



Warwickshire Integrated Disability Service Parent & Carer Steering Group Newsletter

The Integrated Disability Service Parent & Carer Steering Group

The IDS Parent and Carers' Steering Group is a group of parents and carers caring for children with a variety of disabilities and special needs. We meet every month, mirroring the Integrated Disability Service management meetings.

We aim to:

- Act as ambassadors for families by taking opportunities to make change
- Stand up and be counted
- Help make a better future for our children and those that follow
- Listen to the views of other parents and carers, and to encourage their involvement
- Ensure that 'Every Child Matters'

If you are interested in serving as a committee member please do get in touch.

Lynne Barton: 01926 413737
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Parent and Carer Forum

The Parent and Carer Forum held its very first meeting on 19th April 2005. It was established as a direct result of an independent consultation where families said they would like to become involved in "planning services, commenting on what was already happening, influencing future policies and have a voice in improving services".



We meet during the day at different places across the County. If you come along you will find a warm

welcome.

Next meeting will be held at:

**Warwick Arms Hotel,
17 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AT
Tuesday 28th April ~ 10 am-12 noon**

So what have we done so far and have we had any influence?

Yes we think we have

- We established and developed the Forum and Steering Group
- We made a decision on title of named professional who would co-ordinate services for families and Family Key Worker became the agreed title.
- We were involved with young people in the recruitment of five Family Key Worker posts
- We wrote and have co-presented a training module for keyworking
- We wrote, prepared and have presented a 'Families Speak Out' monologue to Councillors and other groups
- We have contributed to IDS Consultation Paper in July 05 which proposed the integration of services across agency boundaries
- We have acted as a reference group giving our opinion on:
 - 1) Social Care Eligibility Criteria, Direct Payments and Carers Assessment
 - 2) Adult Health and Community Directorate Carers Strategy
 - 3) Occupational Therapy Service
 - 4) Transitions Pack for Parents and Carers
 - 5) IDS 0-5 Strategy
 - 6) IDS Service Development Plan 06/07, 08/09
- We act as a recruitment ground for other strategic groups e.g. County Transition Steering Group



Warwickshire Integrated Disability Service
'Joining up' services for children, young people and their families

- We have featured in the Warwickshire County Council's corporate DVD 'Side by Side'
- We have written a Privacy Statement as part of the IDS Information Sharing Protocols across agencies, which is used every day
- We have contributed to PCT Commissioning Day to help decide health priorities for future Strategy

Stop press....

Short breaks from April 2009

Most recently the Parent and Carer Steering Group have been involved in commissioning the provider for community short breaks.

In response to a County Council National advert, seven applications were received by organisations wishing to provide this service.

Organisations were asked to *"show that they understand and can meet the needs of parents and carers"*

Their written response was scored by individual members of the Steering Group. Youngsters from the Wacky Forum also made a contribution to making the decision.

The front runners were asked to give a presentation to enable parents and carers to make the final decision.

We are delighted to inform you that the Voluntary Sector Organisation 'Take a Break' have secured the contract to provide short breaks across the County.

The Integrated Disability Service

The Integrated Disability Service brings together professionals from Education, Connexions, Health and Social Care.

We have three bases for you to phone, write or just pop in.

Orion House

Tachbrook Park, Athena Drive,
Warwick CV34 6RQ
(01926) 413737

Faraday Hall

Lower Hillmorton Road,
Rugby CV21 3TU
(01926) 476928

Lancaster House

Exhall Grange Campus, Easter Way,
Coventry CV7 9HP
(024) 76 368800



The Integrated Disability Service Fathers' Group

The Fathers Group for Warwick, Leamington and Stratford Districts is continuing to go from strength to strength, having met last year five times in total.

Since the last Newsletter in June there have been a further three meetings, all very useful and well attended.

- In mid June a specialist solicitor gave information and answered questions about wills and trusts, and their financial implications for you and your children.
- Managing challenging behaviour was the theme for September's meeting.
- The pre Christmas meeting gave the fathers a relaxed opportunity to share their own experiences of having a disabled child.

The first session of the New Year will be focusing on some of the highs and lows of family relationships, and during the informal part of the evening the programme for the coming year will be planned.

The function room at Kenilworth Rugby Club has become a regular venue. It's a great setting because after the main theme of the evening, there is a chance to socialise informally in the club bar.

More Fathers are always welcome, and you don't have to commit to coming to every meeting - only when you can, and want to.

Simon Cooper is waiting for your call
on **01926 413737**

Aiming High for Disabled Children

Thank you for all your wonderful contributions so far. You have told us that over the next two years you would like us to spend some of the government Aiming High money on :

Sitting Services
Family and Children's Activity Days,
Help with Transport and Finance
Inclusion in clubs, playschemes and other activities
Holiday Breaks
Special Interest Groups music, art, sports

Not had your say yet ? Contact Lynne Barton 01926 413737