

# 1. What is 'Parental Engagement'?

## Activity

This session plan is for the service. It can be used:

- as part of staff training
- with parents

Please take time to read the session plan, organise resources and if necessary make any changes to the session delivery style tailoring it to the audience you are using it with.

### Introduction

Parental Engagement is about services and parents working together with the ultimate aim of improving outcomes for children and young people. In order to work together effectively, parents and services (from senior managers to front line staff) need to develop a shared understanding of how the relationship between them works.

### Session Aims

- To explore people's understanding of the term 'Parental Engagement'.
- To increase understanding about what the term 'Parental Engagement' really means.
- To help establish a common understanding about Parental Engagement.

### Resources:

- Pens
- 'Have you ever.....' Activity sheet (to be read out to group)
- 'What is Parental Engagement?' Fact file (1 per person)
- Video clips that accompany the 'What is Parental Engagement?' Fact file at [www.parentandcarerengagement.org.uk](http://www.parentandcarerengagement.org.uk)

### Delivering the session

Explain to everyone that you are going to read out a list of activities and that you want people to put their hand up if it is an activity they have done before.

Read the list of 'Have you ever.....' questions activities one by one, getting group members to raise their hands where appropriate.

At the end of the activity, explain to the group that all these activities are forms of engagement.

As a group see if you can now come up with a definition of 'Parental Engagement'.

### Information round up

To help increase everyone's understanding about engagement and what it is, provide everyone a copy of the 'What is Parental Engagement?' Fact file. You can read this to the group if necessary. If internet connection is available, view the video clips that accompany the Fact file at [www.parentandcarerengagement.org.uk](http://www.parentandcarerengagement.org.uk)

### Session end

As a group, list and discuss all the activities run by your service that are examples of 'Parental Engagement'.

## Have you ever.....

Think about services that are provided for children and young people. Have you ever...

<b>Taken your son or daughter somewhere?</b> For example - to the dentist, swimming pool, youth club...
<b>Gone to an activity or an event?</b> For example - to a parents evening, family fun day, open day...
<b>Filled in a questionnaire?</b> For example - about facilities you would like to have at the library...
<b>Given someone an idea or suggestion?</b> For example - told the school your ideas for summer activities...
<b>Voted for someone or something?</b> For example - voted for a parent governor, voted for an idea...
<b>Signed a petition?</b> For example - to have a playground or to get more health care in the area...
<b>Written to a service?</b> For example – written to the council about youth facilities, or the police about safety...
<b>Attended a meeting?</b> For example – a community meeting or a meeting at your child's school...
<b>Volunteered?</b> For example - to run youth activities, to befriend or mentor other parents...
<b>Helped organise an event?</b> For example - a charity fun run or an event to raise money for healthcare equipment..
<b>Picked up a leaflet or read a notice board?</b> For example - a leaflet about football or dance lessons...
<b>Responded to a text or email survey?</b> For example - texting 'yes' or 'no' in response to a question...
<b>Entered a competition?</b> For example - to design a new school logo or to name a new family centre...
<b>Joined a committee?</b> For example - a school or neighbourhood committee...
<b>Been part of a group?</b> For example - a parent support group or a parent board or meeting...
<b>Helped make a decision which affects your child?</b> For example - decided on what books the library buys for children...