

## **Publicity for Fathers Event.**

Fathers are seen as crucial actors in the early development of children. Fathers themselves consistently respond in questionnaires that they would like to spend more time with their children. Yet fathers with young children also work the longest hours – even more than other men.

Fathers are also becoming more vociferous in demanding rights of access and recognition of their role. Yet few take up paternity leave that is available and women continue to be the main carers for children, even when they are working full time.

How is modern fatherhood changing? Why are Dad's not taking up their rights? How can they be supported as fathers? What implications does this have for mothers and the gendered division of labour?

The event will begin with the screening of a 10 minute film drama exploring the problems of modern fatherhood from the point of view of three contrasting fathers who are the main carers for small children: Jonathan a gay dad, Justin a full time carer because his wife earns more than he ever could and Sid, a single dad whose raising a family second time round after an affair with a younger colleague who left him holding the baby. The film would be used to stimulate discussion about the current role of fathers.

This will be followed by a presentation of research results from European projects showing the different ways that fathers cope across Europe in contrast to the UK and the different policy contexts that make it harder or easier for them.

Come along and tell us what you think.