

Subject:	Parents' Forum Annual Report and Presentation		
Date of Meeting:	20 July 2009		
Report of:	Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Tasha Barefield	Tel: 29-4391
	E-mail:	Tasha.barefield@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No	Forward Plan No. N/A	
Wards Affected:	All	All	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Brighton & Hove Parents' Forum has been working with parents and the Children & Young People's Trust since October 2005. It has produced a report detailing some of its activities, achievements and challenges over the last three years to inform parents and children's services professionals.
- 1.2 Priority 18 of the CYPP 2006-9 is: 'To involve parents & carers in decision-making and provide the whole family with high quality information to promote positive choices.' The development of a citywide Parents' Forum is one of the strategic actions to support this aim.
- 1.3 The Brighton & Hove Parent Support Strategy 2008-11 states in its aims to: 'Ensure that parents are and continue to be at the heart of design, delivery and review of services, providing parents with opportunities for a range of levels of involvement.' The Parents' Forum Annual Report provides some information about how it is attempting to achieve this aim.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Parents' Forum Annual Report 06-08 (The story so far) and presentation from the Chair of the Parents' Forum be noted.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Report to the Board on 17 October 2005 agreeing the creation of a citywide Parents' Forum. The Parents' Forum has its own budget to manage and a part-time development co-ordinator to support the work of the Core Strategic Group (parent management committee) of the forum.
- 3.2 The Core Strategic Group of the Parents' Forum decided to publish an annual report documenting what they have achieved so far since the forum started. Their aim was to help parents and other professionals to find out more about the work of the Parents' Forum, as well as to try and encourage more future involvement

from these groups to ensure the success and sustainability of the forum. The Core Strategic Group are now working on their business plan for the next two years and will be reviewing their Terms of Reference as a result of the consultation stated below.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Parents' Forum is currently undertaking an online (web based) consultation which will finish on 19 June 2009, inviting feedback from parents and professionals about the work of the forum. Some of the information gathered will be available in the Chair's presentation.
- 4.2 The Parents' Forum would welcome any feedback from the Board as a result of this report and presentation.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 17/06/2009

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Layer Consulted: Sally Booth

Date: 07/07/2009

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 This is an essential area to the work of the Parents' Forum and it is continuously looking at ways to ensure that it's reaching the diversity of families in the city.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The Parents' Forum is aware of the importance of its own sustainability and being effective in engaging with parents across the city.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no crime and disorder implications.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no risk and opportunity implications.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 To ensure future support of the Parents' Forum from the Children and Young People's Trust, which will allow the forum to continue its work.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 No alternative applicable.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To ensure that the Children and Young People's Trust Board is kept fully informed about the developments of the Parents' Forum and its accountability.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. The Parents' Forum Annual Report 06-08 (The story so far – printed document).

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. The Parents' Forum Annual Report 06-08 (The story so far).

Background Documents

1. Brighton & Hove Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09.
2. Brighton & Hove Parent Support Strategy 2008-11.

