Herefordshire Council

Parents for Change Agreed Terms of Reference

Date: Completed Feb 2024,

Aim

Parents for Change is a group for parents to support their voice being heard in the rebuilding of Childrens Services. Their views will be incorporated within changes to the Service and where possible, co-production of new initiatives and services. Without the inclusion of families whose needs haven't previously been met, there is a risk of repeatedly designing or providing services that do not meet the needs of the children and families it serves. It is believed that this group will become self -directed in the future.

The main aims:

- To foster an active partnership between parents and Childrens Services
- To gather the views and experiences of parents in specific areas of focus
- To contribute to continuous improvement
- To provide both positive and constructive feedback

Frequency

The group will meet every 4-6 weeks

Attendees

Parents who have had experience of being a parent to a child known to Childrens Services in the last 3 years.

Parents who are currently open to the service can join but there must be a clear commitment at each session that no individual children or circumstances will be discussed.

They must not have an open complaint or ongoing issues relating to Childrens Services.

We agreed that the group will:

- Ensure the space to give a view, views will be heard and the group will have influence.
- Meaningful participation and co-production together .There will be an equal commitment to all voices.
- Participation work takes time, and can be challenging, but is ultimately rewarding and will bring about change.

- recognises that people who use services have the skills and knowledge to change and improve service delivery
- breaks down the barriers between people who use services and professionals

Childrens Services have agreed to provide
Space -You must be given a space to give a view
Voice -You should have support to give a view
Audience – you must be listened too
Must have **influence, we will evidence to you the changes made.**

In the first year we will focus on

- Review and agree the Terms of Reference
- Review the information given to families when a child is accommodated so that it is easy to understand and available on the internet
- Review the letters sent to parents to ensure that they are restorative
- Agree a Feedback Form for parents that will be sent out at closures
- Agree to focus on Assessments and how parents are able to feedback
- How complaints are undertaken
- Once completed new priorities will be identified

Reviewed September 24 and new Priorities set – to be confirmed at next meeting