



Newsletter March 2011

Official
LAUNCH

Of

Parent Views Count

Registered Charity/Company

On

Wednesday 18th May 2011

Carrs Lane Church

Carrs Lane

Birmingham

B4 7SX

9:30-2pm

9:30-12pm - Launch **12-2pm** - Networking and Information Sharing

Guest Speakers

Kristin Sanders – Chair of Parent Views Count

Llewella Bailey – Media Specialist and patron of Parent Views Count

Andy Jenkins and Narinder Saggu – Birmingham City Council

Les Lawrence – Councillor

Buffet Lunch

Short Breaks Providers

Free Prize Draw

Places are limited for this event

Please book your place by emailing Linda on info@parentviewscount.org or by calling
0121 212 2855 / 07795121281 before the
30th April 2011

www.parentviewscount.org

Registered Charity Number 1140705 / Company Number 7506211

Parent Views Count Update

Hi hope you are all well. We are now coming into spring and so much activity has taken place since January 2011.

During the last months PVC has also gained its Company and Charitable Status, this was a great achievement for us all. We have hosted two Parent forum meetings this year, One with CAHMS Services and the second to look at the Home to School Transport Policy. We would also like to thank all the parents who gave feedback on the Short Breaks Services. Currently we are involved in gaining parents views on the Eligibility Criteria on Short Breaks. If you would like to share your views but need support in doing so please contact the Parent Engagement Service Team on 0121 212 2855.

Jasvinder Hayre

Parent Engagement Coordinator

jasvinderhayre@parentviewscount.org / 07795121281

Child and Adolescence Mental Health Team

On 9th February 2011 Parent Views Count hosted a parent forum meeting inviting Child and Adolescence Mental Health Team to come and inform parents about the services offered by CAMHS.

Rachel Matthews and Jo Bodkin gave an overview of the CAMHS services and Claire Paintain – CAMHS Commissioner gave an update on the CAMHS services sharing information about Access, Funding and Service redesign. Claire also shared information about the CAMHS Home Treatment Service. The PCT has committed funding for a pilot for 12 months. The aim is to support children and young people with severe and complex mental health needs to remain safely within their home, providing treatment for children and young people whilst they are living in their home and supporting parents and carers to continue to look after the child / young person at home. The 24hr service will be delivered by a team of nurses, doctors and support workers.

Parents shared that the CAMHS literature design is good but information is limited. One parent shared that their family had a positive experience when their child was having psychotic episodes; they also felt that their child was being listened to. It was felt that the suggestion of a CAMHS drop in centre would be well received. Parents felt that when they get the service it was good.

To make things better parents wanted more information. Parents felt that they needed strategies given to them and their families on how to cope and also that professionals needed to be aware of family dynamics and individual cases.

What Could CAHMS do better?

- More information on CAMHS services, GP's services, Health centres, Children's services
- Knowing how to get referred
- Waiting times could be shorter
- Do not pass the buck within services of CAMHS
- Medication focused, need to look at the alternative treatments
- Child focused rather than parent
- Signposting to services that are either over subscribed or not available – no follow-up to see if signposting has been successful
- Close cases with no further support – the problems have not gone away

Parents made the following suggestions on what CAMHS should prioritise;

- Sign Posting
- Drop in centres
- Holistic Service
- Prevention
- Early intervention
- Prioritise family therapy – help for siblings, thinking about family
- Diagnose, support for parents
- Provision for those 16 plus or just about to go into adult service
- Child Psychologists
- Child and family counselling

Home to School Transport Policy Consultation

On 14th February 2011 Parent Views Count hosted the Home to School Transport Policy Consultation at Carrs Lane Church. Almost 100 parents attended the meeting.

The purpose of the Parent forum meeting was not only to inform but to also consult with parents on the proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy. Joyce Nicholls, Head of Individual Client Services, Kathy Donough, Education Transport Service, and Marie Healy, Escort Liaison Service gave a presentation on the Legal responsibility of parents and the Legal duty of Local Authority.

Proposed changes were as follows:

- Increase the distance at which support is given to the statutory minimum
 - Under 8 years = 2 miles
 - Over 8 years = 3 miles
- Remove faith school support
- Transport to nearest appropriate school only
- Eligibility for transport based on pupil need



Criteria from September 2011: Eligibility based on pupil need

- Pupil walking to school with parent
- Pupil walking to school with guide
- Pupil with a bus pass
- Pupil shared vehicle unguided
- Pupil travelling on public transport with guide
- Pupil single occupancy unguided
- Pupil shared vehicle guided
- Pupil shared vehicle with 1:1 guide
- Pupil single occupancy guided



Parent Concerns

- Families where there was more than one child going to other schools
- Safeguarding and safety issues were raised – more cars around schools
- Parents worried about transport travelling home without guide
- Limited choice of schools – not being able to attend chosen school if the nearest school is inappropriate
- Parents anxious about children who would be unable to travel on the bus service alone due to behaviour and not having awareness or ability
- Changes would have significant implications on family life and mental well being of the family
- Parents not being able to work if they had to drop off and pick up the children
- Concerns about children in residential care
- Child care costs before and after school would be greater

It was clear that parents wanted every child that is statemented to receive transport. The proposals stated that where appropriate there would be more reliance on parent to transport their children. Parents felt that the criteria categories were too narrow and that the categories on the criteria did not include non physical conditions or mental health. Although walking was a given choice parents felt walking to school is not always an option.

Parents wanted to see clear guidelines over the complaints procedure and the process of appealing against decisions. Parents wanted better communication. Schools should be better informed e.g. transport co-ordinator and clear point of contact for any issues / problems.

To make the make the service more pupil centred and efficient, parents suggested organising extra funding for before and after school clubs and support, opening schools early and also to improve services to local schools so young people do not have to attend schools far from home. Parents did feel that the service was working really well now, so why change it. Parents suggested that the city should purchase their own buses as it is more expensive to contract out the work. Parent also suggested making contributions towards transport costs as is done at Dame Ellen Pinsent, were parents make a contribution of £1.

Following the consultation period which came to an end mid March the team will inform Cllr Lawrence and Chrissie Garrett about their findings. The final report will go to Cabinet in April and communication to parents and schools will follow thereafter.



Have you been to one of our Carrs Lane meetings lately?

This is what happens:

- Parents greet you when you come in and parents facilitate all the workshops
- We usually have some information to give you when you come in and we usually have some speakers from the Local Services/Authority to help get you up to date with what has been planned and how services are delivered. Then we have workshop groups which will give you the opportunity to give your views and meet other parents.
- Many service providers are present with stalls to give out information and are there to answer your individual and private questions
- We always have an information board where you can share information about services with other parents
- We always have refreshments and give away a small gift to thank you for attending.
- We also offer a crèche facility.(Bookings must be made in advance)



Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disabilities

This Green Paper is about all the children and young people with SEN and disabilities being independent and successful. The green paper makes recommendations on a new single assessment process and education, health care plan to replace the statutory SEN assessment and statement. This will bring together services and the families in reviewing needs and clarity on responsibilities. Parents are being given more control and choice in provision of services for their children and young people, including choice of schools. The paper offers guidelines around early intervention and ensuring high quality early education and childcare is accessible. Young people are being given better preparation to adulthood, giving young people wider opportunities to employment, good health and independence.

The green paper aims to reduce the bureaucratic process and complex funding systems; giving more choice to families and better partnership working with services providers.

Your views are needed on how the reforms in the green paper are implemented to support better life outcomes for young people with SEN or who are disabled; give parents confidence by giving them control; and transfer power to professionals on the front line and to local communities are important. This consultation will run for 16 weeks between 9 March and 30 June 2011

Consultation responses can be completed online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations or emailed to send.greenpaper@education.gsi.gov.uk, or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:
 Consultation Unit - Department for Education
 Area 1C,
 Castle View House
 East Lane
 Runcorn WA7 2GJ

Birmingham Sign Posting Service

Funding for the Birmingham Sign Posting Service will not continue after March. On 31st March 2011 Birmingham Signposting Service will take its last call! NYAS the National Youth Advocacy Service who provides this service on behalf of Birmingham City Council also developed maintained and administered the web site www.ineed2know.org.uk. This is Birmingham City Council's Children's Service Directory and will also close on the 31st March 2011. On the 1st April 2011 anyone using the Birmingham Signposting Service's free phone number 0808 808 1001 will be put through to an answer phone on which they will leave a message providing details of alternative services.

Naidex National

5-7th April – NEC Birmingham
FREE ENTRY!

Your free entry ticket to Naidex will give you the opportunity to:

- Try, test and compare thousands of products including access equipment, assistive technology, bathing & showering, daily lifting aids, communication aids, furniture, hoisting and lifting equipment, leisure activities, scooters and wheelchairs and many more.
- Attend free lifestyle demonstrations to help you stay fit and healthy in the Lifestyle Seminar Theatre
- Hear inspirational stories from role models beating their disabilities
- Make an appointment with qualified occupational therapists to discuss your needs
- See the latest wheelchair accessible vehicles in the Car Zone
- Discover a host of communication aids and the latest assistive technology
- Enjoy a mini gym, exercise and walking aid MOT
- Get advice on the latest children equipment at KideQuip

Carers Week

The true face of Carers 13-19th June 2011
Supporting the UKS 6 million carers.
You can find information about events in your area by going to <http://carersweek.org/>.
Data will be added gradually between February and June

Coffee Morning

Come along to a Coffee Morning at the **Carers Centre** to meet representatives from PVC, Link-Upp and Face2Face.
First Tuesday of Every Month

➤ **5th April 2011 – 10-12pm**
(Opposite the Council House)

Eligibility Criteria for Disabled Children's Social Care

Children's services are changing and adjustments to criteria for accessing services are necessary to enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations, while using available resources in a fair and transparent way to meet children's needs.

The consultation runs from 21st March - 8th April 2011

An on-line survey has been set-up for you to submit your responses to the consultation. Please log on to

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F6J3FYX>

Expenses

Some out of 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 226 9222.

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.

PVC Database Update

We are currently updating our database and you might have received a call from the office.

Thank you for taking out the time to help us update the details we hold of yourself and your child. The team will be continuing to do this in the coming months but you could help us by contacting Linda on 0121 226 9222 and updating your details.