

Minutes of Parent Partnership Advisory Board Meeting 22nd April 2010

Present :

Alison Freeman	Parent and IPS
Angela Bernard –Ferguson	Information Officer Parent Partnership Service
Bridget Mork	Coordinator Parent Partnership Service
Brian Selby	Councillor
Damien Irving	Parent and Epic
Fliss Snowdon	Parent Involvement Officer AHFDC
Jodi Shepherd	Parenting Commissioner
Johnny Atkinson	Inclusion Information Officer
Judith Khan	Transformation Programme Manager
Kerry Roling	Senior Parent Involvement Officer
Lynn Day	Parent and EPIC
Margaret Cook	Parent Champion
Mary Armitage	Integrated Processes Manager
Rachel Selby	Administrator
Sara Smithson	Parent and Chair of EPIC
Sarah Sullivan	Parent and IPS
Simon Kilner	Dyslexia Action
Val Cain	Families and Schools Together (FAST Team)

1. Introductions

2. Apologies: Anne Marshall, Angwen Vickers, Susan Rautenberg, Joanna Barns, Chris Bennett, Louise Snowden

3. Minutes of last meeting passed as a true record

4. No matters arising

5. Aiming High funding was discussed, through the revenue and capital they now have £2 million to be spent. Already know where some of the money is to be spent. Some of the money is going to services already started. A list will follow with the minutes of where the money will be spent. Spending money on playground facilities, and toilets shopping centres was discussed as well as rooms to feed children who are tube fed. Kerry is to ask Melissa Stead from the national child birth trust for advice on the best way to go forward. Cllr Selby asked if the planning committee has been contacted in regards to the shopping centres, it was explained that the adult services will be in charge of getting the shopping centres fitted with facilities for disabled children.

6. Parent Participation Strategy was discussed, this was to develop parent and carers commitment to the local authority. It was to improve our service and for them to have a say in what services we should be providing and how we can improve the ones we already do. Five main priorities were identified these were:

1. Ensure that feedback is provided to parents/carers so that parents and carers know what has been done as a result of what has been said.
2. Ensure that staff have the training to listen to and encourage parents and carers participation.
3. Ensure that all services give clear information using plain language to parents/carers about how and where parents can give their views on services.
4. Ensure that agencies are open with parents / carers so that parents / carers know where they can and cannot influence change.
5. Ensure that a wide range of methods are used to gain parents/carers views. Parents and carers value face to face meetings and opportunities to talk to as well as questionnaires and consultations.

It was found that it would depend on how you would ask a question would depend on what response you would get.

Cllr Selby asked where the information was collated, it was explained that in information is collected at a central point at Education Leeds.

7. Simon Kilner introduced himself he works for Principal Dyslexia Action, he has been running a project at Carr Manor with the teaching assistants using new software to help teach children with Dyslexia. This new technology has proved a great success. This technology will start in schools but he would like to send it straight to the families and have the technology in the home, to enable parents to use the technology if they are dyslexic.

8. CAF was discussed with Mary Armitage, it was decided that Mary needs to know more about the background of cases applying for benefits as the framework is very broad Cllr Selby. Mary needs to be able to understand legal and financial requirement and who would take part in the common assessment briefing. There has recently been an amalgamation of services between all the data will be electronically based which is more secure as you need passwords to get in to it. It will now help with collating data and ensuring that we are helping as many children the service can.

Cllr Selby to arrange to meet with Mary Armitage
mary.armitage@educationleeds.co.uk tel: 07891 276137

9. **Empowering Parents Improving Choices EPIC** is a parent forum funded by aiming high for disabled children . **EPIC** Leeds is a voluntary parent forum which is run by parent/carers for parent/carers. The aims of the forum are to ensure that all families who have children with additional needs are given a say in services and how they are run. Forum members are offered training in order to enable them to fully to express their opinions and improve the choices on offer.

They are now looking at venues for regional and national meetings – Sarah to contact the Lord Mayors office.

Val Cain discussed training opportunities for parents to train other parents, the STEPS course was mentioned (STEPS to personal excellence) STEPS looks at raising self esteem and confidence. Val Cain is available for Sarah to contact,
Valerie.cain@educationleeds.co.uk tel:07891 278996

10. LILS (Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy)– Margaret Cook who was the Parent Information Officer for the LILS project is now officially back at PPS from the 1st April. She hopes the LILS project keeps going, it is now run by the SENSAP team headed by Andrea Robinson.

10. Market Place Event was discussed this year they have been able to secure funding from the Aiming High Funding. However this will not happen every year. Cllr Selby said he would look into the funding for the event. It was discussed that maybe SILCs could take it in turns to hold the event, but nothing was decided. 4,500 parents have been invited to the event. There will be advertising outside and balloons to say where it is, this is from the feedback from last year as parents said there was not enough publicity outside to show you where it was. Rt Hon Ed Balls will be attending the event.

11. Coordinators report was given out.

12. Quarterly statistics were given out.

Dates of the next meetings are 22nd July, 21st October and 27th January all at Carr Manor Children's Centre 11.45 to 13.45

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