

Children in Need

28.2.08

Teachers and support workers tell me some horrific tales of children in Gravesham. One little boy's parents steal their son's Ritalin to deal in as a drug; another walks into her mother's bedroom to get her out of bed in the morning and finds her in bed with yet another man. She asks her mother why she has such nasty, abusive boyfriends who hate her and her siblings. Others cannot be bothered to get out of bed in the morning to take their children to school so they call the support workers who do – a case of the underclass having nannies on the state. One woman is having her fifth baby in 6 years, each with a different man, none of whom support their children financially, her elder child highlights to the mother that the baby needs feeding and makes up a bottle. In one school it is estimated that over 80% of the children do not live with their biological fathers. One little girl when asked is her father coming to parents evening answers which daddy as it turns out that she has 3 to call on.

We now have educational welfare officers, family support workers, Sure Start, language tutors and counsellors to deal with breakdown Britain. These kind and well-meaning people – all paid for by the working taxpayer – have an enormous task on their hands and I can only see that we are tinkering at the edges. How did we get into this state?