



Lads Need Dads

Equipping, Engaging and Inspiring Young Men

Our Mission: To empower and enable boys age 11-15 with absent fathers or limited access to a male role model, to be motivated, responsible, capable, resilient and emotionally competent to prevent them from becoming at risk of under achieving, offending, exclusion or dropping out of school.



Our Vision:

‘Helping boys with absent fathers
be the best they can be’

The Fatherlessness Crisis

- 1.1 million children in the UK are growing up without a father in their lives (CSJ 2018)
- 2.9 million children live in lone parent families

(Office of National statistics 2019)



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Males – The High-Risk Gender



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Exclusions

Boys have more than three times the number of permanent school exclusions, with 6,000 permanent exclusions, compared to 1,900 for girls in 2018/19.



86 per cent of boys in custody aged 12-18 were excluded from school before coming into detention.



Prison

76% of male prisoners under 18 in England and Wales grew up with an absent father



GCSE Results 2020

▶ Boys have achieved lower exam results than girls for the past 3 decades

▶ Joint Council



University Entry

In the 2018 Cycle, 35% less males went to university than females

Figures from the Department of Education in 2020 reported that '**male white British free school meal pupils** are the least likely of all main ethnic groups to progress to higher education'

Across all pupils eligible for free meals 26% went on to university by the age of 19, but for white pupils on free meals the figure was 16% - and **only 13% for boys.**



"A generation of boys and young men who are disadvantaged in education may face many subsequent disadvantages throughout their life"

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/how-fair-is-britain.pdf>

Why boys with absent fathers are at an even greater disadvantage

Countless statistics show that young boys, where a father is absent and who have no appropriate male role model, will struggle as teenagers and are at a higher risk of low self-esteem, and/or dropping out of education, anti-social behaviour, substance abuse and crime.



The referrals we receive

- ▶ Mum and Dad separated, Dad not in the home
- ▶ Never met or known Dad
- ▶ Dad lives out of area, contact lost
- ▶ Dad has died
- ▶ In prison
- ▶ See Dad sporadically
- ▶ Looked after children
- ▶ Dad may have walked away
- ▶ Dad left due to domestic abuse



The impact of the absent father on boys

Current research has found:

- ▶ Sense of rejection leading to unworthiness, self doubt and self hatred
- ▶ Adrift / rudderless / lost
- ▶ Crisis of identity
- ▶ Anger, bouts of rage
- ▶ A Lack of motivation
- ▶ A need to belong
- ▶ Loss of value – under achieve
- ▶ Poor judge of character
- ▶ Unfilled void – leading to addictions
- ▶ Lack of confidence



What we do:

Long term early intervention programmes - EQUIP-ENGAGE-INSPIRE-AMBASSADORS

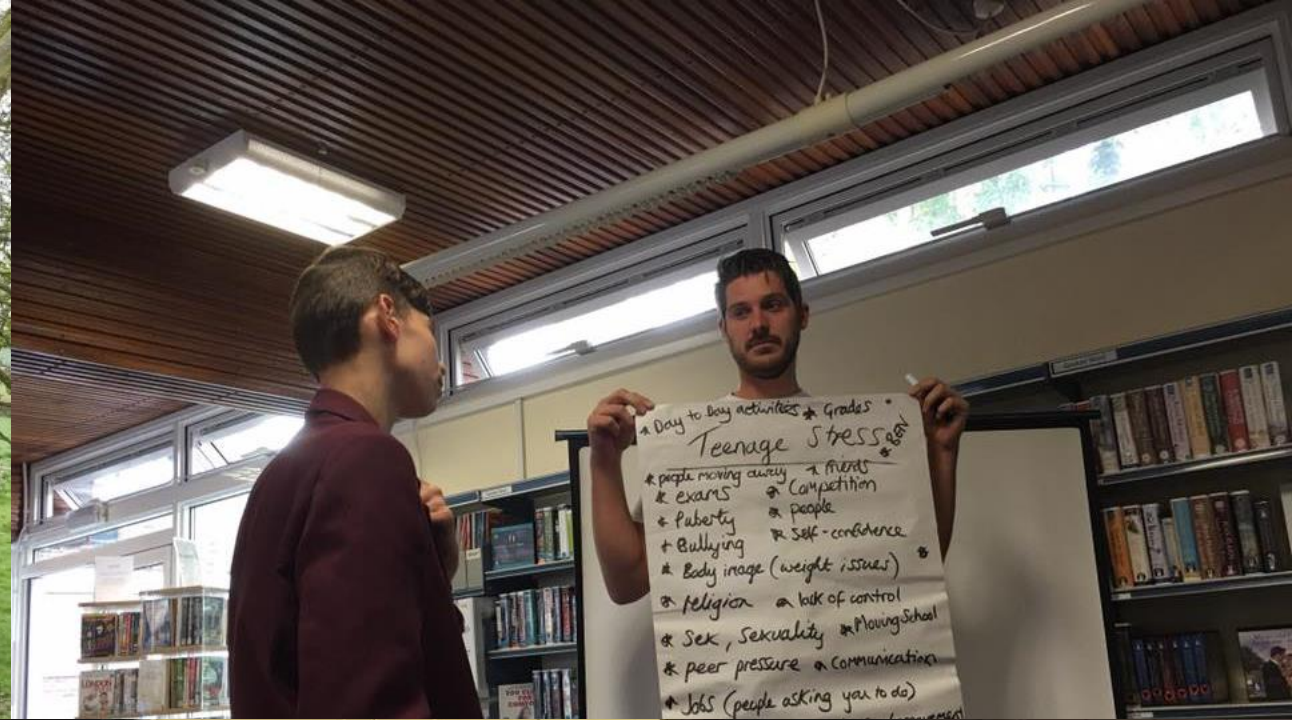
Using male volunteer mentors we provide long-term early intervention for boys age 11-15 via a structured programme including:

- Group work development sessions and outdoor activities – (Equip)
- Practical life-skill training and community volunteering – (Engage)
- Peer mentor training, inspirational speakers / trips – (Inspire)
- Open ended support after completion – (Ambassadors)

- Support for mums and carers

- Reading mentors

- Research and training

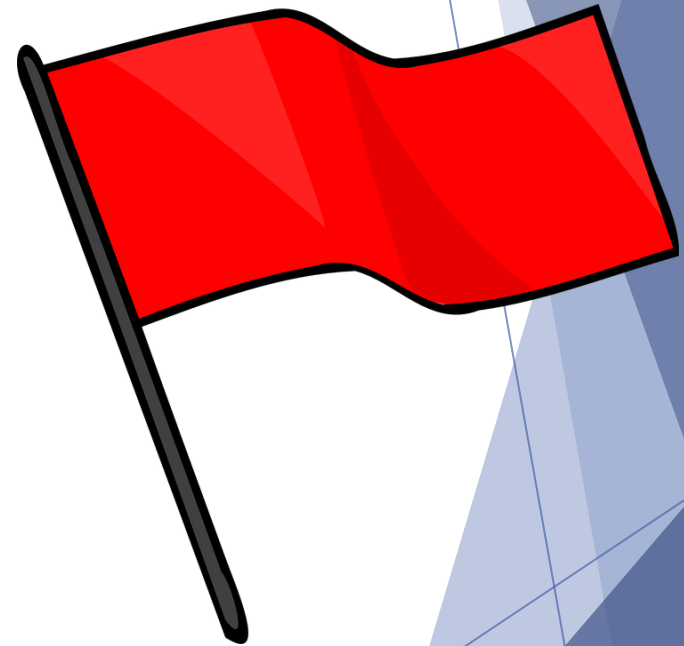


Pupil census data

- ▶ Census information about pupils registered at school include the following:
 - ▶ • Gender
 - ▶ • Eligibility for free school meals (FSM)
 - ▶ • Ethnicity
 - ▶ • Speaking English as an additional language
 - ▶ • Number of schools' pupil attended in the last nine terms
 - ▶ • Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) rank of the area the pupil lives in
 - ▶ • Term of birth
 - ▶ • Special educational needs (SEN), combining both primary SEN type (e.g. autistic spectrum disorder) and SEN provision (e.g. SEN support)
- ▶ **The pupil school Census data does not include parental status i.e., if a father or a father figure is present in the home. Lads Need Dads believe it should.**

Flagging system

- ▶ **Benefits:**
- ▶ Early identification = early intervention
- ▶ Reduced escalation of behaviour
- ▶ Reduced risk of exclusion
- ▶ Reduced risk of mental health issues
- ▶ Improved educational outcomes
- ▶ Plan ahead, put protective factors in place
- ▶ Regular emotional wellbeing check-in's with a designated male
- ▶ Pastoral teams prepped so support can be put in place early
- ▶ Teachers to receive training on impact of the absent father on boys



BIGGEST BARRIER FOR LADS NEED DADS?

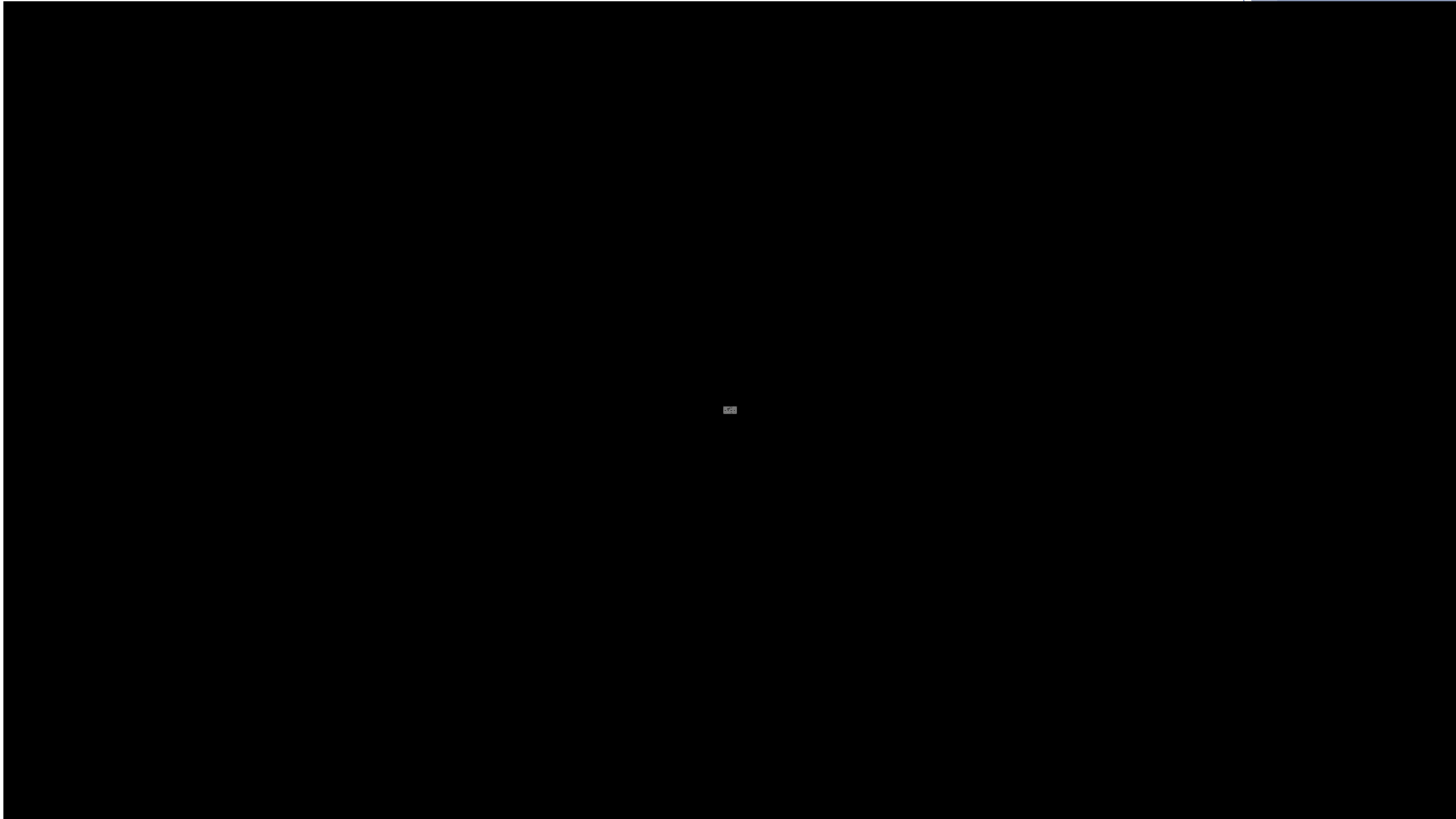
- ▶ IT'S NOT FUNDING
- ▶ IT'S NOT RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS
- ▶ IT IS IDENTIFICATION OF BOYS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS



Research project
funded by Global
Fund for Children

In conjunction
with University of
Essex and the Men
and Boys Coalition

- ▶ **Step 1. *Staff perception surveys*** across Secondary and Primary Schools in Essex. Explores teacher perceptions of the correlation between boys with absent fathers or limited access to a male role model and:
 - disruptive behaviour
 - academic engagement
 - attendance
 - school exclusion
- ▶ **Step 2.**
 - *Training* to front line staff and parents
 - *Policy review*



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