

Aspley/ Bells Lane Community Sure Start

Parental Involvement Update

In the autumn of 2002, a report entitled “Consultation Process” described a process developed in the early stage of the programme, to integrate parental involvement in all aspects of the programme development, delivery and governance.

This process has continued to be utilised in the programme with the following outcomes up to December 2004.

Governance

- Parent members of the board (This number has been maintained as members have moved on.
- Parent members of health sub-group
- Parent members of fund raising sub-group
- Parent members of Toy Library committee
- Members of current parents groups

The fund raising group is currently looking into the option of setting up a separate charitable trust to benefit children in Aspley, with the help of a student at Nottingham Trent Law School, working on a pro bono basis. This is aimed at long term sustainability.

Volunteers

- 29 Parents trained and approved as volunteers to NCH standards.
- 20 Parents started training in June 2004.
- 8 Parents trained as breast feeding peer supporters.
- 9 Parents part way through “Buddy Training”

All volunteers work to task description, which link to their interests and ambitions, and receive supervision and professional development.

Volunteers are involved in the following roles: Running drop-in session and groups, baby photos, credit union, buddying scheme, newsletter production, toy library, admin, baby massage, crèche provision, language service and cooking club.

Official volunteer hours (and some do a lot more) adding up to 4 FTE workers worth around £80,000 per year to the programme.

Volunteer Training

Five volunteers have completed NVQ 3 in “Inclusive Play.” All of these have now gone on to employment.

All volunteers complete and induction package which includes orientation to Sure Start and NCH, health and safety, equality and diversity, child protection and confidentiality.

A list of other training undertaken by volunteers is attached.

Into Employment

- 10 ex-volunteers are now employed by the programme as; 7 Sure Start assistants, 1 admin assistant, 1 nursery assistant and 1 nursery manager.
- 3 volunteers are now employed outside the programme.
- 3 volunteers in addition to the above have worked as a temporary basis for the programme. Their purpose is to help us through a period of staff vacancies and to build up their own CV's.
- 3 additional Aspley residents also work for the programme (1 finance assistant, 1 Sure Start assistant and 1 nursery nurse.
- A number of other workers live as adjacent estates.
- Of the total workforce of 34, 13 (40%) live in Aspley.

Service Delivery

As well as the contribution made through volunteering mentioned above, a number of parents (though not going through the volunteer route) have offered skills to the programme.

These have included:

- Three arts and craft groups for parents, including an evening session for working parents.
- Dance and Movement sessions for parents and children.
- Aerobics classes.
- A woman's evening swimming session.
- Decorating the café.
- Keeping the allotment under control!
- Discos for parties and events.
- Fund raising.

Evaluation

Ten parents undertook the planning and delivery of the baseline questionnaire. Parents designed the follow-up health questionnaire and delivered it. Parents are also involved in all groups and sessions, undertaking evaluation with parents and children.

Capitol Development

Four parents generously gave a lot of time to; meetings with architects, playground design, making sure the new building meets our needs and is fully inclusive. Many more have contributed comments on early draft plans.

Evaluation of Volunteering Service

An external evaluation of our volunteering service has been commissioned from Andrew Hedgecock (Editorial and Research Ltd.

The report will:

- Provide a **summative evaluation** of the project
- **Document** the learning experience of Sure Start volunteers
- **Document** the project team's experience and achievements
- Highlight the **key lessons** to be drawn from the experience (eg in relation to the value of local knowledge)
- Create a **platform for further development** work
- Support **dissemination** of the project's approach, methods and outcomes
- Provide a platform for the development of an **evaluative framework** (with appropriate tools and techniques) that will support evaluation for continuous improvement in future projects.

This is due for completion in April 2005.