

## **Derby & Derbyshire Parent Partnership Service – (Agreed) Statement of Principles**

Derby & Derbyshire Parent Partnership is a free, confidential, impartial service, offering help, advice and support for Parents and Carers.

The Service is 'arms length' from both Derby City and Derbyshire County Council. This is characterised in the "Parent Partnership Services – increasing parental confidence" DCSF -2007. Updated December 2010.

- Parent Partnership works in a climate of disagreement resolution.

### A) Funding/Budget

- Within limits of resources
- The Local Authority agrees to provide the support and resources to enable the Parent Partnership Service to provide an impartial and effective service and to be innovative in doing so
- The budget (see Good Practice – p.18 Exemplars) for Parent Partnership is delegated to the Service and ring-fenced to support the agreed functions.

### B) Management

- The Parent Partnership Service has an effective multi-agency Steering/Management Group which includes parent/carer representation

### C) Working with Parents/Carers

- The confidence of parents/carers is fostered through an explicit policy of confidentiality
- The handling of information that parents/carers provide complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act and is not shared with anyone outside of the Parent Partnership unless they have given permission for it to be shared or there are strong public interest concerns e.g. Child Protection
- All parents/carers have access to independent support when requested
- Parents/carers receive support in preparing for a SENDIST hearing
- Where necessary we will signpost to other services

### D) Information and Publicity

- There is a clear, published policy on how the Parent Partnership acts in an impartial way and provides a comprehensive and balanced range of information for parents/carers
- Procedures to monitor impartiality of information and publicity are in place
- Parent Partnership has its own service identity including e.g. logo, colour, style, strap line etc and the Steering/Management Group considers any other issues concerning the identity of the service, which may undermine parental confidence in the impartiality of the service

- The Parent Partnership Service maintains its own dedicated Website which is regularly reviewed and new information added as soon as it becomes available (with clear Parent Partnership identity)

E) Training, Advice and Support

- The Local Authority ensures that staff receive appropriate initial and ongoing training and development to enable them to carry out their role effectively. Parent Partnership agrees to provide training for Parent Partnership staff in accordance with a published service policy on impartiality

F) Networking and Collaboration

- The Parent Partnership Service is involved in networking and collaboration (locally, regionally and nationally) in order to develop and sustain a high quality and impartial service
- Parent Partnership Service impartiality is maintained when working with other Voluntary and Statutory agencies including schools and other settings
- The Local Authorities support the role of Derby & Derbyshire
- Parent Partnership Service as an impartial service in networking and collaboration at national, local and regional levels.

G) Informing and Shaping Local Policy and Practice

- The Parent Partnership Service will facilitate the involvement of parents/carers in informing Policy and Practice
- The Parent Partnership seeks feedback from parents/carers about the impact of parents and carers participation
- The Local Authority and Parent Partnership Service will regularly review the effectiveness of Parent Partnership Service participation

H) Location

- I)
- The siting of the Parent Partnership Service takes account of the need to comply with Parent Partnership Service's impartiality and confidentiality policies and to facilitate collaborative working with Family Information Services, Choice Advisers etc

In all categories both Local Authorities and the Parent Partnership Service are committed to providing Best Practice Parent Partnership Service as set out in the DCSF document "Parent Partnership Services – increasing parental confidence – exemplification of minimum standards for Parent Partnership Services and Local Authorities".