

Shaping the future...

Parents in Partnership...

To Make Life Better!

September 2010



We Know Our Children Best

Worcestershire Parent and Carers' Council are delighted to inform our readers that the application for funding to continue to develop the concept of Parents' Working in Partnership with Professionals has been received. The Parent Participation Development Group is a consortium of various different agencies for children and young people with disabilities, including Children's Social Care and Worcestershire PCT. The Group has been very hard at work developing new initiatives to build on all the good work done during phases 1 and 2.



Phase 3 is all about sustainability. The group have been looking at ways in which we can ensure that working in partnership with parents and carers is an integral part of everyone's role throughout the children's workforce in Worcestershire.

The Parent Participation Development Group have been having a very exciting time working once again with the wonderfully creative Chris Smart from Silva Productions to produce a film.

We have worked with Chris in the past to produce a short film for Worcestershire Parent and Carers' Council. The first film was all about the importance of family based short breaks and not only served to promote the newly formed parent carers' council but it also helped the group to raise funds from Aiming High for Disabled Children. The new funding has enabled Worcestershire Parent and Carers' Council to develop a wonderful and wide range of fun filled family based activities.

Anne Duddington – Chair of Worcestershire Parent & Carers' Council said...

"It is wonderful to have the opportunity to work with Chris again. Chris has a gift for capturing precisely what we are looking for, he has an excellent understanding of the issues families face and he makes filming a great fun experience for our children".

This time, we have been working to produce a short film about the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers who have children with disabilities. At the time of writing, Chris is busy in the editing studio producing his latest masterpiece - **"We Know Our Children Best"**.



The film will highlight the importance of parent participation in all aspects of service developments and delivery. Both Parents and practitioners from disability services have played a big part in the film and we are really excited about seeing the final result.

Wendy Plumpton
Parent and Chair of Parent Participation Development Group

Making The Most Of Early Support

The Parent Participation Development Group are going to be doing further work to raise awareness of the availability of Early Support, especially amongst parents and carers.

Early Support
Helping every child succeed

What is Early Support?

Early Support is a useful set of information and materials to assist families who have children with disabilities and/or additional needs. All professionals who come into contact with families who have a child with a disability and/or additional needs aged 0-5 are expected to work with families using the Early Support materials. The materials can also be used successfully with older children and Worcestershire supports its use in this way.

You can find out more about the Early Support materials by visiting: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp and click on the big red Early Support button. Alternatively, you can visit www.earlysupport.org.uk to order the materials yourself online or simply to discover further information.

FREE training sessions around the use of Early Support materials are available to parents, carers and professionals here in Worcestershire. To find out all about Early Support and how the materials can help you, book a short training session. Courses are taking place on 1st November and 24th November 2010. If you are not able to attend on either of those dates, please contact me at the email address or telephone number below and I will give you details of further courses that are available in your local area.

If you would like more information about Early Support, please contact Deana Millward at dmillward@worcestershire.gov.uk or **07595089469**.

New Training Sessions for Parents, Carers and Practitioners

Throughout the winter months, we will be putting on a series of 7 fantastic training opportunities for both practitioners and parents and carers. These sessions will be a fabulous opportunity for you all to learn all about "Working in Partnership" to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs.

All the sessions are designed around the theme of "**Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership**" and the very first in the series on offer is all about "**Assessment and Needs Identification**". If you attend all 7 sessions, you will learn all about the benefits of "Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership" from the time of diagnosis right through to Transition and beyond!

Community Paediatrician - Dr David Lewis said...

"I am extremely pleased to be able to become involved in this very worthwhile training project. When working with children with significant special needs and their families we all need to be very aware of the sensitive nature of the work we are doing. This period of training will enable us all to learn a lot more about closer working between professionals across the agencies and with families and to reconsider how we can all work towards improving our present working practices"



You can attend all 7 sessions absolutely **FREE** of charge. Each session will run once only in the North and once only in the South of Worcestershire. **Please see the full training plan and booking details on page 3 and please do book your place as soon as you can as places will be limited.** Further details and course descriptions will be available on our website at www.parentcarers.org.uk. We hope to be able to repeat the sessions during 2011/12 but this will be subject to us being able to secure further funding.

Deana Millward
Co-Chair – Parent Participation Development Group

Training Courses Calendar 2010 - 2011

Course Title	Date	Venue	Time
Health, Assessments and Needs Identification - Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership	14 October 2010	Pershore Civic Centre	9.30am - 12.30pm
	21 October 2010	BILD Kidderminster	
Early Support and the Common Assessment - Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership	1 November 2010	Pershore Riverside Centre	9.30am - 12.30pm
	24 November 2010	Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, Redditch	
Special Educational Needs and Special/Mainstream - Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership	15 November 2010	Pershore Riverside Centre	9.30am - 12.30pm
	22 November 2010	Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, Redditch	
Adolescence: Physical, Emotional and Sexual Aspects - Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership	11 January 2011	Worcester Countryside Centre	9.30am - 12.30pm
	20 January 2011	Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, Redditch	
Transitions - Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership	7 February 2011	Pershore Riverside Centre	9.30am - 12.30pm
	15 February 2011	Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, Redditch	
Partners in Policy Making - Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership	18 January 2011	Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Club, Worcester	9.30am - 12.30pm
	1 February 2011	Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, Redditch	
Training the Trainers - Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership	7 March 2011	Pershore Riverside Centre	9.30am - 12.30pm
	15 March 2011	Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, Redditch	

To book places on all or any of the above courses, please contact the Workforce & Practice Development Team on: **01905 766082** or email: chswforce&pracdev@worcestershire.gov.uk

Join us in developing the Parents in Partnership Initiative....

Whether you are a parent carer or a professional working with families who have children with disabilities, you are welcome to join us. If you are interested in supporting the work of the Parent Participation Development Group in any way. Please contact Wendy Plumpton at wplumpton@aol.com. For further information about Worcestershire Parent and Carers' Council and the Parent Participation Development Group, please visit our website at www.parentcarers.org.uk. **Our site is regularly updated so please visit frequently.**

What's on our site for you?

- If you are not already a member, you can complete the online membership form. The form is for parent carers and professionals to join us.
- You can join in on the online discussion board where you can share experiences and get your questions answered.
- You can check out the wonderful range of family based short breaks on offer.
- Click the Facebook link to meet some of our friends and supporters through social networking.
- Check out the range of training opportunities and find out much more about parent participation and working in partnership with parents.
- You will find lots of useful links to other organisations.
- You can browse our gallery and even view our first short film "Four Summer Days".
- You can also view current local consultations about services and respond directly via our site.

Parent - Jacci Phillips said...

"I love being involved with this group. It's the best organisation for families who have children with additional needs in Worcestershire and I have made so many new friends. I never thought being part of a group that supports families who have children with disabilities could be so much fun!"

Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan

Worcestershire Children's Trust and its partners are producing a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The trust is keen to hear the views of as many children, young people and parents and carers as possible over the coming weeks on what they believe it should be prioritising for children, young people and their families.

Between August and October, the trust will be consulting Worcestershire's children, young people, parents & carers via an online questionnaire, focus groups and one-to-one conversations. To complete the Children and Young People's Plan questionnaire go to www.parentcarers.org.uk and click on the "Consultations" page on the left hand side and click on the link to the questionnaire, call Rachel Adams on **07595 091200** or email radams2@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Supported by
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Worcestershire 
Primary Care Trust


HANSEL & GRETEL SUPPORT GROUP
Charity No. 518349
Supporting Special Needs Families in Wore Forest


"Parents'
Voice"


Malvern Special
Families
Registered Charity No 1017391



**For more information please contact us at: Worcestershire Parent and Carers' Council,
PO Box 727, Worcester, WR5 1WU or email: enquiries@parentcarers.org.uk**