

**Parental Engagement in Solihull**

**September 2011 – August 2012**

**We want;**

- Parents' and decision makers to have open and honest conversations before decisions are made.
- Parents' to have the knowledge and confidence to be actively involved in any decisions that affect their children or family.
- Lots of different opportunities and ways of engaging with parents to be available, in order to collect a broad spectrum of views.
- Parents' views to be listened to, respected and acted upon, wherever possible.
- Parents' and professionals to engage in joint training and develop a "teamwork" relationship.

**Over the next 12 months, we will;**

1. Ensure that all parents have an opportunity to get involved and find out about changes that have been made as a result of their involvement through the Parents' Network
2. Ensure all relevant decision-making groups have parental representation Build engagement with parents into all services we commission
3. Agree the role of Parents Forum and Solihull CAN
4. Develop a scheme for parents to support other parents in the community
5. Gather feedback from parents through the Ask Parents' 2012 survey
6. Increase the number of schools with a Parent Council
7. Develop strategies to improve communication between parents and practitioners (including schools)

**Action Plan**

| Objective  | Key Actions   | Resources/<br>Responsibility         | Measures of success  |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p>1. Ensure that all parents have an opportunity to get involved and find out about changes that have been made as a result of their involvement through the Parents' Network</p> | <p>a) Co-ordinate the information through the Family Information Service's Parents' Network<br/>                     b) Gather information from all partner agencies/services about opportunities for parents to be involved<br/>                     c) Increase the number of parents on the Parents' Network.<br/>                     d) Increase the number of parents involved in community/support groups on the Parents' Network<br/>                     e) Develop information on engagement opportunities via the parents website<br/>                     f) Develop a FB page and Twitter account for the Parents' Network</p> | <p>Family Information Service</p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in partners using the Parents' Network to inform parents of engagement opportunities</li> <li>• Increase in parents who feel able to influence decisions that affect them and their family (Ask Parents survey)</li> </ul> |
| <p>2. Ensure all relevant decision-making groups have parental representation</p>  | <p>a) Identify decision-making groups that could involve parents<br/>                     b) Gain commitment from Solihull Partnership to involve parents in decision-making groups where possible<br/>                     c) Develop guidance to help group chairs to involve parents<br/>                     d) Develop guidance for parents to help them get involved in decision-making groups<br/>                     e) Promote details of decision-making groups that have parent rep vacancies to parents through Parents' Network</p>   | <p>Carol Andrew and Sarah Barnes</p> | <p>Increase in parents involved in decision-making groups</p>  |

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|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 3. Increase the involvement of parents in adults and children's commissioning strategies | a) Map current involvement of parents in commissioning decisions to establish baseline<br>b) Review commissioning contracts to ensure they include engagement of parents   | Teresa Scragg                 | Increased involvement of parents in commissioning strategies   |
| 4. Agree the role of Parents Forum and Solihull CAN                                      | a) Parents Forum and Solihull CAN to develop terms of reference and annual action plan<br>b) Details of meetings to be published in parents network eBulletins and newsletters<br>c) Parents' Forum to consider options for constitution and applications for funding  | Parents Forum<br>Solihull CAN | Parents Forum and Solihull CAN influence engagement of parents   |
| 5. Develop a scheme for parents to support other parents in the community                | a) Work with parents who are working in a community role to assess how best to take this project forward in each area of the borough   | Kay Hart                      | Scheme developed and parents volunteering to support other parents in the community  |
| 6. Gather feedback from parents on an annual basis through the Ask Parents survey        | a) Co-ordinate and distribute Ask Parents survey 2012<br>b) Work with schools and Children's Centres to deliver the survey verbally to parents who may not be able to access it in written format<br>c) Analyse data and feedback to parents and partners. Include information to parents about what will change as a result of their feedback | Carol Andrew                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% increase in response rate</li> <li>• Increase in partners contributing to survey questions</li> </ul> |

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|--|--|--|---|
| 7. Increase the number of schools with a Parent Council  | a) Hold an event for parent council members to network and share good practice<br>b) Gather information from Parent Council members about their perceived level of influence in school issues<br>c) Provide written information for schools and parents on good practice | Kay Hart, Pam Garrington, Carol Andrew   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Council members report an increase in their perceived level of influence in school issues</li> <li>• Increase in the number of schools with a Parents' Council</li> </ul> |
| 8. Develop strategies to improve communication between parents and practitioners (including schools) | a) Develop 'communication' training aimed at practitioners and parents (including schools and governors)<br>b) Involve parents in the development and delivery of the training   | Bernice Lingard                          | Training developed, all available places taken up and feedback is positive from parents and practitioners (in terms of improving communication)   |
|  | c) Develop written guidance for schools and other agencies on how to engage with parents. Hold launch event Jan 2012. Evaluate the guidance October 2012.  | Pam Garrington                           | Feedback on toolkit is positive   |
|  | d) Develop written guidance for parents on how to engage with schools and other agencies   | Carol Andrew                             | Feedback from parents is positive   |
|  | e) Provide opportunities for parents and practitioners to network via market place event   | Carol Andrew/Parents Forum/Solihull CAN? | Feedback on market place event from practitioners and parents is positive (in terms of improving communication)   |