

Lancaster District Parenting Forum

December 2008

Terms of Reference

- **Introduction:**
 - Re. recent Government agendas – Parenting/Support services at forefront of integrated services working with children, young people and families.
 - Provide a multi agency forum for those working with children, young people and families.

- **Membership:**
 - The Parenting Forum welcomes parents/carers; organisations and services working with children, young people and families within the Lancaster District
 - The forum will maintain an up to date list of members of the forum and those who wish to receive minutes of the meetings.
 - Members to share relevant information at Forum meetings

- **Frequency of Meetings:**
 - The forum will meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 9.30am.

- **Administration:**
 - The agenda for the forum meeting will be produced and circulated approximately one week before the monthly forum meeting.
 - The minutes will be taken at each monthly forum meeting and circulated prior to the next meeting.

- **Accountability:**
 - The forum will be accountable to:
 - Its membership
 - The Local Children's Trust Partnership

- **Aims of the Parenting Forum:**
 - To provide a multi-agency forum for those working with children, young people and families.
 - To promote the views of local parents/carers/practitioners in the design and development of parent support provision
 - To disseminate and promote up to date information on available resources/training/provision for supporting parents
 - To ensure the issue of parenting support is kept at the forefront of local policy and decision making processes; to ensure services are outcomes focused and of high quality

- **Objectives:**
 - Promote effective coordination of parenting support in the district
 - Act as an information sharing and networking group in relation to positive parenting
 - Encourage a wider membership of the forum to include additional identified statutory and third sector organisations
 - Identify gaps in service provision in the Lancaster District
 - Develop and maintain strategic links with relevant organisations
 - Identify funding streams to promote, develop and sustain existing parenting projects and new initiatives.
 - Share good practice; improve integrated team working and identify training needs and opportunities for practitioners in relation to parenting issues.
 - To encourage the involvement of parents/carers in the work of the forum; to promote the views of parents/carers in service design and development and to respond to issues around identified gaps in local service provision
 - To improve the access to local parenting information and to provide services in non-threatening, accessible and friendly environments.