

Parent Partnership Advisory Board

Meeting 19th March 11.30 to 1.30 10th Floor West Board Room Merrion House.

Introduction

Parent Partnership Service

'All Local Authorities must make arrangements for Parent Partnership Services. They must take what ever steps they consider appropriate to make this service known to parents, head teachers, schools and stakeholders'. (Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2001).

Trying to get the best advice and guidance can be a confusing and frightening experience for parents and carers, the thought of approaching the school, Education Leeds and other professional organisations can be intimidating.

The Service is located within Education Leeds but has its own delegated budget and operates at arms length. Information held regarding case work is confidential. Monitoring and recording of referrals are separate from those of Education Leeds. Liaison with other agencies is with parental consent. The service is managed by the Coordinator and is linked strategically to Education Leeds through the Head of Service who is appropriately placed within Inclusion Improvement and Planning department. Education Leeds does not influence the impartiality of advice, information and guidance given to parents/carers. Education Leeds provides all other resources and support for example marketing and information systems.

The officers are based centrally at the Blenheim Centre please **see structure**, the team consist of an Exclusions Officer, Choice Adviser, Information Officer, A Parent Champion and three Special Educational Needs (SEN) Officers. The SEN Officers work closely with the Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres and are responsible for two city wedge areas each.

Parent Partnership Service is designed to provide a first class service to parent/carers, Education Leeds, schools, and other agencies both voluntary and statutory. The service offers knowledgeable support, advice and training to ensure that No Child is Left Behind and Every Child Matters.

It works:

- To ensure that a flexible menu of services for parents and carers whose children have individual needs is provided, in order to empower them to play an informed role in their child's education.
- To ensure that parents, carers and professionals are provided with accurate impartial information and guidance on legislation, policies and procedures in order to make informed choices and understand the parents rights, roles and responsibilities within the SEN process.

- To provide training for parents, independent parent supporters and school staff.
- To provide access to an independent parent supporter to all parents who want one.
- To ensure that schools are a more welcoming place for parents and an inclusive environment for children by supporting teachers and other school staff in their work with families.
- To comply with Local Authority policies on the monitoring, evaluation and equality to ensure value for money, best value and fair and equitable customer service.
- To establish and maintain links with voluntary organisations.
- To ensure parents' views inform and influence the development of local SEN policy and practice.

I am delighted to let the Advisory Board know that the Parent Partnership Team achieved the Chartermark award on the 4th March, we will receive the official report and certificate in four weeks.

The minimum standards for Parent Partnership Services have been exemplified.

(The Government have set down their expectations of good practice in the provision of an impartial Parent Partnership Service PPS)

The exemplifications will be launched in Leeds on Thursday 6th March.

The PPS has used the exemplifications to inform the team plan for 2008 – 2009 a copy of which will be circulated.

A copy of the staff structure will all so be circulated.