



Happy New Year

Happy New Year to you all, even though it seems like such a long time now since we had the Christmas and New Year break. This year will be very challenging for us all as we are in a period of unknown at the moment regarding funding for services and provisions across the city for children and young people with disabilities.

The "Transport Policy" is due to come out for consultation, we are hoping by early February. A lot of families will be affected by this so make sure you have your say when we ask for your views. The policy is due to be implemented in September. The response to the Green Paper: Children And Young People With Special Educational Needs And Disabilities is also due to become available in February, again we will keep you informed.

Good news!!! PVC is now been given Company Status which means we can now apply to become a charity. Even though we are in changing times we will continue our work in 2011 to make sure that your voice and views are represented. Be sure to visit our website www.parentviewscount.org

Jasvinder Hayre

Parent Engagement Coordinator, Parent Views Count
jasvinderhayre@parentviewscount.org / 07795121281

PARENT FORUM MEETING

Empowering Parents to Influence Services across Birmingham

Wednesday 9th February 2011

Venue : Carrs Lane Church,
Carrs Lane,
Birmingham

Time: 10-12pm



FREE GIFT BAG FOR ALL PARENTS THAT ATTEND



CAMHS

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

- Find out about what CAMHS has to offer
- Get an update on Service Development and the CAMHS Home Treatment Service

Come along and have your say at our workshops.

To reserve a place please contact Jasvinder
By 4th February 2011

Please let us know if you require a crèche place by the
26th January 2011

.....
Contact Jasvinder Hayre : 07795121281 Email : jasvinderhayre@barnardos.org.uk
.....

Newsletter January 2011

www.parentviewscount.org

Parent Forum Feedback – 16th December 2010

The purpose of the December Parent Forum meeting was to bring together Service Providers from Children's Centres and parents to look at ensuring local Children's Centre are inclusive and meet the needs of children under the age of 5 yrs who have a disability. There are 78 children centres across the city.

Across Birmingham there are some really excellent examples of how Children's Centres have developed their services so that they are inclusive. The parent forum meeting was to encourage networking and discussion to find out what's happening across the city.

Speakers:

Early Years & Service Integration - Christine Cheng and her team

Presentations included information about Children's Centre – why they exist, core offer and what children's centres bring to the community. Mary Neufville shared information about the service priorities, purpose of inclusion team and how settings are supported. Mary also shared information about the inclusive provisions across Birmingham. Information was also shared about Early Support Services and Early Support – Service Audit Tool.

Service providers from Children's Centres also found the information relevant. One centre said that they will be moving towards an 'all age' setting, and found the information very useful for the transition from early years to primary. Providers also found this as a good networking and signposting opportunity. Most of the providers said they would like to form a sub group to continue looking at the development of their services.

Kids West Midlands - Amiee Jenning-Burton

Amiee shared good examples of inclusive activities run across the city in some children centres and demonstrated how Children's Centres could use household objects to make sensory equipment – more fun and inexpensive.

Parents and Carers were asked the following questions during the workshop:

1. Do You Use Children's centres?

- 2 out of 8 use centres
- 2 use for holiday scheme
- Turned down by 2 centres
- Feels nothing on offer for SEN children, nothing inclusive
- Parent advising centre what services are needed
- Worried that CDC's transferring to children's centres but if staff given correct training would be acceptable to bridge gap.

2. Any Contact with Local Centre?

3. Like to Use Children's Centres?

4. What are the barriers?

- Not inclusive
- Post code lottery
- Some better than other
- Staff need better training
- Accessible to SEN children above 8

5. What would they like to see Children's Centres providing for children Under 5yrs with a disability and for their parents? What would be different? About this from other services they use? Do they want specific, targeted Services or services which are integrated or both?

- Evening clubs for older children
- Inclusive not exclusive
- Educate staff AND parents (more tolerance towards SEN)
- Strengthening families training
- Befriending / support / counselling for parents
- Ask parents what they want – react to parents needs.



- Group where children looked after by staff where parents can have a chat away from child
- Awareness training for all parents accessing centre's with regard to SEN
- Get rid of "phasing" other same SVC
- Every Centre have a parent group or forum
- Additional group for SEN children
- A member of staff to link-up, 1st contact etc.
- At least once a year to bring all children together
- Standard for all Centres across the City

Children's Centre Service providers were asked the following questions:

1. What barriers do you experience in providing services for children with disabilities and their families?

Early identification of children in the community with a disability is problematic.
 Parents are hesitant about coming into a new environment.
 Trust issue - suspicion, not sure what organisations offer e.g. Social Care – feel they are being judged.
 It is important to build relationships with parents.

Other barriers:

- Parents own learning disabilities.
- The nature of multi ethnic communities
- Numerous languages – language is a barrier.
- Lack of information.
- Knowing what training is available.
- More Money.
- Lack of parental confidence

2. What Support and training would you like from the local authority?

Database – children with additional needs
 Effective use of funds and provide 'local services'
 Every transition - Improve joint working with partners to have better outcomes and seamless transition.

Early Support Family File – good transition tool
 No uniformity of training in Children's Centres

- Teachers
- Practitioners
- Family Support Workers

Lack of sharing good practice and expertise.
 Services don't need to be too precious about resources they have – must share
 Up to date relevant information, points of contact, share your role.
 Multi agency working and joint up services





Signpost Autism Carers Roadshow

The Roadshow will be present at our **Parent Forum Meeting on the 9th of February at Carrs Lane Church** with their minibus to provide advice, support and guidance to carers around autism.

For the latest dates and locations of the Roadshow please visit <http://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/>

Look out for the **GREEN BUS** in the Church Car Park!!!!

'Include Me Too' Consultation for Parents

The consultation is one of several taking place with parents/carers and disabled children and young people. The intention is to ensure the BCH Communication Passport is a key tool ensuring that disabled children and young people's needs and requirements are communicated well and supported during their visit/stay at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The consultation is taking place on **Wednesday 2nd February** (1.00 pm – 3.00 pm) at Birmingham SPACE, 4th Floor, 205 Corporation Street, B4 6SE.

Please book your place today!!

Opportunities Fair

21 March 2011, 11am till 7pm, Sapphire Centre
FREE EVENT

This is for young people and adults with learning disabilities and their carers. This is an opportunity to find out about things to do in Birmingham. There will be over 50 exhibitors with information around: work, training, learning, leisure, advice, care and health.

Investing in a brighter future for Birmingham CYP and their families

As you may be aware, due to multiple factors particularly recent budget reductions and the findings of the Ofsted inspection, the Children, Young People and Families Directorate is currently undergoing a review and restructure. The future of services will be dependant on the proposed future operating model being approved by cabinet on the 14th Feb.

Since late December Eleanor Brazil and Councillor Les Lawrence have been conducting a series of briefing sessions to BCC staff and stakeholders to inform them of the new model and the implications for the future delivery of CYPF services.

The Operational Model is based on the changing government policy - including the white paper, improvement Notice for Safeguarding and the Comprehensive Spending Review - which will be **30 % reduction in core budget, translating to £20 million reduction for 2011/12, reaching minimum of £60 million by 2014.** The three priority areas over the next three years will be **Protect children from significant harm, Improve engagement in learning and achievement in education and Reducing health inequalities.**

PVC is working with L.A Officers to look at what the impact will be on future services for child and young people with disabilities. We will keep you informed with any information we receive.

New Parent Members 2011

Welcome to the team!!

Niru Odedra, Surjit Kaur, Saima Bano, Alison Fenton, Najma Sajid, Marie Mahoney, Mandy Buckley and Nasrat Bi

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.

First Tuesday of Every Month

- **1st February 2011**
+ Carers Emergency Response Service
- **1st March 2011**
- **5th April 2011**



10-12pm
Carers Centre
130 Colmore Row
B3 3 AP

(Opposite the Council House)