

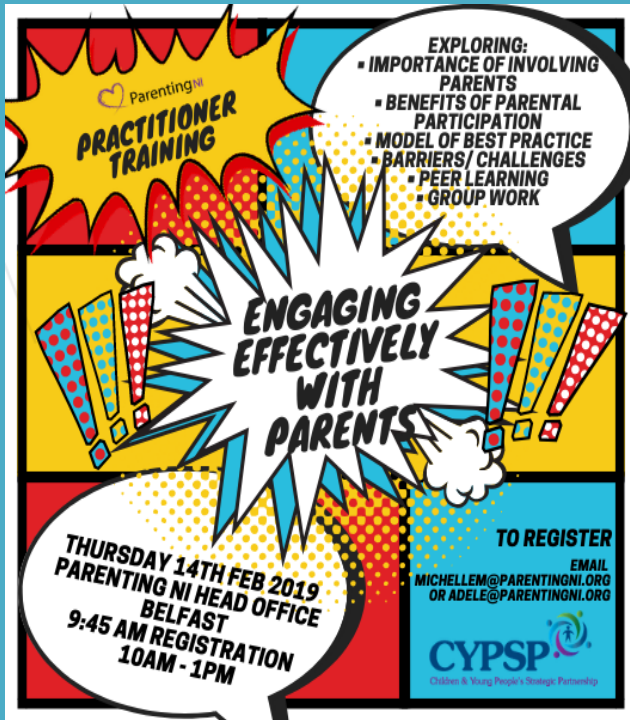
Parental Participation Project Newsletter

Welcome to Quarter Four Newsletter

Welcome to the Parental Participation Newsletter, January 2019 to March 2019 has been very busy. Quarter Four has provided the opportunity to meet and develop relationships, which has raised awareness and best practice when engaging with Parents.

There has been 38 organisations, 219 practitioners, 269 parents engaged this quarter, some of the organisations include:



Parenting NI delivered Engaging Effectively with Parents training to 23 practitioners at Parenting NI Office in Belfast on

Thursday 14th February 2019.

There was great demand for this training with 6 people being put onto the waiting list.

The participant's evaluations showed:

- 31% increase in the knowledge and skills in engaging effectively with parents
- 100% of practitioners said they increased their awareness of why parental involvement was important and they identified barriers to involvement.



Practitioners were asked to outline what change in their practice they would implement as a result of this training. Their responses were:

- More awareness of the barriers to communication for parents
- I'd accept different levels of engagement with parents as not all will do programmes, but can get information, etc. Wilcox Model implemented
- Being more honest when appropriate to benefit parent/child
- I will find out parents barriers and work to the best of my ability to overcome them
- I will apply a more flexible approach to accommodating parents
- Timing of the sessions I deliver
- I will use alternative resources e.g. videos, etc.
- Much more partnership working into other groups doing similar work, join resources

Direct Parental Participation

Through the development of the CYPSP Parental Participation Project over the past number of years Parenting NI identified a trend, which was the need to evidence where parents access family support, the barriers and challenges they face in accessing family support, how parents can best be supported to reduce these barriers and how to improve parent's access to family support. A regional survey was carried out from November 2018 to February 2019 using a mixed method approach which included online survey, focus groups and individual interviews with parents. **656 parents participated** which consisted of 481 parents completing the survey online, 31 parents participated in focus groups and 144 parents were involved in one to one surveys.

A summary of findings showed:

- 59% said they had concerns/ worries about their children
- 23% said they were worried about their child mental health
- 27% said they did not attend or were unsure if they attended the appointment from family support services.

The parents stated the reasons for this were:

- They hadn't enough support from family and friends to allow them to attend
- Appointment too far away and they did not have access to transport to enable them to attend.
- There was not enough information prior to attending service

Parents said:

"Knowing that family support doesn't mean the scary side of social services. There is a perception that accessing support leads to alarm bells ringing"

"If they were autism friendly, I didn't have to queue up or wait around for a long time and there was a quiet area I could bring xxx too if he got anxious or upset"

"Support with attending appointment".

"Having more flexibility on the hours for appointments

"Access to a child minder or being allowed to bring your child"

"Location more accessible"

The full survey report can be obtained by contacting Michelle or Elaine.

Get in Touch to hear more about the various areas of the Parental Participation Project.

michellem@parentingni.org or elaine@parentingni.org