

2. What are the benefits of 'Parental Engagement'?

Fact file

"My children are the most important thing to me so being able to get involved in their life is really important – to get them what they need."

"I got confidence from being involved, meeting new mums and not being on my own stuck at home."

"I wanted other parents to know about this service – that they're not going to be judged if they're struggling with their children...so when parents are referred it's not so scary and there isn't that stigma...the service has been excellent"



There are lots of benefits of engaging parents, some of these are:

Benefits for parents



- Opportunities to put across parents' view and preferences.
- Better information and better access to services.
- Services are those that parents want and need.
- Increased confidence in services and their staff.
- Opportunities to meet other parents and make new friends.
- More opportunity to share experience and knowledge and to break down any stigmas.
- Opportunities to work more closely with staff.
- Greater understanding and expectations of their children.
- Opportunities to use existing skills and develop new ones, which could help prepare for entry or return to work.
- A sense of confidence and feeling of personal growth.

Benefits for services

- A better understanding of who local parents, children and families are and what their family life is like.
- Better able to meet and address parents 'real' needs.
- Better relationships with parents – engagement breaks down barriers.
- Early identification of problems or worries.
- Increased take up and use of services.
- Increased help to improve services.
- Greater freedom to champion the needs of local children and families.
- A greater sense of community.
- Greater accountability to those who use the service.
- Better communication, better service and fewer complaints.

[See Parent Champions Programme Case Study as an example of parental engagement](#)