

# Place2Be

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**'I need to tell you  
something...**

**Benita Refson OBE**



# The Background Story



[Watch \*The Background Story\* on YouTube.](#)

# Place2Be



- Largest provider of school-based counselling in the UK
- On-site, therapeutic services supporting children, families and school staff
- Working directly in over 235 schools reaching 94,000 children aged 4-14
- Clusters of services across England, Scotland and Wales with 350+ clinical staff and 1000+ volunteers.



# School Services



Targeted and universal support that is non-stigmatised and accessible:

- Individual counselling: short and long-term
- Self-referral drop-in sessions
- Group work
- Whole classroom work
- Staff consultation (Place2Think)
- Parental support



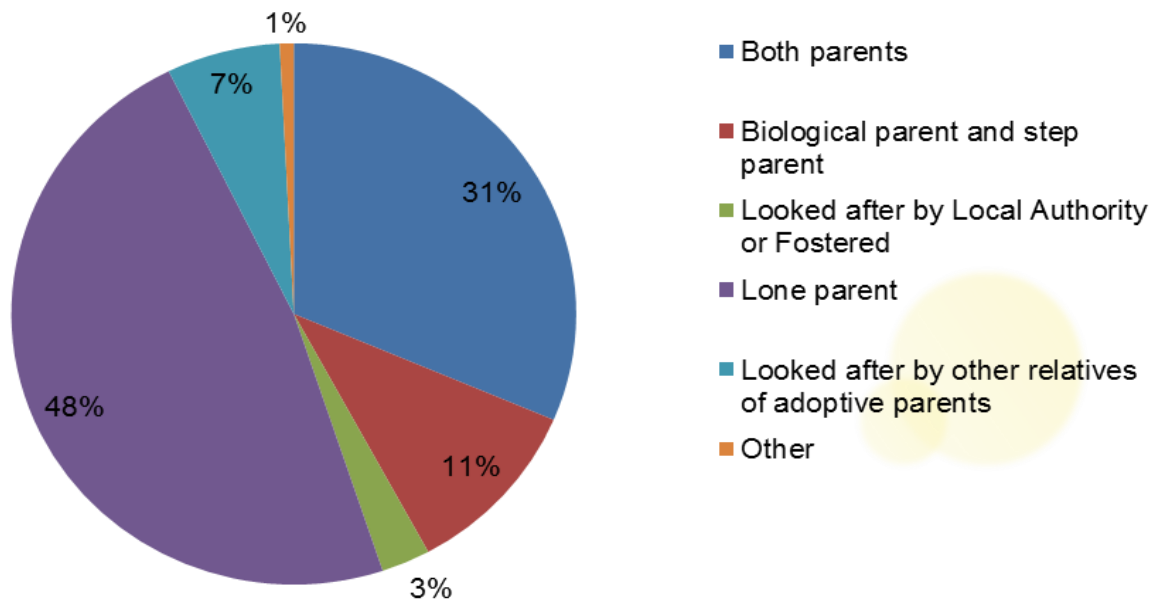
# Domestic Violence

- 37% of parents between 2010-2013 out of 1046 discussed Domestic Violence as an issue.
- Pilot of 106 children 48% had ongoing family tensions (difficult family dynamics...strong sibling rivalry or conflict beyond the normal)



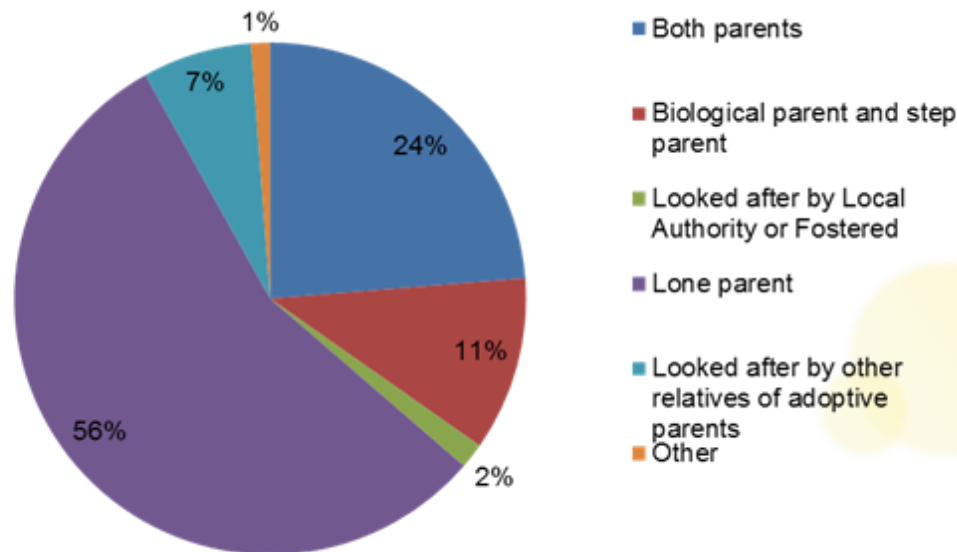
## Primary School-

- 13/14 364 children (1%) who visited Place2Talk discussed violence in the home 1747(6%) discussed family conflict.



## Secondary School-

- 26 (6%) who visited Place2Talk discussed violence in the home.
- 66 (14%) discussed family conflict



# Training for Place2Be Professionals



*“Far too many of the children Place2Be helps live in homes affected by addiction and domestic violence. These issues, combined with poor mental health, form a ‘toxic trio’ which can have a devastating effect on the whole family. Place2Be is therefore working with sector leaders Action on Addiction and Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse to develop training for our parent counsellors. This will enable our counsellors to provide support to parents which is focused on the people involved, not on individual issues.”*



# Extended Services



## Additional services schools benefit from:

- Head of Safeguarding
- Education Psychologist (SEND consultation)
- Research and Evaluation team

## Potential add-on services for schools:

- Regional/ national partnership work e.g. Achievement for All, M-PACT+
- Place2Be Parent Counsellors – currently funded by LAs or charitable grants
- Training



# Impact data (2012/13)



## Demographic

- Over half of children seen in 1:1 were in receipt of free school meal compared to 26% of the local school population.
- 9% were subject to a child protection plan (0.9% nationally).

## Biggest impact on children with greatest need

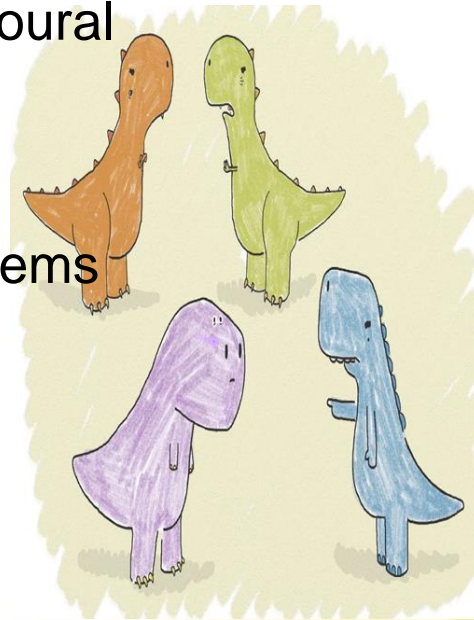
- 84% of parents reported emotional, social and behavioural improvements for children after 1:1 work

## Improved classroom behaviour

- 70% of children identified by teachers as having problems “causing significant classroom interference” were less disruptive in class

## Support for parents

- Over 2/3 of parents experienced improved emotional wellbeing after 8 sessions with a Place2Be counsellor



# Place2Talk Slip



**I would like to come to The Place 2 Talk.**

**My name is** [REDACTED] .....

**My class is** 8 .....

**My worry is about** my stepdad is hitting me .....

**If there is more than 1 of you coming, please write your friend's name too.**



“It is easier to build strong  
children than to repair broken  
men”

*Frederick Douglass*

# The Other Side of the Story



[Watch \*The Other Side of the Story\* on YouTube.](#)