

**AHDC Parent Reference Group
Wednesday 16th December 2009**

**Old Treasury, Catherine Street
6:00- 8:00pm**

1. Present: KM, WD, IB, HL, RC, JT, ML, TBL, AP, BB, JC, PB, SC, GA

Apologies:

2. Questions from Parent and Family Forum

BB- Questions from the forum are now being collated and all the answers will be posted on the web-site.

Two parents have requested that they should be emailed as soon as the responses are available.

3. Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children with Disabilities

JT Discussed the forthcoming meeting, Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children with Disabilities, 26.01.10.

Parent Partnership would like to encourage 15 plus parents to attend.

Funding for transport and childcare is available.

PSAs from the special schools are invited.

PSAs in mainstream schools asked to see if they also have parents who can attend.

All stakeholders will attend.

Young people will attend to have a voice.

SC raised the issue that the timings (9-3pm) was not particularly helpful for children getting to and returning home from school.

JT emphasised the availability of a “drop-in” but SC pointed out that some parents want to miss parts of the day, 9.30 to 2.30 would be better timing.

AHDC funding could provide crèche facilities.

SC asked who ran the Parent Forum crèche as a child left the room unnoticed.

BB shared the facts that Sure Start staff ran the childcare, either Green Ark or Nomony.

GA discussed wrap-around care. Whatever the timings someone would find it difficult to attend.

KM- Do these managers attend special schools or similar to actually meet children to understand their needs?

JT Parents and children are the customers for the services provided. Parents are the experts. Children with profound/multiple difficulties needs require a great many services (a small group potentially using a great deal of funding). Is it feasible for services to be localised or city-wide?

WD Can someone minute the workshop/group?

JT There will be facilitators for each workshop/group.

BB Parent forum was videoed in order to ensure all details were noticed.

SC Parents often gets passionate about their own issues and do not actually mean the comments to be taken personally.

Discussion held about Parent Participation and what effects parents attending.

WD asked the question "Why don't parents attend?"

RC has only recently found out about Parent Partnership, Parent Forums, etc. Did not know anything about what is available.

4. Short Breaks.

Downs Syndrome Group.
Discussion held about where this had come from.

WD Suggested further investigation might be needed.

GA Should the applicants attend the Parent Reference group.

JT as the suggested Down's syndrome conference is accredited it is classed as training for the professionals.

WD please can we ensure that any meetings with applicants can be "user friendly" and can they be helped to complete the application.

5. Ernesettle Play scheme.

RC felt that this play scheme was brilliant. Open to all primary aged children. Totally integrated there. Her Grandson is very happy attending.

KM asked if these applicants need to attend the Parent Reference Group.

JT recommended that the play scheme come to the reference group to explain what they do.

WD suggested that if these people were very busy they should not feel the need to attend but could be invited to come to the Parent Reference group if they wish in order to promote their own group.

BB and JC gave some feedback on how the parent participation grant was being spent and how more parents/carers were being supported to attend different groups.

6. Next meetings

27th January 2010

24th February 2010