



Voluntary Action Children & Families Team
'Working with Children & Families for Children & Families'



Family Fun Day

Wednesday 6th August 2008 at John Baskeyfield Primary School



“It is great that today has been free of charge. It helps parents who have a lot of children to be able to afford to come”

Kath - Grandparent

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A total of 167 people attended the event: 59 of these were parents, 73 were children and 35 were staff and practitioners.

Aim of the day:

- To consult with parents and their young people on the Children and Young People's Trust priorities and asking them what they think is important to see in their City.
- To give families the opportunity to spend quality time together while trying out and getting involved in a range of fun activities.
- To provide information on relevant topics relating to parents and their needs

Process and organisation of the event:

The event was extremely informal and we looked at previous feedback and evaluation forms where parents, children and young people were consulted to ensure that the range of activities that we provided were tailored to suit their needs. We also decided to add some different events and activities to offer a wider range than previous fun days.

We used 2 halls that interconnected and also an outside play area so if the weather was nice then families had the option of an outside play area and 2 giant games.

There were information boards from a range of organisations plus time for networking and accessing information from the stands.

Invites were sent out to all Children's Centres, the Parent Engagement Partnership, Quality Award Families, Tunstall and Chell Area Implementation Team's, the **snapp** database and the local schools. We also advertised the event with the local libraries and Burslem Art School.

The whole day was designed to be relaxed and fun while consulting with parents in a visual and interactive way.



Activities Provided:

- The Nintendo Wii and Playstation 3 – SOT Community Sports Network
- Mask Making – The Cultural Sisters
- Face painting – Auntie Dawn
- Judo display – Bulldog Judo
- A young person's band – Stoke Young People's Music Project
- Art and crafts table – Rebecca Wright (VAST Children and Families Team)
- Healthy eating and “rights of passage” interactive table – VAST C&F Team and Stoke North Children's Centre
- Circus performer – Saphiar Circus/Funtastic
- Giant games (Connect 4 and Jenga) - Funtastic



Promotional Stands:

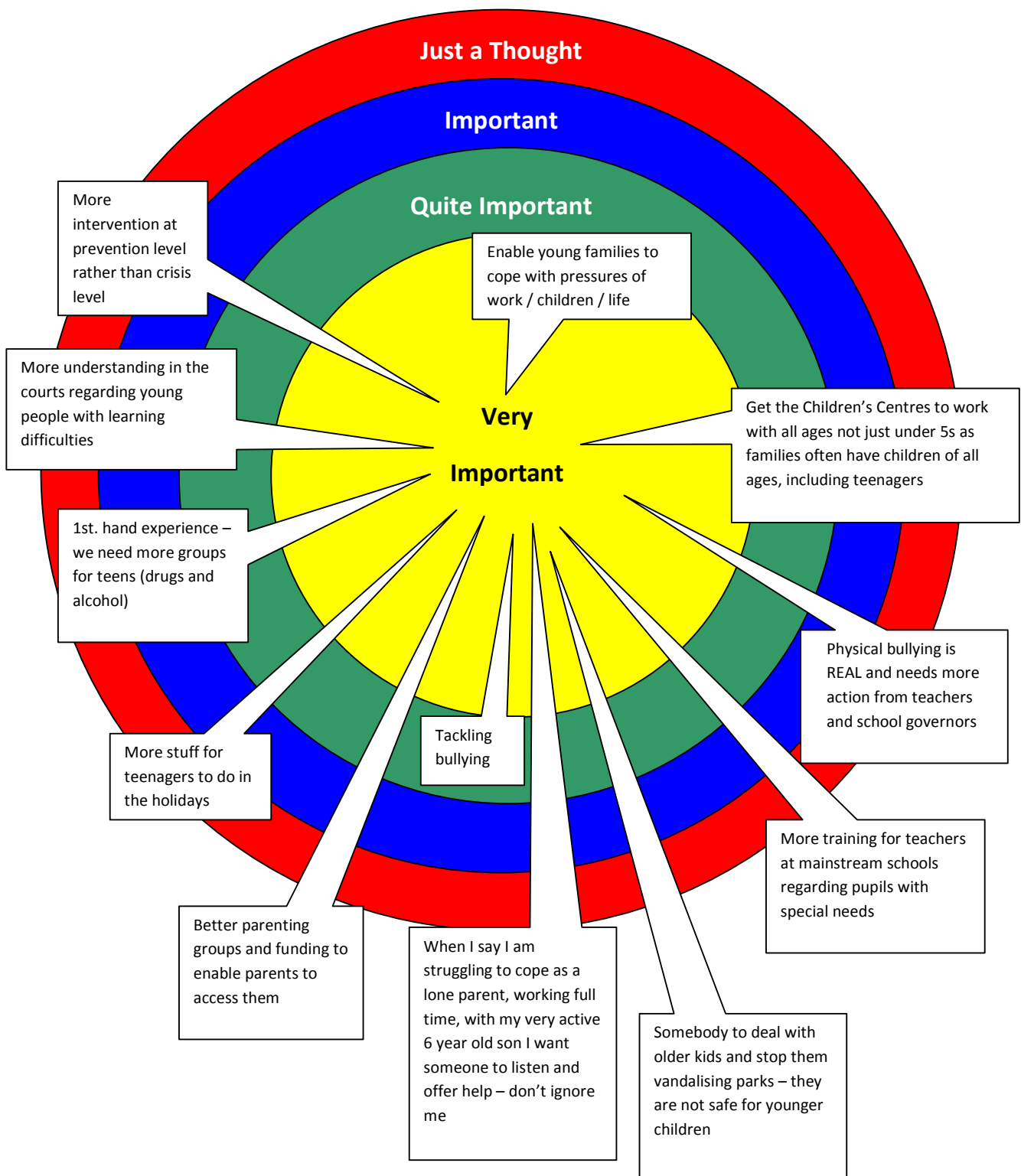
- Triple P Positive Parenting Service
- Fostering service
- AXIS – Mentoring programme
- North Staffs Young Carer's Project
- Dream Scheme
- CYP Engagement Team
- Parent Engagement Team
- Home Start
- Family Engagement Support Project (Lone Parents)
- Safer City Partnership
- Museums



Consultation:

All parents were asked to discuss and comment on the Children and Young People's Plan and say what they felt was important to them around the six City Priorities. They were also asked what they would like to see included in the next plan and what they would need to enable them to get involved. The consultation was done using a target and parents were asked to rate their comments in order of importance, most important in the middle, through to 'just a thought' at the edge.

The comments were as follows:



More comments....

Very Important:

- Talk to people, not at them – Paul
- More places for teenagers
- To teach kids respect from an early age
- Do things faster for teens – Helen
- Support in all areas of childcare
- More father friendly groups
- Promote healthy eating in schools and nurseries
- Help with childcare costs so you can attend services
- Better parenting groups and funding to enable parents to access them
- Clean up the parks – covered in glass
- Anti-bullying policies to be implemented more and available to each and every parent
- More parenting skills groups to give people ideas about good parenting

Quite important:

- More training for young people with easy access to funding
- FAMILY is the priority for the City
- More play areas – safer
- More parent involvement
- Training in the community

To gain parent's ideas and thoughts about the Children and Young People's Trust and what they needed in order to get involved we made a 'tree' with branches and asked parents to write their thoughts and suggestions on tags and tie them to the tree.



The results recorded were:

- Fegg Hayes Park is really good and new but older kids hanging around makes me scared to take my kids down. Have told PCSO but they're not around much – Christine
- Encourage healthy eating and how to look after yourself
- Your own mind and view that can be generalised for others to be able to apply to themselves
- I know a bit about the Children's Fund – I will tell other parents but I would like to know more (about the Trust)
- Very well informed about Children's Trust as a parent on Positive Contribution (Parenting ICG) – tell other parents about the Trust

Evaluation:

All parents were asked to evaluate the day and filled in an evaluation form when they were leaving. We also asked for comments from the Children and Young People using the picture of a tree and asking them to post comments on it. The responses are as follows:

Parent Evaluation:

1. How did you hear about this event?

Sentinel	5	Family member	3
Friend	3	Passing by	2
Word of mouth	2	Neighbour	2
Letter	6	Children & Families Team	1
Email	5	Hope Centre	1
Dudson Centre	1	1 st Steps	1
SNAPP event	1	Stoke North Children's Centre	1
John Kirkpatrick	1	Burslem Library	1

2. Did you find it easy to get here? If not why not?

Yes 35

No 2 Followed Paul / Got lost (tired kids out though)

3. Are you aware of our Children & Young People's Plan? And name one thing you have learned from this

- Yes, more awareness of young people
- The option of taking part in the Young People's award
- Yes, I have learned more about what is available
- Very small children can get involved in different activities
- The children have had a great day and thoroughly enjoyed
- I have made some excellent contacts with regards to my job as a learning mentor
- Local integrated services for children, yp and families. 5 outcomes
- To deliver locally based services
- How to make masks
- That it's being taken seriously
- Children's partnership
- How well people get on together
- There is a plan!!!
- All the support there is.
- Success for the future
- Yes, the help to keep children occupied

- Not read all of the literature yet but am more aware that there is a lot more going on for them and what is available for the family as a whole
 - Yes am aware of the plan – multi agency working
 - Not aware
 - Helpful & very friendly people
 - Yes, face painting
 - Everything is parent friendly and all in parent language
-

4. What would you like to see at other events?

- More interactive events for children.
- Dancing classes
- The same as here, very satisfied with the day we have had
- More events and more music – brilliant band
- Bouncy castle
- More days over holidays
- Anything
- Different services
- More displays
- Story time
- More activities where people can join in.
- Child friendly and parent friendly explanations of the plan
- Nothing everything was excellent
- More events like this

- Very good turn out but under represented by ethnic communities, so more of this. Made some great links with other organisations and got chance to chat to local community.
- Maybe tombola stalls & bric brac
- More publicity
- Different practitioners. I keep seeing the same faces!



5. Did you and your family have fun? Please tell us why.

- ☺ Yes, especially with circus skills and drumming workshop, it was really fun for all the children. Great entertainment, friendly staff.
- ☺ Lots of fun, lovely people. Good spacious venue for children to play safely
- ☺ Watching my son play guitar in the band
- ☺ Yes lots there was lots to do for all ages, kids loved playing on the Wii. The girls enjoyed the time here (4, 18 months), there was lots of things for them to do and the activities were all different so the kids did not get bored.

- 📍 It was really good will definitely come again, enjoyed it very much my son fully enjoyed the events. The games were brilliant. Face painting and outdoor events were great for parents and children.
- 📍 We had a promotional stand but observed parents / children all enjoying themselves. Appeared to be lots of entertaining activities that were well thought out for engaging children.
- 📍 Everybody made you feel welcome and all the events were brilliant
- 📍 Lots to do and friendly faces. (just a bouncy castle missing – Jimmy aged 6)
- 📍 Freebies
- 📍 Brilliant, fun free!
- 📍 Manned stand for Safer City Plan
- 📍 Yes super time lots to do, lovely atmosphere well planned. The children loved making things and drawing. Great thanks
- 📍 Yes, young people enjoyed event-activities engaged and very informative for professionals.



Children and Young People comments:



And finally.....

Parents and families really enjoyed the event and the comments will be fed back to the Children and Young People's Trust. Although it was a fun day we got some fantastic input from the parents, children and young people which will enable us to move forward and plan future events.



What have we learned for future events?

- 🌀 Had good feedback on the day
- 🌀 Good networking opportunity
- 🌀 Wonderful team involvement
- 🌀 Gained a new parent volunteer who attended this event
- 🌀 Thanks to Teresa for volunteering
- 🌀 Good to see lots of young people working together, having fun and laughing
- 🌀 Families feel more relaxed at events in schools
- 🌀 Good day – got a lot of consultation – good comments
- 🌀 Elizabeth was impressed and asked if she could use the target at other events
- 🌀 Every parent really enjoyed the day – lots to do
- 🌀 Was steady throughout the day
- 🌀 Spoke to young people who were interested in participation and parents for the PEP
- 🌀 Will mention at next team meeting that ALL team will be expected to attend future events
- 🌀 Would like to look into getting a group of parent & young people together to apply for funding for future fun day events
- 🌀 Great to see so many families enjoy the event and stay most of the day
- 🌀 Venue was excellent

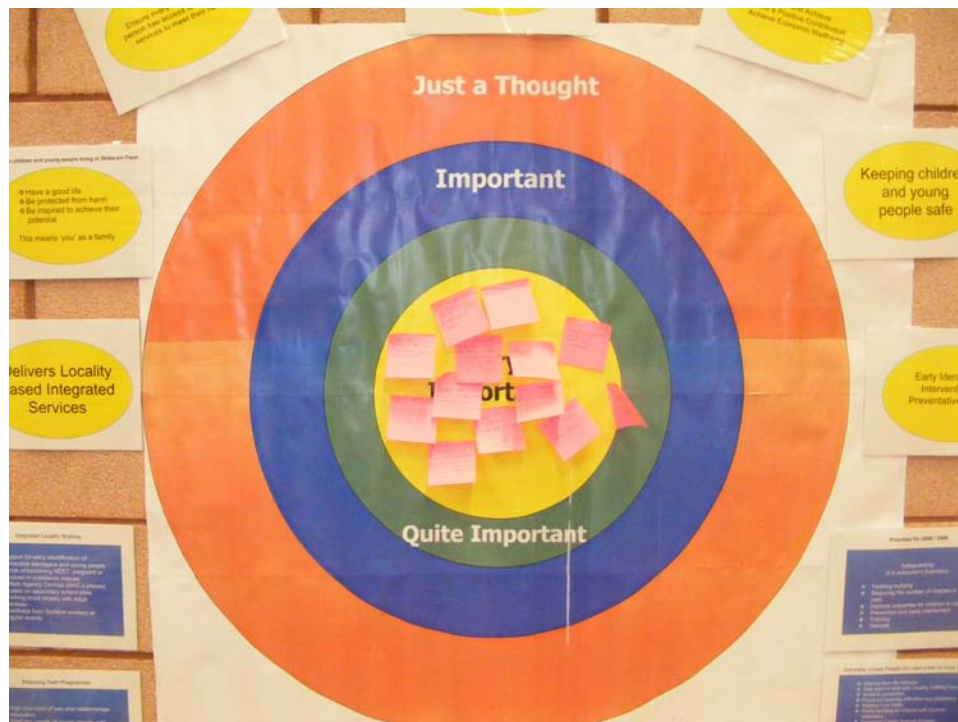
- 🕒 Having more team attendance will help with ad hoc support through the day
- 🕒 Massive thanks to Alice for doing an excellent job with the camera equipment
- 🕒 All the young volunteers were brill
- 🕒 Got some information for school
- 🕒 Great day
- 🕒 Team camaraderie was great – we all got stuck in
- 🕒 Would be good if we could do parents ‘fun time’
- 🕒 Good fun
- 🕒 Good to see new faces
- 🕒 Shame not to see more new faces
- 🕒 People liked range of free activities – asked for a bouncy castle
- 🕒 Good to hear little ones having their say
- 🕒 Thank you to young evaluation helpers
- 🕒 Turnout fantastic
- 🕒 Found it hard to focus on consultation when so much fun stuff is going on
- 🕒 Had fun day
- 🕒 Young helpers were brill
- 🕒 Can we get equipment and do our own activities??
- 🕒 Venue was good and appropriate
- 🕒 Was an ok way to consult with parents
- 🕒 Loved the activities – variation was good
- 🕒 Would be good to get more funding for fun days
- 🕒 Networking, teamwork was brill
- 🕒 All comments really good – asking when the next fun day will be
- 🕒 Good to see grandparents do stuff with kids
- 🕒 Baby changing facilities were limited – would be good to check these at future events
- 🕒 Really good day
- 🕒 Really good filter
- 🕒 The event flowed with the mood – FUN

Without days like these, we would not be able to afford to do such nice things with our children

Helen Parent

Glossary

SNAPP	Support Network For All Parenting Practitioners
CYP	Children and Young People
PCSO	Police Community Support Officers
ICG	Implementing Change Group



For further information please contact:

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