

West Lancashire Parenting Forum Newsletter



Issue 1

Summer 2009

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter to highlight some of the services available through our partner agencies

Who are we?

The Lancashire Parenting Forum is a multi-agency network of professionals from statutory and voluntary sectors and parents who work together for the best interests of parents, children and young people. We either work with families on a daily basis or are parents ourselves.

The aim of the Parenting Forum is to provide a co-ordinated and consistent approach to parenting support for local parents. We understand that children and families needs change throughout life therefore their need for support may change.

We meet every six weeks at different locations across West Lancashire to discuss provision and initiatives at Government, Regional and Local Levels. We share information, provide opportunities to network and inform policy makers to let them know what we consider good practice and also what is needed.

Lancashire's Priorities:

1. The needs of children and young people must always come first.
2. All parents and families should know how and where to get help if and when they need it.
3. Support should be easily available and delivered in a non stigmatising setting at flexible times and locations to suit the need.
4. The views of children, young people and their families must be taken into account when services are being designed and delivered.

District Parenting Support Advisors

Twelve District Parenting Support Advisors (DPSA's) are now in post across the region to promote Parenting Forums. Pam Bowes was appointed for West Lancashire and is hosted and line managed by Caroline Pendleton Nash at West Lancashire Child Contact Centre in Skelmersdale. Many of you will already know Pam as she has worked in the area for many years. Pam has updated the Professionals Signposting List and provides a 'Just Ask Pam' telephone helpline and Email enquiry service to link parents to agencies and support networks and vice versa. (contact details at the end of this newsletter)

Service Providers Audit

A priority for DPSA's is to audit provision of any support related to parenting provided by statutory, voluntary and private organisations across the region. This will be collated through a detailed questionnaire which all agencies are requested to complete. This will identify good practice in addition to gaps in provision with the findings fed back to the Children's Trust and other official bodies to inform future planning and influence change. Any agencies wishing to contribute to this audit please contact Pam.

The Solihull Approach

Train the Trainer programme is continuing before it is rolled out to other professionals later in the year. There will be more training in September and October including Schools, Children's Centre's, PCT's and other agencies.

It will promote a universal approach of working the same way with parents and is divided into Early Years or School Aged Children. A trained professional and a CAMHS professional will facilitate together. More info to follow

Dates and Venues of Future Meetings - 2009/10

Wednesday's 9.30am — 11.30 am

9th September at Tarleton Health Centre, Gorse Lane, Tarleton

21st October at St John's Children's Centre, Birch Green, Skelmersdale

2nd December at Park Children's Centre, Barnes Road, Skelmersdale

13th January at The Grove Community Centre, Burscough

24th Feb at 1st Steps Children's Centre, Digmaor, Skelmersdale

7th April at Tarleton Health Centre, Gorse Lane, Tarleton

19th May at St John's Children's Centre Birch Green, Skelmersdale

30th June at Park Children's Centre, Barnes Road, Skelmersdale

For further information contact:



 **07540 569175**

 **westlancpsa@aol.com**