

## 2. What are the benefits of '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 to improve outcomes for children and young people. But there are many other benefits too, for parents and for services. In order to work together effectively, parents and services (from senior managers to front line staff) need to recognise and understand the benefits and empowerment that comes from services and parents working together.

### Session aim

- To stimulate a discussion and develop understanding about the wider benefits of Parental Engagement – to parents, services, the community, children and young people.

### Resources

- 'What are the benefits of Parental Engagement?' Activity sheet (1 per pair/group)
- Pens
- 'What are the benefits of Parental Engagement?' Fact file (1 per person)
- Video clips that accompany the 'What are the benefits of Parental Engagement?' Fact file at [www.parentandcarerengagement.org.uk](http://www.parentandcarerengagement.org.uk)

### Delivering the session

Divide the group into pairs or small groups and provide each with a copy of the activity sheet. The activity sheet sets the scenario of a service being awarded a lottery grant to spend on equipment. Ask them to read the sheet (or read it out if necessary) and then think about the benefits of engaging parents in spending the grant. Encourage participants to jot down as many potential benefits as they can, including benefits to the parents, the service and young people. They can record their ideas on the activity sheet. On completion ask the groups to share their thoughts.

### Information round up

To help increase everyone's understanding about the benefits of engagement, provide everyone a copy of the 'What are the benefits of 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, discuss activities run by your service that are examples of Parental Engagement and ask participants to give examples of known benefits.

Discuss ways that your service celebrates the impact of Parental Engagement activities, and how you let (a) the parents who have participated (b) other parents and (c) staff know about these impacts.

Imagine a service is awarded a lottery grant of £5,000 to spend on equipment for the children and young people who use the service.

What would be the benefit of involving local fathers, mothers and carers in using the grant?

## **Benefits to parents**

## **Benefits to children and young people**

## **Benefits to the service**