

SJWY4011

1901779

Assessment component 1

For the purpose of this essay one will discuss how the structure of the family dynamic has changed, along with the impact it will have on a young persons development. Furthermore, how youth work intervention can benefit the wellbeing of the young person and their families. Firstly one will discuss how the family dynamic has changed historically, In addition one will include how parental mental health has had a negative impact on children and young people, one will then go on to discuss negative childhood factors which impact into adulthood, concluding with how youth work intervention positively impacts young people .

Powdthavee and Vernoit (2013) suggested that parental joblessness was positive for childrens happiness when the child is younger, on the other hand parental joblessness was negative or insignificant for older coresidential children.

It can be seen in 2014 there were 18.6 million families in the United Kingdom, 12.5 million were married families. Cohabiting families have increased by twenty nine percent since 2004 (The Office for National Statistics, 2015). This shows there has been a decline in marriage and remarriage due to cohabiting, this increase of unmarried people is not due to an increase in 'single' people, Young people are setting up houses with partners at an earlier age than previous generations (Bumpass., Sweet and Cherlin., 1991). Furthermore in 2015 the number of children adopted by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) couples or individuals saw an increase of four hundred and eighty children placed in stable homes (Department for Education, 2015). This increase of adoption in same sex marriages is due to its inclusion of LGBT within the adoption and children's act (2002). Coincide there are, 1.8 million single

parents within the United Kingdom, this statistic counts for a quarter of families with dependant children ONS (2015).

ONS (2016) stated that Eighty six Percent of lone parent families were female, therefore fourteen percent were male. However, it can be seen there has been changes that suggest women are more likely to be the main dependant when a relationship breaks down ONS (2016).

Gideon Calder (2018) suggests single parents can be seen as being disadvantaged due to less income, poor education and fewer career prospects.

As far as Calder is concerned *“The children of single parents are more likely to live in poverty, and less likely to do well in school. Meanwhile, their parents social position stems importantly from the way in which dominant discourses around ‘appropriate’ parenting – ‘good’ and ‘bad’ parents – continue to inform both how parents see themselves and how different types of parents are perceived in contemporary society”* (Calder, 2018, pp.421).

Turning to mental health within families and the impact it has on young people’s development, mental health has many different issues which can be seen to effect how parents take care of their children (NSPCC, 2019). For example, anxiety and depression can have a negative influence on parents thoughts and feelings, In particularly it may lead to parents finding it more difficult to provide the right care that children need, also being mentally and emotionally balanced (NSPCC Learning, 2019). In addition, parental mental health problems consequently occur parallel to other stressful experiences for instance divorce and separation, unemployment, financial hardship and domestic abuse.

SJWY4011

1901779

Assessment component 1

It follows that exposure to domestic abuse may have an impact on the development of a child and young person also, how the parental capacity is more likely to be affected by domestic violence (Holt, Buckley, Whelan, 2008). It can be indicated that children and young people living with domestic abuse can be at risk of emotional, physical and sexual abuse, it may also lead to behavioural issues for the young person (Elsevier, 2008).

It follows that one in six adults encounters at least four types of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) (Centres for disease control, 2019). ACEs can be seen to be a cause a number of health conditions, risky health behaviours, low life achievements and it can also be linked to early deaths. It is suggested that ACEs may have permanent impressions on the wellbeing of young people for example, mental health issues, chronic disease, risky behaviours leading to injury and young people with ACEs are less likely to have opportunities such as education, employment and a good income (CDC, 2019).

There is a minority of children and young people that are experiencing problems that could have an impact on their ability to achieve, this indicates this could lead to poor outcomes throughout childhood and adolescence (Every Child Matters, 2003).

In today's society there are many factors which contribute towards how young people are affected negatively for example, technology, drugs and illegal substances, unstable families, crime and lack of employment. According to Ingram and Harris (2001) one factor which has an impact on young people in this case is emotional development, it can be seen that a large number of young people come from unstable backgrounds and incomplete families. These

SJWY4011

1901779

Assessment component 1

young people are more at risk to not have the ability to develop healthy relationships and find themselves having difficulty with emotional attachment (Ingram and Harris, 2001).

With regards to youth work intervention, youth work services are predominately conducted by third sector organizations with objectives of promoting resilience, positive career or employment choices for young people who are seen to be socially disadvantaged, promoting positive wellbeing (Alldredd, Cullen, Edwards, Fusco, 2018). Youth work services are however delivered to focus on an individual's specific interest and needs, to support each young person towards an individual goal, although youth work has suggested outcomes it is not predominantly a career service or rehabilitation service (Unite the Union, 2010).

It can be can be indicated that early intervention will increase the likelihood of better outcomes (Blyth, Maggie, Solmon and Enver, 2009). Every Child Matters 2003 also promoted the importance of early interventions within childrens youth.

The wellbeing of future generation (Wales) Act 2015, further promotes early interventions within wales, this falls under the Acts wellbeing objectives supporting the development of prevention and early intervention alongside with improving mental wellbeing.

Youth work can be delivered through a wide range of services for instance; youth clubs, career services, outreach programs along with projects such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the GAP project. Youth work can also be delivered through other settings such as; Educational establishment, health centres, social service units as well as being delivered in a multi-agency approach within youth offending teams and social inclusion units (Ingram,

SJWY4011

1901779

Assessment component 1

Harris, 2001). By youth work providing support as well as building resilience in childhood it can be seen mental health problems within adults who had above four Aces can be halved to fourteen percent from twenty nine percent (Public Health Wales, 2018).

To conclude this essay more people are cohabiting now as of previous generations, there has been an increase in single parents specifically women as they were seen as the main dependant when a relationship breaks down. Mental health was also a negative attribute in modern families causing development problems later on in life for children and young people, this could also be a contributor of an adverse childhood experience which also causes negative impacts later on in life. It can be seen that there is now a negative effect on emotional development on children and young person due to instability and family breakdown as well as advances in technology, furthermore drugs and illegal substances cause further implications towards a young person's ability to hold healthy relationships, individuals were also found to struggle with emotional attachment, coincide with increasing the chance of developing a mental health disorder (MIND, 2016).

Youth work is then used to give young people positive outcomes through intervention and preventative services. Youth work seems to be primarily delivered through third sector organisations but can also be delivered through other services such as behavioural units, youth justice team and projects such as the Duke of Edinburgh. Outcomes seem to be focused on getting young people into education or training but also building resilience and promoting wellbeing. Early intervention is key to delivering positive outcomes as soon as

SJWY4011

1901779

Assessment component 1

possible. As suggested in Every Child Matters as well as The Future Generations (Wales) 2015 further promoting this.

SJWY4011

1901779

Assessment component 1

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