



Couple Relationship Education in the UK today

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Background

- Formal CRE in UK started around time of 2nd World War (Relate and Marriage Care)
- Maces moved to US to set up ACME
- “Marriage enrichment” spread in US, and returned to UK in 70’s
- Piecemeal development – many small organisations





Three years ago:

- About 135,000 people, 40% of those marrying, receive some pre-marriage education – but much of short duration
- About 15,000/ year getting some form of relationship education – mostly in depth
- Wide spectrum of recipients class/ethnicity/education
- About 5000 people engaged with delivery – mostly volunteer
- Biggest challenge is “Access Points”
- Only 25% have any evaluation – mostly “Happy sheets”



In 2012:

- Continuing
 - Decline in numbers marrying (but they remain stable)
 - Increase in childbirth outside/before marriage
- Increasing recognition in policy that “family” as well as “child” matters – especially family transitions
- Expanding access to programmes – especially “birth of child”, also prisons, military, fathers etc
- Emerging understanding about the role of commitment in relationship stability
- Still some big challenges around measurement of impact





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Our focus for today:

- Forming safe relationships
- Building resilient relationships
- Measuring our impact

But right now it's Coffee time!



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Thank You

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