

# Working Together for Change

## Dudley Parent Carer Forum

## Steering Group Meeting

Saltwells EDC

25 February 2014

Dudley CVS have recently been awarded the Contact a Family contract to work with Parent Carers in Dudley Borough for 2014/ 2015. Staff are very keen to build on the excellent work that is already happening across the borough and in particular the work of Participate who held this contract in 2013/14. To establish the current position and to see how parents wanted to move forward a meeting was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Parents were presented with a range of ideas during the power point presentation which is also attached. They were then asked the following questions:-

- What are your wishes regarding the development of the Forum?
- What worries do you have regarding the development of the Forum?
- Micheal Grove recommends that all local forums be named the LA area for us Dudley followed by Parent Carer Participation Forum this is only guidance, what would you like to call it? Should we maintain the name Participate or what do you suggest?
- Should we build on the current Participate website or should we start afresh?

Please see following responses from the participants at the meeting.

### My Wishes

- Clear information
- Look beyond money; look at what is sensible and best for the community!
- Reach parents before diagnosis (preventative)
- Getting information to more people, parents and providers
- Making it easier to understand
- Getting more parents involved
- Accessible to all
- Make life easier for people with children with any difficulties
- Change the hearts and mindsets of the people who are in charge of the decisions
- Less Jargon
- Key to acronyms
- Better / good communication
- Its not political
- People are valued
- Starting over
- Partnership with professionals
- Informed parents
- CCG involvement
- A new forum
- Ownership of identity
- No Cuts!

- More common sense
- More Meaningful involvement
- Better feedback
- More honesty
- More parents involved
- A committed, driven, steering group

## **My Worries**

- Too Political
- Not listened to
- People will leave
- How do we get info to parents that are not internet savvy
- Disabled children as easy target
- Falling between “the lines”
- The cuts and where they fall
- Confusion around townships
- Our children don’t often go to local schools
- Budget service cuts
- Changes to services
- Time factors. Parents having personal barriers and other commitments
- Sustainability
- People not in the know
- Do our wishes really count?
- Retention of parents in forum
- Having enough parents to attend to make a difference
- Who will take the lead?
- False Promises
- Won’t be listened too!
- What will happen after the initial 12 months?
- Feel that for parents it’s a waste of time, s they wont come

## **Name of Forum**

- New name
- Participate is a familiar name that is well recognised.
- Dudley Parent Carer Forum is a bit long and too formal.
- Dudley Parent Carer Forum, does what it says on the tin!
- New name will stop people getting confused with previous groups
- Like the word ‘together’ in the title
- ‘Families Together’
- ‘Dudley Parents Who Care’

## **Website**

- Start from scratch
- Why scrap a good foundation?
- Build on what we already have
- Use existing website and link to a new website

- New Website for everything linking to local offer
- Funding – where will it come from?
- Who will manage the site?
- Lots of organisations – organisations details.
- Ownership and development of a new website
- Build on what is already there