

1. What is 'Parental Engagement'?

Fact file

Parents are the biggest influence on what children **experience and achieve** throughout childhood and the teenage years, so the more involved they are with their child(ren)'s life the better.

Parental Engagement is about:



- Parents **using services**, joining in and taking part
- Parents **having a say** and communicating their views
- Parents **having a role to play** in the life of a service
- Parents and services **taking action** together
- Parents **making or influencing decisions** that affect their children

Parental Engagement is about parents taking an active role in the lives of their children and the services that provide for them and their children.

The **purpose** of Parental Engagement is to ensure that services and parents work together to help children and young people reach their full potential, enjoy life and have the best experiences they can.

What parents tell us about Parental Engagement

“It’s about listening to our views and acting on them...”

“It is really important to ask parents what they want ...they’re the ones who know the children.”

“It’s having a voice in the service provider strategy attending meetings within these service groups.”

“It’s parents having the opportunity to influence the development of services....the opportunity to take part and join in.”



[See Hope and Burslem Children’s Centre Case Study as an example of parental engagement](#)