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DU MARIAGE ET
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CANADA



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**Back to Utopia: the
pursuit of the child care
paradise**

Comparative incomes of one or two parent families in 2004 - 2005

- Two parents with two children had to earn £240 a week to have a net income of £295 to lift them over the poverty line.
- A comparable lone parent needed to earn £75 per week to get a net income of £230, £5 above the poverty line.

Financial gain from 'faking it': mother and father both unemployed

- Lone mother on income support/Jobseekers Allowance in 2006/07, two children under eleven: total benefit per week after all housing costs would be £171.90 per week (approx. £8,939 per annum)
- Boyfriend on income support/Jobseekers Allowance, has council fl at elsewhere: total income after own housing costs (not including possible rent income from illegally subletting his own place) £57.45 per week (approx. £2,987 per annum)
- If they lived as an undeclared couple living in the mother's accommodation their income would be a total of: £11,926 per annum
- If the lone mother and boyfriend declared their relationship and claimed income support as a couple, their total income would be £204.55 per week or £10,638 per annum: a loss of £1,288 per annum (not including possible rent from sublet)

Financial gain from 'faking it': boyfriend on medium income

- If the boyfriend earned £380 per week (£19,760 per annum gross), he would receive a net income of £291.53 per week or £15,159 per annum. He now has no housing subsidy. He gives an address as that of his parents but lives with the lone mother in her council property. The total income for the couple would be £24,098 per annum
- If the couple declared their 'live-in' status, their income would be £290 per week or £15,080 per annum after housing costs as local authority tenants, a loss of £9,018 per annum (approximately the total level of the mother's benefit income, all of which would be lost)

Sure Start is the:

- **Key to the Government's drive to prevent social exclusion, raise educational standards, reduce health inequalities and promote opportunity.**

(DfES, Sure Start Prospectus, 1999)

- **This comprehensive community based programme of early intervention and family support [will] have beneficial and far-reaching impact on child and family development, thereby breaking the intergenerational cycle of social exclusion and benefiting the long term economic health of the nation.**

(An Integrated Summary of Progress on the National Evaluation of Sure Start 2001-2005 The National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) London: Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues. 2006)