

www.parentviewscount.org



# NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

Empowering Parents to influence Services across  
Birmingham



## Seasons Greetings

Hi all, I hope that you are well. We are now coming up to the end of the year. There have been a lot of exciting developments taking place for Parent Views Count (PVC) over the year. Chair of the Project Board Kristin Sanders and Vice Chair Liz Garnham are working closely with Anthony Collins Solicitors to ensure that our paper work is just right in order for us to gain our Company Limited by Guarantee status.

I am pleased to announce that Llewela Bailey, Media Specialist has agreed to become a patron for PVC.

We also welcome Shaafia Bi to the team, Shaafia is working closely with Children's Centres and the Fathers Workers across the city

**Jasvinder Hayre**  
(Parent Engagement Coordinator)



## You are invited to our Next Parent Forum meeting

**\*\*\*\*\* FREE GIFT BAG FOR ALL PARENTS THAT ATTEND \*\*\*\*\***

*“Children Centres are committed to developing inclusive services for disabled children under 5 and their families”.*

This is an opportunity for parents of under 5's with an SEN or Disability to come together with Children Centre staff to look at ensuring their centre activities are wide ranging.

Come along and have your say on .....



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
Carrs Lane Church,  
Carrs Lane  
Birmingham.

Due to the high demand please could you text or email your details to ensure we reserve a place for you.  
By 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Text to: 07795121281  
Email: [jasvinder.hayre@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:jasvinder.hayre@barnardos.org.uk)

Please send in any questions you may have on the topic, so that we can forward to the speaker in advance.



### PVC Update



- Parent Reps took part in Media training with Llewela Bailey
- PVC are working with Llewela to make promotional DVD
- PVC submitted a response to the Green Paper
- Parent Reps are planning coffee mornings to get feedback from parents experiences of transition from Early Years to School
- PVC are working with the City on the eligibility criteria for Short breaks
- Consultations with parents will be taking place to discuss their experiences with Short breaks
- In the New Year PVC will be working with SENIC to review the Transport Policies before they are implemented in April 2011

### Carrs Lane Parent Forum Feedback

13<sup>th</sup> October Market Place

The Market place went really well. We would like to thank all the service providers who came along to share information about their services. Parents found that having information from Signposting, Health and Social Care and the Parent Partnership most useful. The Market Place provided opportunities for parents to gain general information and also specific information on finding some more appropriate services.

Parents were asked if they felt that the person they saw was able to provide them with good advice and support? Parents made the following comments:

- The 'Market Place' is a good idea – parents do not have to go from place to place, its all under the same roof.
- Fantastic Information.
- Need more services
- Found out meanings of jargon words and who to go to for information
- Mencap were brilliant as were Outside Services
- The lady I spoke to was very helpful and pointed me in the right direction.
- A very friendly approach
- I got excellent information that I didn't know was available.



Service providers also recognised that parents were often unclear about next steps to receiving services such as CAMHS. Requests for days & residential short breaks were made by parents. They felt more info about the service generally was needed. They also would have liked more information on children's issues within schools, provision at school, secondary transfer, Post 16 provision and more communication with school statutory Assessment. One parent requested to speak at their school cluster meeting. Parents had shared thoughts about the lack of arts provision centrally for disabled Children and Young People. Many parents had fears about how inclusive the services are and if there is long term support within mainstream arts venues/providers. Parents also enquired as to what is OT? How it would help their child? How to refer into the service?

Overall it was a great event, thank you to the parents' who came along. I look forward to seeing you at the next Parent Forum meeting.

Jasvinder Hayre

**To view Birmingham City's response to the Green Paper: Children and Young People with SEN and Disabilities please visit our website.**

**[www.parentviewscount.org](http://www.parentviewscount.org)**



## Feedback from meetings attended by reps



### CAF (Integrated Assessment) Steering group –

- CAF Training is being rolled out to include more “front-line staff”.
- There is a programme of CAF Training for all school nurses & special school nurses
- Documents regarding the quality assurance of CAF in Birmingham were circulated. The level of participation by the parents/carers and the child themselves is thoroughly evaluated.

The PVC Parent Rep has agreed to help draft a leaflet that outlines the expected level of parental and child involvement that can be given to families at the start of the CAF process. The Rep was also given time to explain how some parents are unsure how and when they can participate in meetings about their child, and that clear guidelines would give them more confidence. The Parent Rep was also able to distribute details of a workshop: **Early Intervention and Families, Parents and Carers Training Workshop**; that is being put on by C4EO for LA Senior Personnel on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.

### CAMHS –

Parents met with the CAMHS team to look at partnership working. CAMHS have agreed to present their future plans at the next Parent Forum meeting (Feb 2011)

**Meeting Chris Atkinson** – A consultation took place regarding transfer of Disabled Children Social Care into Integrated Social Care. Chris shared how the short breaks eligibility criteria would work. Chris also explained the principle of the Matrix (Locator 6). This is how schools with statemented children will be funded from April of next year. It was agreed that PVC would share information about the transfer through the newsletter and also PVC would respond to the Green Paper.

## Transfer of Disabled Children Social Care into integrated Social Care

Following a review of the integrated strategy for disabled children, a new post of Assistant Director of Integrated Services for SEN and Disability has been created to champion, along with their counterpart in Health, the needs of this group of children and young people. Chris Atkinson will lead a range of services, brought within the new structure, which collectively will improve the support offered to disabled children and their families and carers. Disability Services, currently within Social Care, moved into Integrated Services (IS) in April 2010. The task is to identify the key issues facing Disability Services and enable a successful transfer. The national agenda for disabled children is clear and seeks “a transformation in the way local services as whole are provided”. Over the last five years services are integrated within 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' which requires Children's Trusts to ensure a 'core offer' of services:

Disabled children and their families can access appropriate information at every stage of their life, with the information jointly provided by all relevant agencies and covering every aspect of the disabled child's life in the community;

Assessments are transparent and service provision will be integrated, jointly commissioned and planned on the basis of a clear needs analysis;

- a) Assessments are holistic, prompt and multi-agency, including a family support plan for early support and person centred transition planning from age 14;
- b) Disabled children and their families have choice and control over the services provided, with active participation in shaping local services and SEN policy development and practice; and finally
- c) Agencies providing services have in place routine and systematic mechanisms for families to feedback their experience of the service, and that this information is a central driver for improvements.

These challenges are, quite rightly, ones for mainstream as well as specialist services. Indeed, with more than one in six of the population aged under 20 identified as having a disability or special educational need, unless mainstream and universal services can provide for these children and young people, specialist disability services will remain under severe pressure. Nevertheless, to achieve an effective matrix of support to disabled children, from early years through into adulthood, the social care service will need to play a full and active part in its continuing development

### Is your child on a part-time timetable?

Information is requested by SENAS from any Parent who's child is on a part-time timetable.

If your child's school has put your child on a part-time timetable please let SENAS know by replying to:

Clare King  
Principal Review Officer  
SEN Assessment Service  
tel: 0121 6753053  
email: [clare\\_king@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:clare_king@birmingham.gov.uk)

### Parents Guide to Facebook

**Parents' Guide to Facebook Offers Hands-On Help in Optimizing Teens' Safety and Privacy**

<http://www.connectsafely.org/fbparents>

**Please go to the website above for the 32-page guide (pdf)**

### Birmingham Joint Commissioning Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities 2010 - 2015

The Joint Commissioning Team would like your views on their Learning Disability Strategy which covers all areas of life for people with learning disabilities. The services are currently funded by the pooled budgets of the three Birmingham PCTs and the city council. The strategy covers young people in transition from childhood to adulthood.

The consultation summary and questionnaire is in easy read, and a full copy of the strategy can be downloaded from <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/ldplan2010>.

The consultation process runs from **Monday 20th September** to **Friday 10th December**.

### Would you like to become a Parent Representative?

Parent Views Count is working across Birmingham to enable parents/carers to share their views about Service development. By joining us you can help us make a difference. We represent parents with children who have a SEN or disability. We are currently expanding our engagement to parents with children under 5 years. We have regular Parent Forum meetings which give information relevant to parents needs.

Shaafia is in the process of contacting parents who are interested in becoming a Parent Rep for PVC. We will be planning for a 'Parent Rep Induction Session' for the new year, to bring together all the new reps who will have signed up. If you would like to have your say, please feel free to contact myself or Shaafia on 077608 42818 and we will put you in touch with one of our existing parent reps to find out more about how you can be involved.

### Expenses

Some pocket expenses that you incur for attending PVC Forum meetings can be reimbursed. To claim back your expenses there is an expense claim form that needs to be completed and accompanied with the relevant receipts.

#### **Taxis**



Some of you may need support with transport in order to attend PVC forums or events. So if you need to book a taxi then please contact Linda Perrins on 0121 212 2855.

**Please note, if you cancel a taxi without giving 48 hours notice to either PVC or the taxi firm then you will be responsible for reimbursing the costs.**

### Coffee Morning

Come along to a Coffee Morning at the Carers Centre to meet representatives from PVC, Link-up and Face2Face.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10-12pm**  
**Carers Centre**  
**130 Colmore Row**  
**B3 3 AP**



**(Opposite the Council House)**