



# Promoting father inclusive practice

To engage fathers and keep them involved in services, we all need to be proactive, and inclusive to their diverse needs and perspectives. Although it may not always be either possible or appropriate to engage all fathers, these strategies can help us strengthen our organisation's father-inclusive practice.

By working with fathers as well as mothers, professionals can gain a better insight into the family dynamics, help identify risk, and support children's development and well-being, from pregnancy and through to adult life.



Ensure your service is easily accessible and actively invites fathers to join and engage.

Use father-inclusive communication.

Include fathers throughout your organisation.

Think about the impact of identity, race, culture, and environment in engagement.

Think about the child's experience and point of view.

## How father-inclusive is your practice?

Here are some simple points to consider, to make your approach to safeguarding more father-inclusive:

- ✓ Do you make the most of every opportunity to contact fathers who already have some connection with your service?
- ✓ Do your communication methods reach out and represent the role of fathers?
- ✓ Are they available at key locations, such as schools, nurseries, children's centres, community centres, hospitals, or health centres or via online means? What can you do to change this?
- ✓ Do you reflect on how father-inclusive your own everyday practice is? For example, do you try to invite fathers at accessible days and times that they can make?
- ✓ Managers - Do you assess levels of active father engagement and how is this recorded, and followed up to improve staff confidence, skills and knowledge.
- ✓ Are you knowledgeable about Camden's local demographics and does your approach create an environment that is culturally and socially welcoming for a diverse group of fathers?
- ✓ Do you think about how you can provide fathers with the opportunity to develop peer networks with others in similar circumstances?
- ✓ Do you think about how to support fathers to understand how their involvement benefits their children?
- ✓ Fathers are most likely to meaningfully engage if they understand why their engagement benefits their children.