



5TH NATIONAL RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION CONFERENCE

RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION BUILDING A NATIONAL AGENDA



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Outline of the day

- Introduction to the report
- International research into what works
- Current practice, evaluation and conclusions





Couple Relationship Education - Why a National Agenda?

- Strong couple relationships are key to personal and family wellbeing and a healthy society
- CRE can facilitate couple stability and help reduce risk of family breakdown
- Systematic and comprehensive investment in CRE is essential to open the opportunity to all



Why This Report?

- Number of groups committed to CRE gave backing
- Government spending has been significantly reduced
- The case for CRE needs to be made in a comprehensive fashion
- Funding has been made available





Defining CRE

“The communication of a set of values, strategies and interpersonal behaviours designed to build harmony and intimacy in the relationship thus increasing stability and satisfaction for the couple”.



Social Context

- Most couples aspire to a long-term relationship – key to wellbeing
- Couple relationships under significant pressure
- Government have a role to help people achieve relational aspirations – part of wider Equal Opportunities
- Relationship breakdown is a private tragedy, but also a legitimate public concern
- Changes in attitudes impact on stability of couple relationship





UK Political Context

- Formerly explicit Government support for marriage and relationship education
- Growing stigma associated with marriage
- Emphasis has moved to children, young people and families



Our Approach - Key Principles

- 1 Lifetime wellbeing through stable couple relationships is the fundamental goal
- 2 We use the term 'couple relationship education' to commend an inclusive approach
- 3 CRE should be geared to key life stages and related access points
- 4 Approach and sensitivities of faith groups to be respected





Where does this lead?

- Full review of research evidence on 'what works'
- Detailed survey of provision in the UK
- Key principles for delivering and evaluating CRE
- Recommendations for increasing capacity and delivery



We want your views and feedback!

