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Commenting on the publication of the Centre for Social Justice report on Mental Health: Poverty, Ethnicity and Family Breakdown

Rhian Beynon, Head of Policy and Campaigns at Family Action said: “The Centre for Social Justice report on mental health, poverty, ethnicity and family breakdown very helpfully raises the need for family focused mental health services. We think this is a gap in the new mental health strategy. Support for parents with mental health difficulties features very little in the strategy and with 450,000 parents with identified mental health problems it is vital that parental mental health is a priority so that the impact on their children is minimal. However, we are concerned that the CSJ report seems to explain dysfunction and family breakdown as primary causes of mental health issues. Our latest evidence from service users suggests that insufficient services to support parents with mental health difficulties and family finances and problems associated with income poverty have as much or a greater impact. That’s why we’ve launched our Against All Odds campaign for better services and welfare support for parents with mental health difficulties.”

Ends