



Parents...I need your help!

WHAT

During March this year I undertook a large scale conversation with parents to find out what issues affect you as parents and what we need to do to improve access to services. As a result of this dialogue with nearly 2000 parents, it came to light that we need to **improve communication** with and to parents.

In short parents want services to think about the ways that they communicate, the language they use, the mediums of communication, how accessible information is and how dialogues' between parents and professionals can be improved.

WHY

Now that parents have told us that we need to improve on this area we are going to take action and we have already made communication a key area for development in our local Parenting Strategy. To help get better one thing I would like to do is send out a brief booklet to all agencies called **"A parents guide on how to improve the way you communicate with parents"**.

I could sit and write this guide myself as I already have lots of suggestions from you based on the large scale conversation; but it would be even better if I could work with a group of parents to help me develop this booklet.

WHO

I am after input from groups of parents or carers who have children aged 0-19 (or 25 if their children have disabilities) to work with me. It may be that you already have a parent meeting or group set up that we could use your group to support this opportunity.

WHEN

To meet with me approximately once a fortnight for two months during August and September. For convenience purposes the meetings can be attached to a parent group you have already set up and I can come to you.

However if there are a number of parents who are interested in doing this but are not part of a group, we can set up a time to meet at my office base in Stafford.

HOW

To apply to be a member of this task group please complete the attached slip and return it to Charlotte Bailey the Commissioner for Parents, Connexions Staffordshire, Foregate House, Foregate Street, Stafford, ST16 2PX

For further information call: Charlotte Bailey, Staffordshire Commissioner for Parents on 01785 355604

REPLY SLIP

I am/our parent group is interested in being part of this project to develop a communication guide

I am not interested in being part of the group to develop a communication guide **but would like you to contact me should other opportunities for parents to be involved become available.** In completing this form I am agreeing that my details can be stored on file so I can be contacted in the future.

Group details

What is the name of the parent group:

Where is the group held:

what time would you like me to attend:

Who is the contact (name):

Number:

Individual Details

Title:

Name:

Address:

Contact number:

Mobile number:

E-mail address:

Preferred method of being contacted: text / email / phone call / letter

Number of children in your household:

Number of children with disabilities:

Ages of children in your house hold:

I am interested in being part of this task group because.....

(Please complete in no more than three to four sentences why you would like to join this task group)

Signed:

Dated:

Please return to Charlotte Bailey, Commissioner for Parents, Connexions Staffordshire,
Foregate House, Foregate Street, Stafford, ST16 2PX