



## **Voluntary Action Children & Families Team**

*“Working with Children & Families for Children &  
Families”*

**Family Fun Day**

**Thursday 6th August 2009 at John Baskeyfield Primary School**



**It is very important that children, young people and  
parents are involved in decisions that directly affect them**

**Parent**

***A total of 504 people attended the event: 155 were adults, 299 were children and young people and 50 were practitioners***

**Aim of the day:**

- To consult with parents and their young people on The Every Child Matters 5 Outcomes and establish what is important to them in Stoke on Trent and why
- To find out what we are doing well and what children, young people and families would like to see more of
- To establish and collate parental views that will go towards shaping the new Parenting Strategy.
- 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 to children, young people and families

<b>Activities Provided</b>	<b>Agencies promoting services</b>
Face-painters x 2, art/craft x 100	Burslem Children's Centre
Sports	North Staffs Carers Association
Henna Painting	Common Assessment Framework
Hair Braiding	Changes
Outdoor games	Dream-scheme
DJ workshop	Family Support Network
Dance/Drama	Fenton Children's Centre
Circus Skills/balloon modelling	First Steps Psychological Services
Card tricks	JET
Climbing Wall	LINK
Fire Service	Community Health Champions-MEND Programme
Bouncy Castle	

## Consultation Activities:

We undertook several consultation activities during the day, with children, young people, parents and carers. These included asking their views on the Children and Young People's Plan and the Parenting Strategy.

There have been 8 common themes emerging from recent consultation events; these are: training for parents, positive role models, SPACE scheme, park safety, better support for SEN, engagement with schools, bullying and policing. The consultation activities concentrated on the views of families around these themes (please see the full report).

**106 parents** responded to the consultation that was around the themes and the results are as follows:

<b>Training for parents</b>	<b>3</b> parents didn't feel this was as important to their specific family however <b>8</b> did
<b>Positive Role Models</b>	<b>12</b> parents felt this was important
<b>SPACE scheme – bring it back!</b>	<b>1</b> parent felt this was not as important but <b>13</b> felt it was
<b>Park Safety</b>	This was an important issue for <b>10</b> parents while <b>15</b> parents felt that this was linked to better policing and together they were important. Much of the discussion was around having somewhere safe that parents felt able to let their children go to – all ages.
<b>Better support for Special Educational Needs</b>	<b>2</b> parents felt this was not as important for their family as they did not have SEN children, they did say that if they had then this would have been extremely important, however <b>8</b> felt it was
<b>Proper engagement with schools</b>	<b>9</b> parents felt this was important
<b>Bullying</b>	<b>15</b> parents felt this was an important issue and spent a long time discussing it (one parent felt that it was not treated as important by the school his child went to and didn't know that each school has a bullying policy)
<b>Better policing</b>	<b>10</b> parents felt this was an important issue

From all of the consultation there were some suggested recommendations from **children, young people, parents and carers**, these recommendations have been amalgamated and are as follows:

### **Recommendations from parents, children and young people:**

#### **Universal:**

- Provision for affordable childcare - with the current cost of childcare being so high, parents have said that they can't access training or go back to work as it is just not worth it, without affordable childcare, parents can become lonely, isolated and have low self esteem; they want to move forward with their lives but are up against a seemingly unmovable barrier
- Provide support to enable Foster Carers to access activities such as swimming and the theatre; preferably free.

#### **Schools:**

- Consistent and evidential implementation of bullying policies in schools:
- Evidence of bullying policies not only being implemented but also the outcomes of this implementation made public - this is a major issue for many children and they feel that if they tell the teacher the bullying gets worse and then nothing is done to stop it
- Strict punishments for smoking and drugs and a safe place for other children to voice their concerns about pupils in reference to this
- More lunch time and after school opportunities for children and young people to develop things they enjoy, even if it is not academic (e.g. dancing)

#### **Job Centre:**

- Provide and publicise more opportunities for young people to work after school and Saturdays
- Listen to what people are actually saying – some people want a career change and need someone to listen to them and support them to do this

#### **Park Services:**

- Clean illegal graffiti off walls regularly- young people find graffiti intimidating and feel that there is too much in the parks
- Provide more visible park attendants to help to reduce bullying as it is just as rife in the parks as it is in the schools
- Ensure that the park equipment is checked against safety standards as parents are too scared to let their children play on it
- Provide children and young people with a wider variety of activities in the parks

### **Neighbourhood Managers:**

- Provide more local family activities where parents can play with their children and young people – some parents can't afford to travel so are isolated in their community
- Provision of some community activities for carers - children who go to carers while their parents work find making friends outside of school difficult as they are not being cared for where they live.
- Increased provision of community social events - help to bridge the gap between the teenagers and the elderly

### **City Council:**

- Enable families to take part in activities such as swimming by helping them with the costs of travel as many parents can't afford travel costs plus the cost to take part in activities once they reach their destination.
- Provide free activities for families – Some families are surviving and do not have surplus monies
- Provision of free bus passes for parents and teenagers
- Provide activities to suit all age ranges. If a parent has children that are of mixed ages then they can't take them to one activity as they do not cater for all ages

**For further information please contact:**

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