

AIM

To understand the cost, responsibility and commitments of bringing up a child.

OBJECTIVE

To discuss and record the cost of bringing up a child and recognise a personalised support network.



RESOURCES

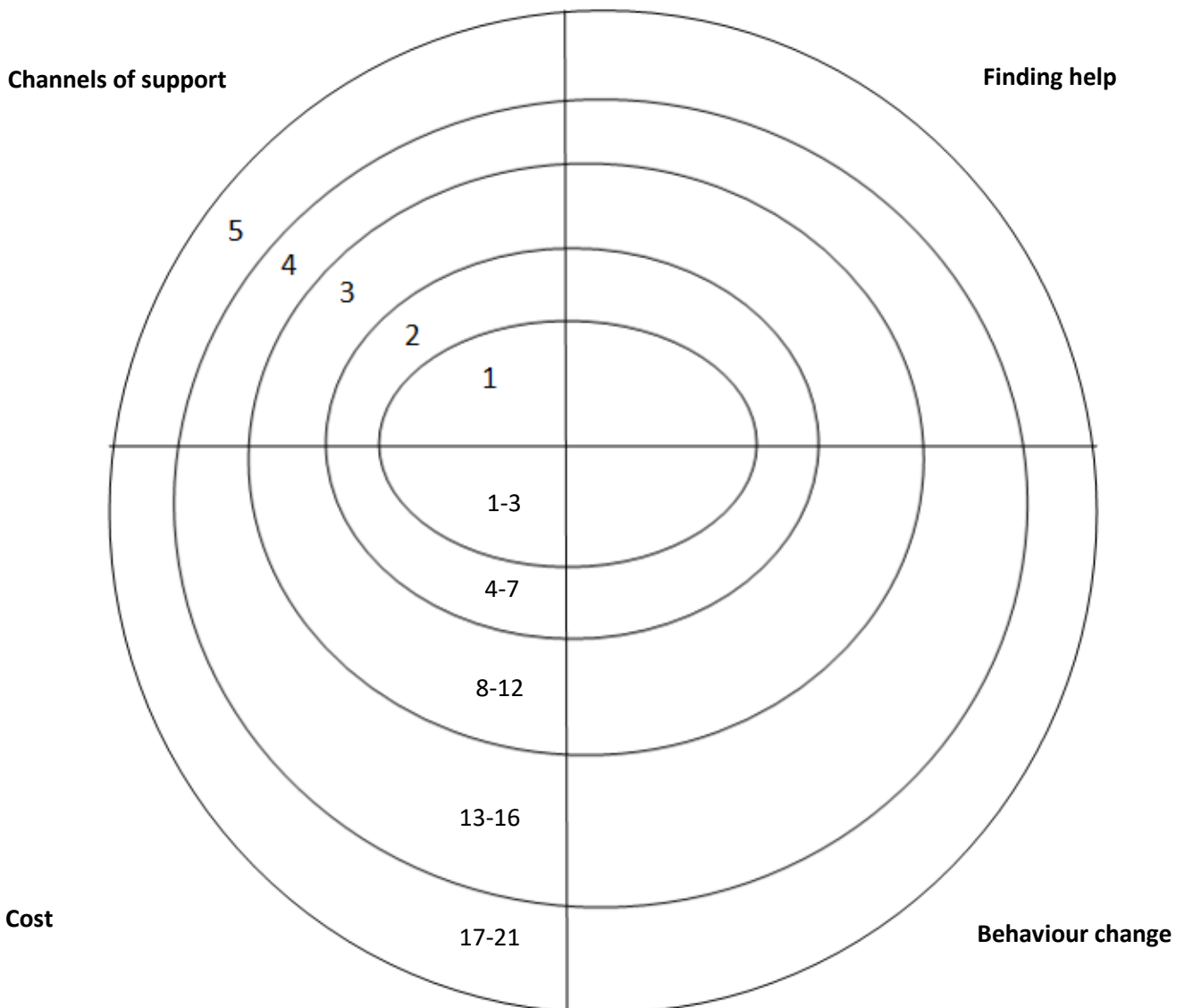
Flip chart paper, pens and access to the 'Baby' video.

Step 1

Play the 'Baby' video diary.

Step 2

Split the class into small groups. It can be an advantage to have groups of only girls and only boys. Ask the group to draw the diagram below on their flip chart paper. This should fill the whole of the flip chart paper. Alternatively, you can hand out the A4 diagram provided.



Step 3

Channels of support

Explain to the group that they have just discovered they are pregnant, or for the boys, they have just been told that they have made a girl pregnant. Ask them to write on their flip chart in the top left-hand section, who would they go to for advice. This should be rated from 1-5 with 1 being the first person they would go to.

Change in behaviour

Once this is complete, in the bottom right hand section, ask the group to start listing what types of things they do at present that would have to change now that they've found themselves in this situation.

Cost

Ask the group how much they think it would cost to raise a child up to the age of 21. In the bottom left hand corner, they should start writing the types of cost they would meet when raising a child through the years.

Where to find help

In the final top right section, ask the group to write places they would go to in order to receive advice. These would be professional contacts as opposed to friends and family. They should be listed in the order of what advice you would need after having received the information that they are or have made someone pregnant.

Step 4

Once all the information has been recorded, the group should now be brought back together to share their knowledge. Discuss:

Channels of support: encourage the group to discuss advantages and disadvantages of the people they have chosen, e.g. If a friend is on their list, can the friend be trusted, or cater for different cultures. Some cultures will automatically go to their mothers, whilst for others an aunty would be more appropriate.

Discuss the consequences of telling these people and how they would change things. The purpose of the discussion should be to clearly outline a personalised pathway of support that a young person can take and at the same time discuss the negatives and positives of taking that path.

Change in behaviour: What changes of behaviour have the groups come up with? Encourage the group to think in terms of how their lives will change, what would they have to cut out, such as socialising and smoking. How would their relationships change with the people around them? Would it affect their education or their ability to get a job?

Quite often in this section it can become apparent that the girl's lives change dramatically, whereas the boys' lives can remain relatively unchanged. Is this the case?

Cost: combine the different items the groups have placed on their sheets and compare how much each group thinks the cost of bring up a child is. In the following discussion we are trying to encourage the group to have an awareness of the cost implications of bringing up a child and to be aware of how that cost would affect their lives.

The actual cost of bringing up a child to the age of 18 has been calculated at £75, 436.

For a single person it is £102,627

How close was everyone's answer?

Things you have to buy new:

Nursery furniture £500

Equipment £300

Nappies: £260

Total: £1060

Average nursery costs are £116.25 for 25 hours

Average yearly childcare costs £6000

<https://www.lv.com/life-insurance/first-12-months-parenting-costs>

Where to find help: In this final section we are looking for the groups to create a list of local agencies or support networks and how they could access them. Help the group to understand what services can be offered and how to find them locally. Facilitate the group to come up with their own list of who they personally could go to for support.

Whose right is it?

We often find that this final part of the group debate can get very emotional so be prepared. This part is therefore optional.

Finally, ask the group whose decision it is to bring a child into the world- is it the man or the woman or both? Who should make the final decision as to whether their child is born?

In the UK the law (2014) currently states that it is the woman's right to choose whether to have or not have the child she is carrying. A man has no rights in this decision. Discuss!

