engagement of fathers and grandfathers in child welfare services is poor, meaning that their potential to be a resource for the care of children is not fully utilised. Fathers have been addressed through a lens of the potential risk they may represent to their children rather than as a resource (Maxwell et al., 2012), d) Project to focus on men and what and who matters to them over time – aim is to provide 	PowerPoint slides

	<p>fresh understandings of the long-term dynamics of social exclusion, poverty and men's care responsibilities.</p> <p>e) QL - Addresses <i>how</i> and <i>why</i> questions; aims to understand <i>what matters</i> to people as a precursor to understanding <i>what works</i> in policy terms (Neale et al)</p>	
<p>LINK: I have the skills to ask questions and to find out about men's lived experiences over time, but to do this in a robust and relevant way and to understand what might work in practice and policy terms, it will help me to learn about your experiences of working with men and to understand the issues that they tell you are important. We now have a number of directed activities to do as a group, to explore this...</p>		
9:40 – 9:55	<p>Ged</p> <p>Ask each person to introduce themselves, their organization and their interest in the project – (prompt)</p> <p>Do any of you know each other or work together already? What are your shared policy priorities? – leave time for discussion and questions.</p>	Record this based on a 'map' of the table.
<p>We've learnt a bit about you and your organisations, it would help me to know a bit more about the local context, key influencers so that impact of the research can be tailored at different scales.</p>		
9:55 – 10:15	<p>Ged</p> <p>Stakeholder analysis activity - aim to develop understanding of local context and key influencers – Ged to explain the stakeholder diagram on poster chart – ask them to write on post-its, who they are accountable to in the local area – who they consider the key influencers to be – mention that they are free to discuss this together if they want to.</p>	<p>Need a flipchart with Influence up the Y-axis and Interest along the X-axis</p> <p>People need enough post-its to populate this in a free for all but with discussion, especially if they have differing views of the same person / organisation</p>
10:15 – 11:15	<p>Share extracts from data (on presentation slide) (15 mins per slide) – Anna to say what piqued her interest as an academic. Does this raise any curiosity for you? Perhaps write some thoughts on post-it, we can talk in more detail about this as a group for each slide.</p>	<p>Need a flipchart relating to each slide to be discussed – use slide heading.</p> <p>5 mins for individual response to the data; they allocate time to discuss the issues that emerge.</p> <p>Ged makes notes on flipchart near the issue during the discussion. Ask if people want to continue / move on as time progresses.</p>
11:15 – 11:25	Tea / coffee	
<p>In the first half, we have discovered invaluable information about the local context and your experiences of working with men and hearing about their lived experiences. These final activities are about the project itself and developing it in a way that can</p>		

create impact within the time frame available.		
11:25 – 11:30	Anna brief explanation of project as it is designed.	
11:30 – 12:00	Split groups in two – one group look at research q's 1 and 2, one group q's 3 and 4 on the outcome sheet. Groups to discuss for 15 mins and 10 mins to report back.	Anna and Ged go with a group and make notes on the group discussion template.
12:00 – 12:10	Who should I include question and map of Leeds exercise. Get them to identify area of Leeds on the flip chart map and say who could/should be interviewed,	Try www.sketchmap.co.uk but also have A3 printouts from Google Maps.
12:10 – 12:20	Post-its – three things this research could achieve – who benefits and in what ways? – this research could achieve, what for who? To prove that what would I need to do? Will use these instructions On each post-it put your organisation What the research may help you to improve Who that may benefit	Use flipchart to gather these. A pad of post-its per person
12:20 – 12:30	Concluding comments - Anna (10 mins); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for your valuable time, • Following the meeting will adapt the QSA document in relation to our discussions today and send you all copies – send summary as well, • Where can the QSA document be posted so that it is of maximum use to you and other local third sector organisations? • Will be in touch with you all again about another advisory meeting as the research progresses and I have started some analysis. • I will also be approaching you all individually again to enquire as to whether you would consent to be interviewed for the project so that you can be more fully involved. This will help me to develop a more robust approach and hopefully help me to gain access to some of the men you work with if you are agreeable, 	

Appendix 4

1. How far do men's personal histories influence their ideas of care responsibilities and their ability to fulfill these responsibilities?
2. How far do men's personal histories shape their hopes for the future?

Group discussion

Are the questions interesting or useful for you?

Any other considerations? What should I add?

3. What do men think is 'good' care and what are the key barriers and constraints (perceived and actual) to them providing this care over time?
4. What do you think are the key barriers and constraints on these men?

Group discussion

Are the questions interesting or useful for you?

Any other considerations? What should I add?