### Flintshire Parenting Strategy and Action Plan



# Flintshire Parenting Parenting Strategy & Action Plan June 2008

A commitment to parents and carers, children and young people in Flintshire

The strategy details how support to parents will be provided from 2008 – 2011.

'Parenting is an activity undertaken by those who bring up children; raising, nurturing and caring.'

If you want to know more or tell us what you think contact us: Parenting Strategy Co-ordinator c/o Education Support Services, Queensferry Campus, Queensferry, CH5 1SE

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Children & Young People's Partnership Sub-Group: Parenting Strategy Group (PSG)

# **Foreword**

This is the first Parenting Strategy for Flintshire. Its aim is to bring together key actions for parents, parenting services, parenting practitioners and other professionals who work with parents by coordinating our efforts to support parents more effectively.

Parents are the single most important factor in a child's well-being, achievement and future prospects. Parenting is an important role, it can be fun and it can be challenging, raising children can enrich lives and it can be hard work. Parents can question their abilities and then openly offer advice to others. It is an ongoing learning opportunity. Research tells us that the quality of parenting impacts on children, families, communities and society as a whole. Our aim is to improve support for all parents and carers, to improve life opportunities for all children.

We recognise the great job that parents do. We also recognise that there are times in the life of all parents when they need some extra support, information and advice. We have listened to what parents, services, children and young people and the parenting workforce say is needed to help parents in Flintshire to bring up children at each of the various ages and stages. We have reviewed the local parenting provision and we have identified a number of actions to address current gaps and strengthen existing services.

It is the aim of this action plan to raise the profile of parenting and to deliver services, information and support that actively encourages parents to use parenting services, information and advice. This includes signposting, awareness raising, provision of information, advice and support, improving networking and building of relationships with other parents, and linkages between parents, schools and the wider community. It includes learning opportunities to assist parents to develop self-awareness, self-confidence, communication skills, play skills, enthusiasm and motivation, as well as basic skills and helping children to learn. It also provided skills development for those working with parents in a paid or voluntary role.

There are many good initiatives in Flintshire to support parents, but we still have some work to do to make sure parents get the information, support and help they need, when and where they need it. We need to make sure that we provide various ways for parents and services to access information, and then to feel happy to use any support or advice they need, we will promote the message 'just ask', that it is seen as a strength to ask for information, advice or support, not a weakness.

This document is aimed at the parenting workforce, stakeholders and professionals who work with parents in order to provide a shared understanding of the work to be undertaken over the next three years. A summary will also be available and a family friendly leaflet is to be produced for parents for general distribution.

Members of the Parenting Strategy Group

Children and Young People's Partnership

#### Confident...

#### **Parents and Carers**

#### Children & Young People

Workforce

The Parenting Strategy and Action Plan is a commitment to Flintshire parents; it is about the needs of parents and how services working and planning together will respond to those needs so that all 'parents' are confident in their role as parents; raising confident children and young people, next generation adults, who are able to reach their potential in life; working in partnership with a confident, skilled parenting workforce, and other professionals and services who have contact with parents and carers in their parenting role.

#### The term:

'parents' used throughout this document refers to anyone acting in a parenting role e.g. mums, dads, foster carers and adoptive parents, step-parents, grandparents, sibling carers etc. (see page 6)

'parenting' refers to any activity undertaken to bring up children. It is the process by which a parent or carer fulfils their role in raising, nurturing and caring for their child or young person.

'parenting services' refers to any activity or facility aimed at providing information, advice and support to parents and carers to help them in bringing up their children

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# 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

A raft of legislation and national policy documents have reinforced the crucial role of parents and the importance of supporting parents in order to achieve better outcomes for children and young people. The Welsh Assembly Governments Parenting Action Plan recognises and acknowledges parents as the most important influence on children and young people achieving their potential and best outcomes. Parenting is also one of the priority areas contained within Flintshire's Children and Young People's plan, and is supported by the Parenting Strategy and Action Plan - the first step towards identifying joint priorities for improving services and information provision for parents, primary carers and others who perform a parenting role and supporting practitioners who work with parents. The strategy and priorities will be coordinated and developed by a multi-agency parenting strategy group, feeding into the Children and Young People's Partnership, to complement the aims and actions contained within the Children and Young People's Plan.

Parenting support and services is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (UNCRC) ratified by the UK in 1991 and formally adopted by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2004.

#### Families have the right to ask for help to bring children up, if they need it.

Parenting is a theme that cuts across the seven core aims (see below), and many of the proposed actions impact positively on one or more aim at a time. Consideration has also been given to the 10 Extending Entitlements for young people. This plan recognises and acknowledges parents as **the most important influence** on children and young people achieving their potential, and views them as **key enablers** in achieving the best outcomes for children and young people. We believe that by promoting positive parenting and providing the right parenting provision in Flintshire, we will enable children and young people:

- to have a good start in life;
- to have the education and learning opportunities needed;
- to have the best possible health and not be abused or exploited;
- to have opportunities to play, and take part in leisure, sports and cultural activities;
- to be listened to, respected and have their race and culture respected;
- to have a safe home and live in a community that keeps them well and happy;
- to not have less chances in life because of poverty.

This plan also recognises that whilst the majority of parents do a good job, there are times when many parents need advice, information or help with their own parenting style or something relating to their child. Some of the areas mentioned by parents include: care (parent and child), nurturing, attachment, communication, breastfeeding, early feeding and weaning, sleep patterns, stress management, peer pressure, behaviour, emotional issues, social events (e.g. clubs and leisure), learning and play, childcare, relationships, education, attending school and completing homework, advice and information at points of transition, school partnerships and the

role of school governors, understanding the curriculum and reading schemes, health, safety and protection from danger, anti-bullying, technology, understanding drugs and substance misuse, nutrition, 'what to do' questions, setting a good example, setting clear limits and boundaries including consequences of breaking them, praise, respect, work life balance, benefits, poverty, inequality, housing, 'help!' I just need some advice, an ear to listen, re-assurance, and service and support information.

The aim is to work towards providing solutions that support parenting in Flintshire, having listened to parents, services and the workforce and continuing to listen and implement what is required. We need to make sure that we get the right balance between effective parenting provision and over-interference in family life.

Recognising the need to review the parenting activity in Flintshire, and to consider the needs of parents, services and the parenting workforce a multi-agency initiative was established May 2007 to begin working towards strategic delivery of a full range of efficient, effective, joined up, coherent parenting services; in response to local need and the rising national profile of parenting, both positive and negative.

The project is coordinated by a Parenting Strategy Coordinator and overseen by the Parenting Strategy Group, a multi-agency steering group. The steering group includes representation of different interests to maximise the breadth and depth of knowledge and experience, with representatives from the local authority, education, social care, social justice, health, voluntary organisations and parent representatives. The plan will inform the CYPP and the Single Plan, and progress updates will be reported to the CYPP.

#### 1.2 Parenting is...

The Welsh Assembly Parenting Action Plan defines parenting as

'any activity undertaken by those who bring up children, this includes mothers and fathers, foster carers and adoptive parents, step-parents, and grandparents. In some cases, siblings also undertake a parenting role. All of these play a crucial role in giving the children in their care a flying start in life, providing the best basis for children's and young people's growth and development. Local authorities also act as corporate parents for children and young people in their care.'

Flintshire parents, services, voluntary services and community groups have asked for this to extend to 'community parents', those who work in a voluntary capacity with children and young people, kinship care and those in loco parentis.

This definition of parenting will be used throughout the document when referring to parents or primary carers. (Please note that Corporate Parenting is included within the Corporate Parenting Strategy.)

As we consider the role of parenting, research shows that parenting education should begin in the early years, continuing throughout life; recognising each of these stages and the importance of the people who play a role in them. Parents are the single most important factor in a child's well being, achievement and future prospects.

"Parenting is both a continuous process starting before parenthood and continuing through birth and school to grandparenthood, and an interactive process concerned with the development of the whole person." <sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Welsh Assembly Parenting Action Plan DfTE Information Document No: 054-05 Date of Issue: December 2005 Page 7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Quote from parentinguk.org

#### 1.3 Research & Policy<sup>3</sup>

Research shows that Parents are the single most important factor in a child's well being, achievement and future prospects. It is the quality of the relationship parent's form with their children, which is of paramount importance with regard to optimal emotional and social development. Positive parenting equals positive child mental health development and positive outcomes relating to education, attainment, lifestyle and behaviours. Positive parenting in the home has a far more significant impact on childrens' achievement than their parents' social class or level of education. For primary school age children, positive parenting has the biggest impact on their achievement and adjustment. The effect is more significant that the school itself. Parents continue to have a major impact through secondary school, in the number of young people accessing further education opportunities

It has also been necessary to take into account other local and national strategies and documents when developing Flintshire's parenting strategy, including:

- the Welsh Assembly Government's Parenting Action Plan 2005
- the National Service Framework (NSF) 2005 (Improving Health and Social Care for Children and Young People and Maternity Services
- Community Focused Schools 2005
- The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners and Parenting UK guidance
- National Occupational Standards for Working with Parents 2005
- The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidelines on parenting training and education
- parenting programmes, family learning research, what works in family support
- Parenting Coordinators key responsibilities
- Legislation including The Childcare Act 2006 and the Welsh Language Act
- CAMHS Strategy; Children and Young People's Plan; Community First plans; Communities that Care; Community Strategy; Flying Start plan; Children's Centres and SureStart; Participation Strategy; the Healthy Schools programme; Basic Skills strategy and others.

Within the Welsh Assembly Parenting Action Plan 2005 the following priorities were identified for supporting parents and families in Wales from 2005 to 2008:

- The development of a bilingual telephone line for parents in Wales,
- Early Years parenting booklets to be distributed through Health Visitor managers and Head teachers,
- To consider the role of grandparents, sharing of good practice and approaches
- The development of the Incredible Years programme and the production of information regarding other evidence based models to be used across Wales.
- A focus on strengthening parental participation,
- The piloting of children's information services in primary and secondary schools settings, in community focussed schools and integrated centres,
- The promotion of parental participation in schools.
- The further development of the Parentsnet education information website.

We continue to work with the Children in Wales' networks Fforwm Magu Plant (Parenting Forum) and Fatherhood Wales to influence development of the above initiatives and the ongoing development of parenting work in Wales.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Flintshire Parenting Needs Analysis for further information

#### 1.4 How the Strategy and Action Plan was developed

'Developing a local parenting strategy', produced by the Parenting Education and Support Forum has been used as a guide; it is based on what has been learned by others who have pioneered the development of parenting strategies, as well as from government guidance. The following steps have been taken:

Step 1 Establish the post of Parenting Coordinator and identify membership of the Parenting Strategy Sub-group (sub-group of Children and Young People's Partnership)\* \* Documentation to support each of the steps is available on request should you require further detail. Please contact CYPP or Parenting Strategy Co-ordinator. Evidence is also contained within the Children and Young People's Plan.

Step 2 Review key documents including the Welsh Assembly Parenting Action Plan; National Service Framework and National Occupational Standards for Work with Parents\*

**Step 3** Map existing services to find out what is already in place, in order to plan what is needed. Questionnaires sent to 'parenting' services\*

**Step 4** Complete local needs analysis and consultation with parents and parenting practitioners/ workforce including skills development and training needs\*

"The bond between children and their parents is the most critical influence on a child's life, and parenting strongly influences educational attainment, behaviour and mental health."

Green paper – parental separation – children's needs and parents." responsibilities
July 2004

"Being a parent is a big job. Everyone who looks after children needs support and encouragement. They also need advice and information about a range of things as their children grow up."

The Parent

Participation Guide produced by the Welsh Assembly

**Step 5** Provide input into the Children and Young People's Needs Assessment and local priorities. Consider feedback\*

Step 6 Develop the Parenting Strategy and Action Plan. Distribute for comment. Make final changes. Children and Young People's Partnership to publish with Plan \*

**Step 7** Market and progress the work in the Parenting Strategy and Action Plan. Monitor the plan to ensure things are changing for parents, children, young people and their families\*

#### 1.5 Parents, Services, Stakeholders and the Parenting Workforce

Parents, practioners, key stakeholders and parenting services (i.e. statutory, voluntary and community) were consulted to identify current parenting provision and needs. This has assisted the development of a plan that reflects the local context and considers the varying needs and circumstances of parents living in Flintshire; building upon existing strengths of parenting services; taking action to close gaps; taking into consideration well-evaluated research, to develop a system-wide and integrated continuum of support for parents. It will take time for a comprehensive range of parenting support services that meet parents' needs to be put in place; progress is being made through successful working together.

When developing the priority actions we have considered:

- the success criteria required by the Parenting Strategy Group;
- feedback from consultation with parents, services and the parenting workforce as a framework to develop services for parents with children pre-birth – 18, during 2008-11; identifying need and enabling resources to be focussed on the most important areas of need.<sup>4</sup>

Our aim is that, 'Parents and carers have access to a wide range of services to help them to nurture the physical, social and emotional growth of children and young people in their care.'

(Standard 2 Children's National Service Framework.)

Thanks is extended to all who have contributed and given their time to the development of the action plan, these include but are not limited to:

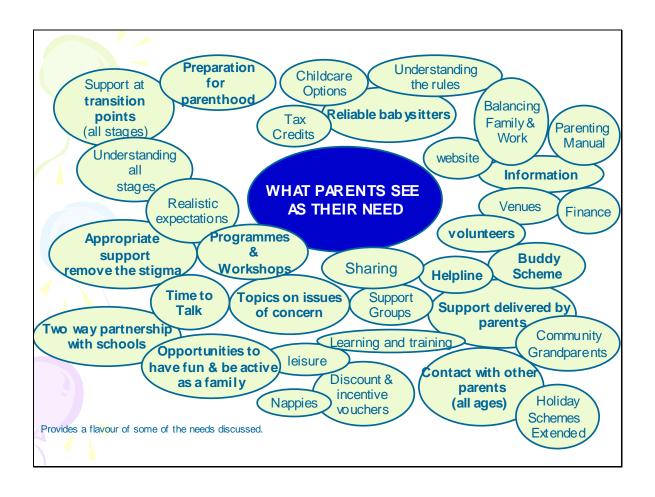
- parents (Genesis' project; Jugglers (Buckley); Ti a Fi (Mold and Fflint); parents of teenagers (Holywell Info Shop); Home Start volunteers; County Hall (Mold); Flint Young Parents Group; Family Learning and Parenting Programme attendees;
- Children and young people who responded to the Single Plan consultation and were involved in various workshops;
- the Parenting Strategy Group members past, present and new;
- Flintshire parenting services and services that have contact with parents;
- Flintshire parenting workforce;
- Parenting programme facilitators, particularly Childrens Services, Educational Psychology, CAMHS/SureStart and Health, and family learning;
- Flintshire Youth Volunteer Forum and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council staff.

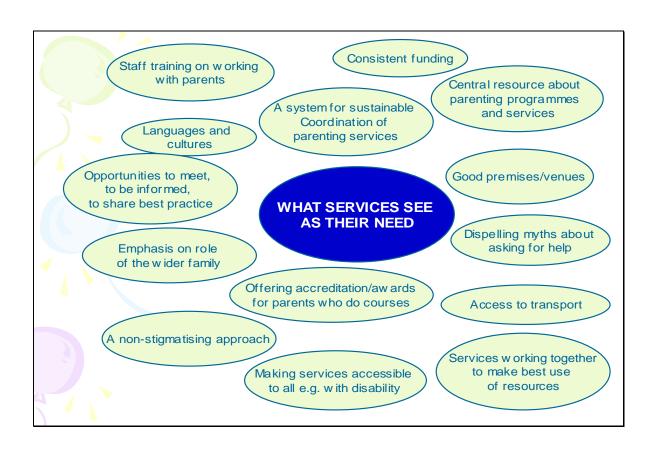
The demographics, social and economic factors that impact on parenting are included within the Children and Young People's plan.

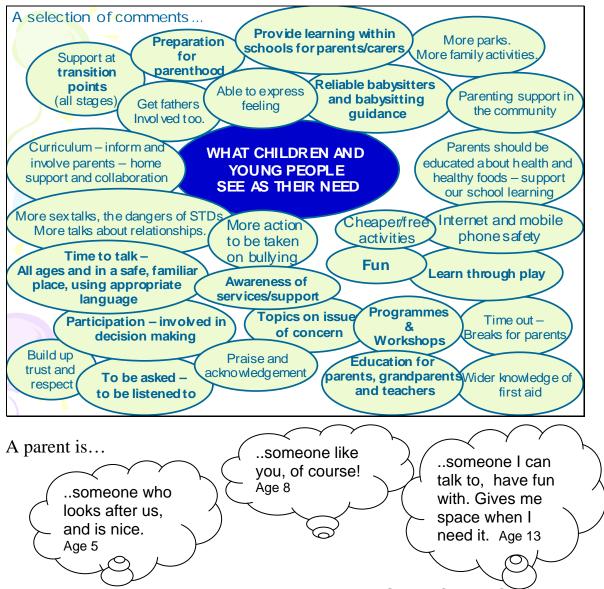
"The link between taking a strategic approach and the provision of good quality services that meets the needs of local parents is increasingly apparent."

Developing a local parenting strategy Parenting Education and Support Forum (Parenting UK) a paper to assist those developing policy for work with parents at local level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Supplementary papers are available to support the work.







Pictures drawn by children who attended the Primary School Council Conference, May 2008:





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## 2. Where do we want to be?

#### 2.1 Confident Parents and Carers, Confident Children, Confident Workforce

Our aim is to work together to encourage positive, responsible and confident parenting, which helps and supports children and young people to reach their potential and achieve emotional, behavioural and social wellbeing. This will be achieved by providing a range of quality parenting services, information, learning opportunities and support in response to need and circumstances, focussed on making a difference and seeing change. It also recognises that parents also need to accept their responsibilities and duties of care towards their children.

#### 2.2 Values and Principles

We intend to use these values and principles as the basis for developing and implementing the Strategy and Action Plan. We expect all parenting support provision to conform to the principles as they develop and deliver services.

- Recognising the importance of parenting and its impact on the wellbeing and development of children; parents are assumed to want the best for their child/ren and aim to do the best they can unless there is evidence to the contrary. Parents have primary responsibility but also the right for support to help them meet their responsibilities.
- Promoting, respecting and valueing the involvement of 'parents'.
- Building on and valuing parents existing strengths, knowledge and
  experience; recognising that parents have unique knowledge and information
  about their child/ren and that services have a responsibility to build trust with
  parents and break down any perceived or actual barriers, working together for
  the best outcomes; assisting parents in partnership not telling them how to do
  things.
- Recognising, respecting and acknowledging the diversity of contexts in which the parent-child relationship exists and the complexity and importance of the parenting task. Working with all 'parents', regardless of status, background or type in a non-judgemental and positive manner. Recognising that parents have different needs and circumstances.
- Recognising that the well-being of children and young people is the responsibility of all people, agencies, and services in contact with them.
- Developing and using a common professional language so that there is coherence in what services offer and what parents receive; a message that is consistent and understandable to all parents, regardless of culture or level of ability.
- Committing to continuous improvement in quality, standards and parent workforce development through research, evaluation, feedback, reflection, networking, sharing good practice and robust training including national accredited programmes and considering the National Occupational Standards for Working with Parents.

#### 2.3 The key areas identified are...

- Raising the profile of parenting and parent participation
- Information and advice services
- Parenting skills and family learning
- Parents, education and the school setting
- Workforce development

#### 2.4 Within the five key areas of priority the key aims are to...

- strengthen partnership working to maximise resources, avoid duplication, secure additional funding and draw on expertise to provide and sustain a range of high quality accessible parenting provision, minimising the potential for duplication and mixed messages, providing beneficial services to parents and practitioners which is locally responsive and readily available;
- raise the profile of parenting and to positively promote parenting, to dispel the
  myth that parenting support is only appropriate for those who have 'failed' as
  parents, but rather it is a sign of strength to ask for information or support,
  promoting 'just ask', and ask early;
- provide a plan focussing on the needs of parents and the parenting workforce; to involve 'parents', children and young people to monitor, evaluate, feed back on, raise awareness and develop services, infrastructure and frameworks to sustain the work, whilst also considering local and national linkages, guidance and best practice;
- help parents and carers to be better informed, from pre-conception onwards through a variety of opportunities, activities and support offered to parents both universally and targeted; and to deliver services, information and support that actively encourages parents to avail of parenting services, information and support whatever their circumstances;
- promote family learning, by offering a menu of family learning opportunities, aiming to provide education, skills development and training opportunities which enhance parent confidence and responsibility in their parenting role; for parents and children to learn together; enhancing the quality of life for parents and children.
- strengthen home-school collaboration recognising that parental involvement has a significant effect on pupil achievement throughout the years of schooling;
- provide training to staff for professional development and to afford time to appropriately deliver services.

# 3. How will we get there?<sup>5</sup>

The Flintshire Parenting Strategy outlines the priorities for 2008 -11, and supports the parenting priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan, including workforce development – to maintain a skilled, competent and knowledgeable workforce and for information to be more available and accessible, to be provided in varied formats and languages and to include promotion of available services.

The Parenting Strategy is supported by a three-year action plan, which details the steps necessary to achieve the actions. Checks, measures, project performance, adjustments and on-going development of the actions will be overseen by the Parenting Strategy Group who will have responsibility for the ongoing development of the work and reviewing its progress. Ongoing work will be undertaken to detail the milestones, timescales, associated risks and responsible lead for the actions identified. Regular communications are to be distributed as the project develops. Quarterly and annual returns are to be collated and forwarded to the Children and Young People's Partnership to update on progress.

The work undertaken for the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the work undertaken by the Youth Offending Parenting Coordinator will continue to use existing reporting mechanisms due to statutory and governance requirements.

The emphasis is on using existing resources, roles and skills differently to enable better support to parents in the future. Flintshire offers many effective parenting services (any activity or facility aimed at providing information, advice and support to parents and carers to help them in bringing up their children) and we want to build upon these strengths to ensure that the people who need the services are aware of their existence and feel able to use them.

It is the responsibility of all services and organisations that work with parents and families to contribute to these actions as no one organisation could achieve this on their own. This will require in some cases a change in which services and organisations work, moving towards a multi-agency approach, with the possibility of pooling and aligning budgets and resources where this will result in more effective use of those resources. It will mean that services and organisations will plan service delivery in a more complimentary way to ensure value for money and better outcomes for children, young people and families. We will also proactively seek and take opportunities to secure funding to respond to identified gaps through external joint bids and / or establishing partnership working.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Supplementary papers for further information

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Children and Young People's Plan Page 12 How will we know if we are making a difference?

# 4. Action Plan

The following pages list the national and local actions for each of the five areas:

- Raising the profile of parenting and parent participation
- Information and advice services
- Parenting skills and family learning
- Parents, education and the school setting
- Workforce development

As the Parenting Strategy sits under the Children and Young People's Partnership we are ensuring that the actions contained within the Parenting Strategy and Action Plan are within the framework of the Children and Young People's Plan and other related documents. From the Needs Assessment and consultation with children, young people, families and those who work with them, evidence showed that 'Support Parenting' is a priority and that this should be done through partnership working. The following lists the themes within 'Support Parenting'; this should not be viewed in isolation but with reference to all the other priorities, the seven core aims and Extending Entitlement. Any work undertaken will impact parents either directly or indirectly, and it is important that all services consider how their work impacts on parents' ability to enable their children to achieve their potential.

#### <sup>7</sup>Support Parenting:

- Providing parents with information
- Promoting positive health and well being
- Supporting parents / carers mental health
- Encouraging and supporting breastfeeding
- Supporting childcare providers and places
- Preventing injury
- Preventing/reducing obesity
- Involving and supporting parents / carers in the overall development
- wellbeing and education of their children/young people

Key:

PAP – Welsh Assembly Government Parenting Action Plan 2005 NSF – National Service Framework CYPP – Children and Young People's Partnership

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Flintshire Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11

#### Area 1. Raising the profile of parenting and parent participation

This Strategy recognises the crucial role of parents and carers in helping achieve the seven core aims for the children and young people in their care, and about supporting parents in this role. The direction for developing parenting support provided through this Plan seeks to address the needs of all parents in Flintshire, and the continuum of support through the different ages and stages. We want to remove any actual or perceived 'barriers' (physical, emotional and psychological) to parents using parenting services through increased awareness of parenting provision and for services and support to be made available for all parents to meet assessed need.

The Parenting Strategy Sub-group will have overall responsibility for overseeing the work within the Plan, which will need to be co-ordinated and the result of joined-up policy making and planning at national and local levels. We will continue to maximise the use of resources, secure additional funding, avoid duplication and draw on expertise to sustain high quality parenting provision, which is locally responsive and readily available. There is an emphasis on promoting positive and confident parenting. During discussions with parents and services they have stressed that they want the role of being a parent to be recognised and valued. We want all services to promote a strong message that parents are valued as partners, that they are the most important influence on their child's life, and there is no stigma in asking for help or information.

Parents and services asked for an ongoing voice, for their needs to be considered and for services to work towards meeting these needs. Parents, carers, children and young people, and practitioners in Flintshire are encouraged to be positively involved in service development and delivery, to be at the heart of design, delivery and review of services, providing opportunities at a range of levels of involvement. Promoting participation, listening and responding to parents, carers and services will be key to the success of this Plan. We will make use of the Welsh Assembly Governments Parent Participation Guide, other quality indicators and 'known' mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating services.

We will maintain links and involvement with Children in Wales Parenting Forum, 'Fforwm Magu Plant', the Parenting Coordinators group, Fatherhood Forum, Parenting UK, the National Family and Parenting Institute and the Parenting Academy and other national groups, including our local Ministers (Government; Welsh Assembly). We aim to champion Flintshire initiatives and feedback on national initiatives and training; we will ensure a greater awareness of national initiatives and how they can be used locally, and that Flintshire has input into the national parenting initiatives.

We also aim "to bring generations together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities which promote greater understanding and respect between generations and help build more cohesive communities" (Wales Centre for Intergenerational Practice). We recognise the important role that grandparents play in supporting parents with bringing up their children and will work with the Grandparents Association to share best practice.

The Schedule of Work details the steps necessary to implement the actions, and achieve the necessary outcomes.

# Area 1. Raising the profile of parenting and parent participation

	Ref	Action
	2.2 –	Partnerships are directed to invest a minimum percentage of their
	2.4	allocation to specific age groups, and across six themes. The family
)2)		support theme is the key theme for the delivery of assistance with
20		parenting; one of the objectives of the scheme is to improve services offering assistance to parents.
<u>a</u> n		onering assistance to parents.
٦ ٦	2.6	Recognise the importance of childcare provision for the benefit of
Ę		children, parents and communities; and to take steps towards providing
AC		needs led childcare provision.
ng	PAP	Introduce and embed appropriate Parenting Kite marks and best practice
nti Ti		guidance including programme evaluations.
are		
€	5.5 –	Provide and embed the Welsh Assembly Government's Parent
ies	5.7	Participation Guide on parental participation and empowerment. To share
National Priorities (Parenting Action Plan 2005)		good practice and to adopt common standards for parental participation.
<u>_</u>	5.8	Consider the relevant key actions set out in the National Services
Jal	NSF	Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services.
. <u>ē</u>	2.49	
Za	5.8 – 5.9	Consider the needs of parents and carers in how agencies will work together to meet these needs; with reference to the National Occupational
	5.9	Standards for with Parents. Reference to Family Information Service
		(FIS) as a focal point for mapping and collating information.

	1	
	Ref	Actions
-ocal Priorities	1.1.	Work in partnership with Children and Young Peoples Partnership (CYPP) to enhance local parenting services and information provision, by integrated and collaborative working, rolling out good practice, building upon existing strengths and developing existing work into new areas.
	1.2.	Use the Parenting Strategy Group as a forum to promote parent participation that informs service development, and influences local and national policy. Enable children, young people and families to have a voice about what services are available and how they are organised. Involve parents within Task & Finish and sub-groups to influence and inform on-going development.
Local	1.3.	Develop a marketing plan to launch the Parenting Strategy and Action Plan and address the stigma and misunderstanding attached to parenting support from professionals and parents and carers. Promote positive parenting and the message that parents are valued.
	1.4.	Provide a mechanism for services to consult with parents on their needs.
	1.5.	Maintain links with the Children in Wales Parenting Forum, 'Fforwm Magu Plant' and Parenting Coordinators group to champion Flintshire initiatives and feedback on national initiatives and training.

#### Area 2. Information and Advice Services

During consultation with parents and services it is clear that there is a need for a good quality advice and support that is responsive to the needs of parents, and readily available. Parents have told us there is a need for a range of information and support, at different levels, as their children grow up. The information needed can be around parenting skills, commitments and responsibilities, education and learning, health, play, leisure, communication, respect, race and cultural identity, safety in the home and the community, stability, promoting positive behaviour, physical, emotional or economic wellbeing and money management.

It is important that all parents know where to get information, in a format that meets their needs, and that they are able to 'just ask' for information, advice or support that they need. This includes the provision of information and advice to all parents, through to selective services for those who may have a higher need, at a particular time. Parents should not be afraid to ask for help at an early stage – services should welcoming and non-judgemental, applying the parenting vision and principles within their service. We aim to improve referral pathways and greater understanding of the work that different services carry out with families ensuring that parents and practitioners are informed.

We aim to develop and promote Family Information Service (FIS) as a resource for 'parents' and the workforce; delivering accessible information to parents of children and young people 0 - 18 about local and national services, support and information, to help them make informed choices in their parenting role. We want parents and professionals to have a good understanding of where to go to get information and for there to be a central information service in place promoting services, providing information that meets the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006 and the needs of parents and the workforce. We aim to do this through the development of Flintshire Parent Information Points (fixed and portable) and a website. We will encourage parents and services to be involved in the development of these services. Services will have a responsibility to maintain their service details and information. We will also make use of national and local websites for the purpose of signposting.

We aim to develop relationships and work with the business and retail sector to further develop and enhance services and parenting provision initiatives.

The Schedule of Work details the steps necessary to implement the actions, and achieve the necessary outcomes.

# Area 2. Information and Advice Services

_	Ref	Actions
tion Plan	3.2	Promote the 24-hour parenting telephone line called Parentline Plus, and the development of a national bilingual line for parents in Wales.
National Priorities (Parenting Action 2005)	3.6 – 3.10	Develop the Children's Information Service infrastructure to provide high quality, accessible and impartial information and guidance to parents, carers, families, employers and professionals including childcare, child protection, behaviour, parenting, training, leisure activities, work-life balance, sources of funding for parents and childcare providers, national and local helpline's for parents, and national and local organisations.
	3.11 – 3.17	Make resources available to parents including <i>The Pregnancy Book, Birth to Five, From Breakfast to Bedtime, Over the Top Behaviour in the Under 10s.</i>
Natior	6.24	Pilot Family Information Service satellites in primary and secondary schools.

	Ref	Actions
Local Priorities	2.1. CYPP 15	Develop and promote Family Information Service (FIS) as a resource for 'parents' and the workforce; delivering accessible information to parents of children and young people 0 - 19 about local and national services, support and information to help them make informed choices, in their parenting role; to meet the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006.  Work in partnership with schools, libraries and other services to coordinate and promote self-help resources such as information and leaflets on parenting skills.
S C	2.2.	Support national renaming of Children's Information Service to Family Information Service (FIS) so that parents and workforce are aware that it is family information provision.
	2.3.	Ensure that the Family Information Service is constantly reviewed and all relevant information provided is up to date.

#### Area 3. Parenting Skills and Family Learning

Parents have told us that they would welcome information, guidance and support to equip them for their parenting role and the various changes as their children grow, and when families and circumstances change. They value support in developing parenting skills and having opportunities to attend family based learning – time for individual learning and opportunities to learn and develop with their children, to be creative, to have fun, to have time to talk to other parents and share experiences.

The current evidence suggests that take up of family learning and parenting programmes varies, and further development is required. We need to build on what is working well and secure funding, to increase partnership working and capacity building, and to design provision with local providers. We need to undertake a review of family learning and the delivery of parenting programmes to establish our current base, and the common strategies to further develop the delivery of programmes.

It is our aim to provide parents with opportunities for family learning and to deliver evidence based, needs driven programmes and workshops for parents with children aged 0 – 18. By providing targeted and universal learning that enables parents and carers to develop life skills, address behaviour and increase emotional resilience; to strengthen family learning across a range of settings, schools, early years and community base; with potential for externally accredited national qualifications. We are currently reviewing local delivery and have begun researching suitable programmes to build the infrastructure to offer programmes and workshops through various mediums and service delivery.

Our aim for parenting skills and family learning is to:

- improve partnership working, sharing of resources and the development of joint strategies and plans for programme development and delivery with shared responsibility;
- increase the number of co-ordinated programmes available throughout the county which are shared by all; with a minimum core offer and targeted offer;
- strengthen and increase the range of courses, workshops and programmes based upon the local needs of parents;
- offer a range of opportunities through a continuum of learning, and development of pathways of learning which support parents in their parenting role, increasing their own confidence and the confidence of their children, reducing any perceived stigma by parents or services;
- develop skills for parents which are 'known' through a defined and promoted skills accreditation scheme;
- understand and remove barriers to access, improving access and take-up;
- increase understanding by parents and practitioners of services provided and the relevance to specific needs;
- ensure quality provision and outcomes, meeting quality standards through quality assurance mechanisms and locally agreed standards and criteria;
- monitor development against the National Service Framework 2.49:
- increase local champions / peer parenting supporters, and opportunities for parents to deliver training and facilitate groups

The Schedule of Work details the steps necessary to implement the actions, and achieve the necessary outcomes.

# Area 3. Parenting Skills and Family Learning

Ref	Actions
4.13 – 4.14	Incorporate the NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) and the SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) criteria for evaluating group-based parent training and education programmes for the treatment of children with conduct disorders.
4.13 – 4.14	Ensure that the infrastructure is in place and support available to enable the participation of parents who may find it difficult to access programmes.
4.15 - 4.19	Encourage the provision of programmes to provide support to parents and assist in managing children's behaviour problems. A range of programmes already exists including the Webster-Stratton Incredible Years and Dinosaur Schools; and an Enhancing Parenting Skills course.
4.19	Provide funding to extend the scope of the Incredible Years programmes, supporting the development of parenting programmes across Wales.
4.19	Commission SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) to produce information on other evidence-based programmes used in Wales that can inform decisions on future investment.
4.20	Support welsh learning in the home through two initiatives set out in the Welsh language strategy (laith Pawb):
	<ul> <li>The "Twf" project (Transmission of Welsh in Families) aims to encourage and support new parents to speak Welsh to their children.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>"Cylchoedd Ti a Fi" (run by the Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin) seeks to offer parents and carers an opportunity to enjoy playing with their children and socialise in an informal Welsh atmosphere. From birth to school age; and opportunities for parents to support each other.</li> </ul>
4.21 – 4.22	Support parents through the Communities First Programme.
6.3 – 6.4	Encourage parents to develop their basic skills and to learn with their children. The National Basic Skills Strategy contains a number of programmes aimed at parents, to encourage them to develop their children's language, literacy and numeracy skills. These are: Books for Babies; Language and Play; Number and Play; Family Literacy and Family Numeracy programmes.
	4.13 - 4.14 4.13 - 4.14 4.15 - 4.19 4.19 4.20 4.21 - 4.22 6.3 -

# Area 3. Parenting Skills and Family Learning

	Ref	Actions
Local Priorities	3.1.	Provide opportunities for parents for family learning and ensure partnership working through establishing a Family Learning & Parenting Group to share best practice, plan, keep informed and promote family and parenting learning.
	3.2. NSF 2.49	Provide Parents with choice and guidance to attend the most appropriate programme/service to meet their needs, at the right time.
	3.3.	Share resources to enable universal provision of appropriate family learning and parenting programmes, build the required infrastructure and promote a cohesive coordinated approach that meets a range of needs.
	3.4.	Agree a framework for appropriate programme quality assurance techniques and evaluations that measures outcomes for families (changes) and output by staff (quality); using self, peer and external evaluation to demonstrate the changes that actually happen as a result of the work, benefits to children and benefits to parents.
	3.5.	Identify ways to acknowledge and reward the efforts made by parents to develop their parenting skills e.g. accreditations; celebration events.
	3.6.	Further develop training opportunities for parents to deliver parenting programmes within their community, and to become Parenting Champions/Peer Parent Supporters.

#### Area 4. Parents, Education and the School Setting

Parents have told us they want to support their child's learning and to be involved. When parents are closely involved – both in their child's learning and in the life of the school – children do better, with improved attainment and attendance. Research indicates the benefits of home-school collaboration, in that parental involvement has a significant effect on pupil achievement throughout the years of schooling; most parents believe that the responsibility for their child's education is shared between parents and the school; many parents want to be involved in their children's education. Parents are important in helping their children settle into school and encouraging them to learn, making sure that their children attend school. Parents can help more effectively if they know what the school is trying to achieve and how they can best support that.

Parents are key partners in the education of their children. For education to be provided to children and young people that is appropriate to their needs, it is vital that schools and others discuss their approaches and plans with parents. This is necessary at a general level to provide well-informed services but is also important in meeting the specific needs of individual pupils. The need for schools, Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and others involved in the education of young people to work with parents is highlighted and clarified in many of the guidance documents issued by the Assembly Government. Schools should work with parents as a whole to promote the community aspects of the school and involve them in developing schools' policies and practices; these include Guidance on behaviour and attendance in schools; Guidance on Tackling Bullying; Guidance on Parenting Orders and Parenting Contracts; Guidance to LEAs on school admissions. Parents should also be encouraged to be involved in Parent Teacher Associations; volunteer work including reading schemes.

The actions contained within the Parenting Strategy promote parents and schools working together to strengthen home-school collaboration with schools engaged with parents through a range of facilities to promote parent / school learning, with schools being the focal point for delivery of services to families. Some of this work will be progressed through the Community Focused Schools initiatives. There is opportunity to provide best practice and guidance, and to review the pilot accreditation scheme 'Investors in Families', and its relevance to Flintshire.

With the development of the PSE Curriculum there will be opportunity to review the parenting offer with improvements implemented in line with the new 2008 curriculum. There will be improved awareness / understanding of parenting needs in the provision of curriculum including an understanding of the services provided. With workforce development plans providing opportunity for Governors and new school staff to be trained on parenting services, information and support.

The Schedule of Work details the steps necessary to implement the actions, and achieve the necessary outcomes.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Welsh Assembly Government Parenting Action Plan Section 6. Education and the School Setting

# Area 4. Parents, Education and the School Setting

	Ref	Actions
National Priorities (Parenting Action Plan 2005)	6.5 CYPP 15	Raise awareness and provide training to the childcare workforce on Foundation Phase and the benefits of learning through play. This will combine the Early Years (3 to 5) and Key Stage 1 of the National Curriculum. It places great emphasis on working closely with parents and carers to ensure that all young children have a flying start in life.
	6.13	Encourage parent-school collaboration. Parents play a crucial role in helping their children lean. Children achieve more when schools and parents work together. Schools engage with parents in a number of ways:  • Home-school agreements • Parent Governors • Parent Governor representatives on local authority education scrutiny committees • Complaints Procedures • Governors' Annual Meeting with Parents
	6.14 – 6.15	Involve parents in school inspections. School inspection reports (Estyn) provide a fair overall reflection of how individual schools interact with parents. A meeting with parents is an integral part of evidence gathering for a school inspection. There is also a requirement that schools provide parents and guardians with a summary of the inspection report, and access to the full report if requested.
	6.18	Work with Local Education Authorities and school governing bodies to promote parental involvement in schools. E.g. reading schemes that involve parents.
Nati	6.19	Promote examples of good practice and encourage authorities to share innovative ideas.
	6.20 – 6.23	Develop a community focus In schools which can help raise pupil aspirations, encourage parents and other adults within the community back into learning, raise the profile of learning, raise self-esteem and success, discourage disaffection, re-engage excluded or disaffected pupils.
	6.28	Continue to improve the way the Personal and Social Education subject is taught, which includes teaching children and young people about being a parent.

# Area 4. Parents, Education and the School Setting

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	Ref	Actions
Local Priorities	4.1.	Support Infant, Junior and primary schools in engaging and building links with parents to help raise levels of attainment, informing parents, building upon existing strengths and Foundation Years strategies and to see more schools become the centre of the local community.  To increase the awareness of secondary schools of this initiative.
	4.2.	Work with Infant, Junior, primary and secondary schools to identify the feasibility of developing / embedding parenting within the PSE curriculum, to teach children and young people about being a parent; and to build upon the work undertaken to promote healthy eating, physical activity and emotional health and well-being.
	4.3.	Understand the pilot accreditation scheme 'Investors in Families' for schools and other settings, who work with families. The aims of which are to value and support the role that families have in the life of the child; to support families in developing their children's healthy behaviour; to help families participate in raising their children's self-esteem, confidence and achievement; to promote social inclusion and a sense of well-being through positive participation in family life.

#### Area 5. Workforce Development

To achieve the aim of the action plan it is necessary to provide opportunities to the parenting workforce for support, training and development that addresses specific development needs; training and ongoing professional development is essential to deliver services that conform to agreed quality standards. Joint training will drive greater multi-agency working and further develop the multi-agency approach to supporting families. We will work to ensure a co-ordinated approach and to assure quality, relevance and access. The cost of training will require an investment by services and by workers to their own personal development by undertaking training.

Workforce development to deliver the Parenting Strategy will be located within the broader framework of the Children and Young People's Plan (see Section 8 Developing our local workforce). There is already significant work that will contribute to this including the Local Safeguarding Children training sub-group, Children's Services and CAMHS Early Intervention training plan, and a wide range of specific training on working with parents and supporting parenting. Our aim is to build on current good practice, and create a multi-agency training group linking to the Local Safeguarding Children Training Sub-group. Anyone working with parents should have specific training for that purpose, underpinned by child protection training.

Good practice requires opportunity for reflection and a personal evaluation; we need to ensure this is enabled through staff supervision and mentoring. Whilst we have a number of trained parenting programme facilitators within Flintshire we do need to take into account the needs of staff involved in delivery of programmes to further enhance their skills and on-going development e.g. group work, signposting, Families Information Service, and to enhance training to deliver new parenting programmes/workshops. We also need to provide opportunities to all parenting practitioners through the development of a Forum, as requested by practitioners.

We will also need to assess our ongoing capacity to maintain sustainability of programme delivery and confirm the current position on assessors available. We aim to work collaboratively with local colleges, universities and examining boards to identify suitable modules and pathways.

We are also exploring how we can best use the new National Occupational Standards for Work with Parents, developed by Parenting UK<sup>9</sup> and launched in Wales in 2005. The Standards define the competence, skills, knowledge and understanding required by those who work with parents. The Standard can be used to:

- Recognise previously acquired competencies
- Identify knowledge and skills gaps
- Benchmark practice against standards
- Ensure training is relevant to job roles
- Facilitate self assessment
- Help to develop and retain a more effective workforce
- Support organisational review and planning
- Improve recruitment job descriptions and person specifications
- Enable staff to achieve through the workplace

The Schedule of Work details the steps necessary to implement the actions, and achieve the necessary outcomes.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See The Parenting Academy and Parenting UK website for further information

# Area 5. Workforce Development

_	Ref	Actions
Action Plan	CYPP Pg 44	Introduce and embed the Common Assessment Framework to enable the workforce to assess the individual needs of children, young people and their families.
ting /	CYPP Pg 44	Strengthen and develop leadership, management and supervision skills.
Priorities (Parenting 2005)	CYPP Pg 44	Raise awareness of the differing roles and responsibilities of the workforce role in supporting children, young people and families to access a range of services that meet their individual need. Mechanisms to be in place to enable the workforce to access information that will allow them to do this effectively and make clear links between early intervention services as well as specialist services delivered in the communities.
National	CYPP Pg 44	Ensure that all members of the workforce are committed to service delivery that focuses on the child and the families and puts their needs first.

# Area 5. Workforce Development

	Ref	Actions
	CYPP Pg 45	Provide training and development opportunities for the workforce to ensure they are skilled, knowledgeable and competent. Ensure that all staff across services has access to good quality training in working with parents and carers and where appropriate, running parenting programmes.
	CYPP Pg 45	Bring together existing workforce development plans and existing groups that are considering workforce issues e.g. Children's Services Training Plan, CAMHS Early Intervention Training Schedule, National Occupational Standards training.
	CYPP Pg 45	Facilitate mechanisms for organisations to offer opportunities for joint training or places on training courses to other organisations that would benefit.
es	5.1. CYPP Pg 44 NSF 2.49	Develop a multi-agency training group and programme to meet the specific development needs of the parenting workforce supporting practitioners to receive training to deliver their job, to have an awareness of the National Occupational Standards for Working with Parents, and to achieve certification when appropriate. Ensure the parenting workforce are able to use and apply their learning.
Local Priorities	5.2.	Introduce, implement and embed the National Occupational Standards for Work with Parents.
Loca	5.3.	Ensure collaborative working arrangements are in place between services for adults and those for children and families. Ensure that multiagency working supporting parenting is outlined in any local strategic and service plans and that staff are aware of the need to work in partnership with parents to produce the best possible opportunities for all children.
	5.4.	Work in conjunction with Welsh Language Officer to enable the delivery of parenting support through the welsh medium, including recruiting welsh language speakers, providing opportunities for learning and providing time to learn, identifying welsh language requirements, training existing/new employees/volunteers to deliver in welsh including those involved in parent consultations.
	5.5.	Review the recruitment processes, induction and volunteer training, ongoing development and supervision within the parenting workforce to employ/maintain people in services who are good at engaging with parents positively, using appropriate communication and working in partnership.
	5.6.	Work with local colleges for career pathways for student placements, developing parenting modules and developing their role in training the workforce.

#### 5. Supporting Evidence

During the development of the Parenting Strategy and Action Plan a number of documents have been produced to support the work undertaken. These documents are available from the Parenting Strategy Coordinator or the Children and Young People's Partnership.

- 1. Parenting Project Framework (May 07; January 08; Proposed)
- 2. Parenting Strategy Group Members & Terms of Reference (May 2007)
- 3. Flintshire Single Plan Needs Analysis Parenting (September 2007)
- 4. A Voice for Services (September 2007)
- 5. A Voice for Parents (October 2007)
- Flintshire Parenting Strategy Group Vision & Principles Workshop (18<sup>th</sup> September 07)
- 7. A Voice for the Parenting Workforce & Practitioners (7<sup>th</sup> November 2007)
- 8. Workforce Development Training Needs (7<sup>th</sup> November 2007)
- 9. Parenting Programmes Literature Search (January 2008)
- CYPP 'Help Shape Local Services' Parenting Analysis on Feedback, Survey & Workshops (January 2008)
- 11. Parenting Services Listing (October 2007)
- 12. Parenting Action Plan mapping diagram

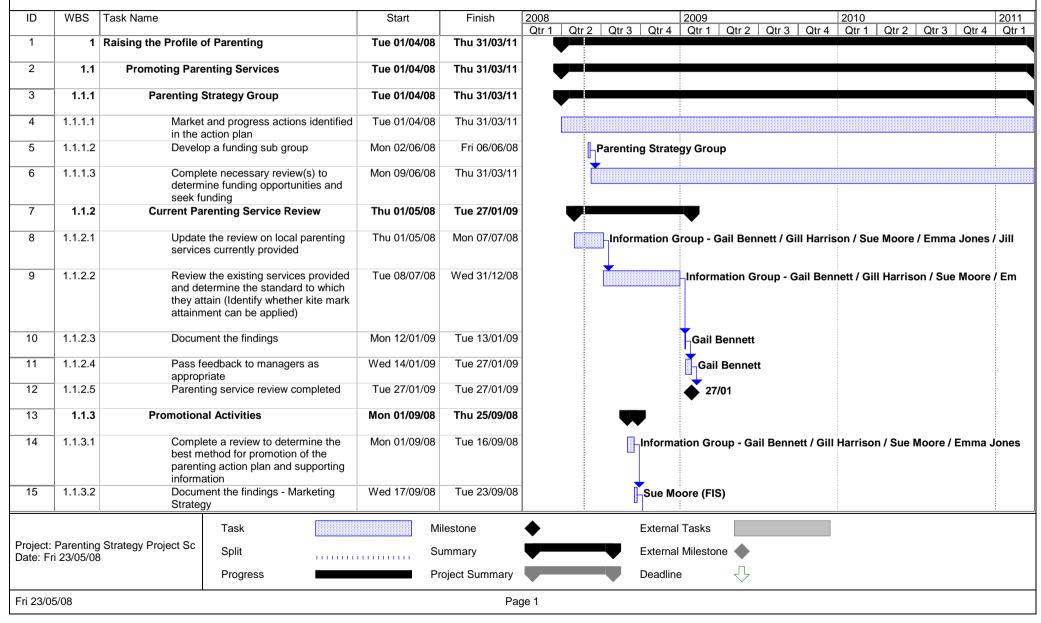
#### Reference:

- 1. The Welsh Assembly Government Parenting Action Plan 2005
- 2. The National Service Framework (NSF) 2005 (Improving Health and Social Care for Children and Young People and Maternity Services
- 3. The Welsh Assembly Community Focused Schools 2005
- 4. The Welsh Assembly Parent Participation Guide
- 5. The Welsh Assembly Flying Start Guidance
- 6. Raising Our Children With Confidence a policy proposal for the strategic development of support for mothers, fathers and carers in Wales
- 7. Parents' Views of the Manifesto Document: "Raising Our Children With Confidence"
- 8. The Welsh Assembly Seven Core Aims
- 9. Information, Advice and Support a wish list from parents ParentlinePlus April 2007
- 10. Qualities of Helpful Parenting Discussion Document Parenting Education and Support Forum

- 11. Every Parent Matters department for education and skills (England)
- 12. Parenting Support Guidance for Local Authorities in England October 2006
- 13. On Air Report of findings from the DCSF 'Time to Talk' Consultation Activities
- 14. What works National Academy for Parenting Practitioners
- 15. The Corston Report Executive Summary a review of women with particular vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System Home Office
- 16. Home Start and the Government's Children's Plan (provided by local Home Start)
- 17. Nipping Criminality in the bud Carole Sutton, David Utting and David Farrington
- 18. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidelines on parenting training and education
- 19. The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners and Parenting UK guidance
- 20. Legislation including The Childcare Act 2006 and the Welsh Language Act
- 21. Flintshire Welsh Education Scheme
- 22. NICE Guidelines
- 23. Parenting Programmes
- 24. Welsh Assembly How is your child doing in Primary School? booklet
- 25. Welsh Assembly How is your child doing in Secondary School? booklet

6.	Schedule of Activities 2008 - 2011

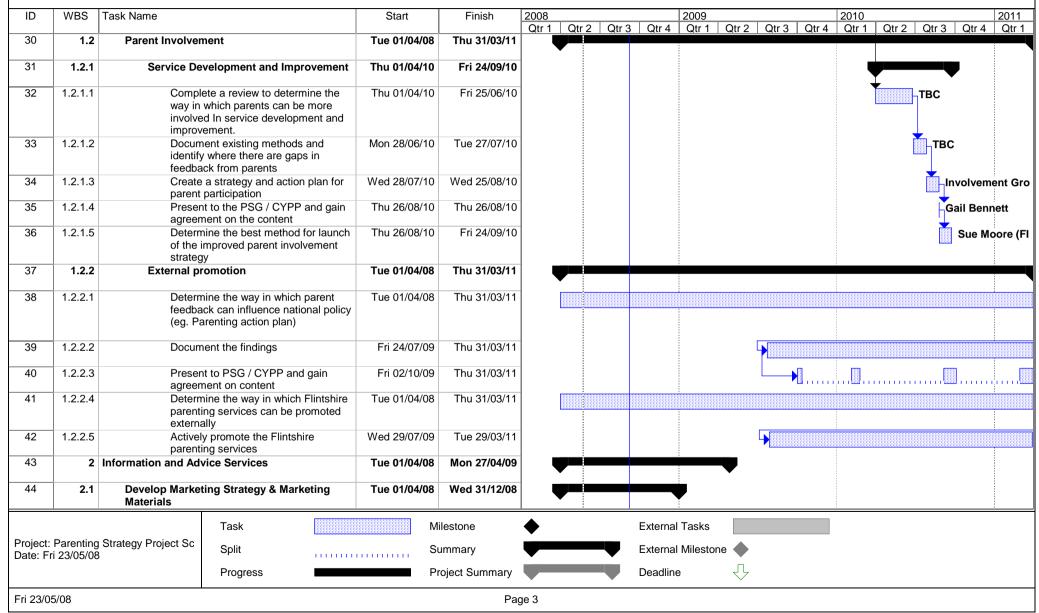






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16	1.1.3.3	Present Marketing Strategy to PSG and gain approval of content.	Thu 25/09/08	Thu 25/09/08		ŀ		ore (FIS	)							
17	1.1.3.4	Promotional Method determined	Thu 25/09/08	Thu 25/09/08		•	25/09									
18	1.1.4	Guidance & Support	Tue 02/09/08	Fri 26/09/08			•									
19	1.1.4.1	Develop a mechanism (including forms) for self assessment of parenting services provided.	Tue 02/09/08	Mon 15/09/08			Informa	tion Gro	up - Gai	il Bennet	t / Gill	Harriso	n / Sue	Moore	/ Emma	Jones
20	1.1.4.2	Develop a best practice toolkit (guide) to assist managers in service improvements to 'known' standards, engaging with service users & effective evaluation mechanisms	Tue 02/09/08	Mon 22/09/08			Informa	tion Gro	oup - Ga	il Benne	tt / Gill	Harriso	on / Su	e Moore	· / Emma	Jone
21	1.1.4.3	Determine the method for ongoing improvements to the provision of information with CYPP and PSG	Tue 23/09/08	Fri 26/09/08			Sue Mo	ore (FIS	)							
22	1.1.4.4	Guidance and support determined	Fri 26/09/08	Fri 26/09/08		4	26/09									
23	1.1.5	Complete Launch	Wed 01/10/08	Wed 01/10/08		•	•									
24	1.1.5.1	Complete launch providing toolkit, service definitions, accreditations etc. (In line with Parenting Week)	Wed 01/10/08	Wed 01/10/08												
25	1.1.5.2	Launch of parenting services & action plan completed	Wed 01/10/08	Wed 01/10/08		•	01/10									
26	1.1.6	Post Launch Activities	Thu 13/11/08	Wed 17/12/08				l								
27	1.1.6.1	Review self assessment feedback and collate results	Thu 13/11/08	Wed 10/12/08												
28	1.1.6.2	Document findings of self assessmen	t Thu 11/12/08	Wed 17/12/08			ĥ									
29	1.1.6.3	Self Assessment results available	Wed 17/12/08	Wed 17/12/08			•	17/12					1			
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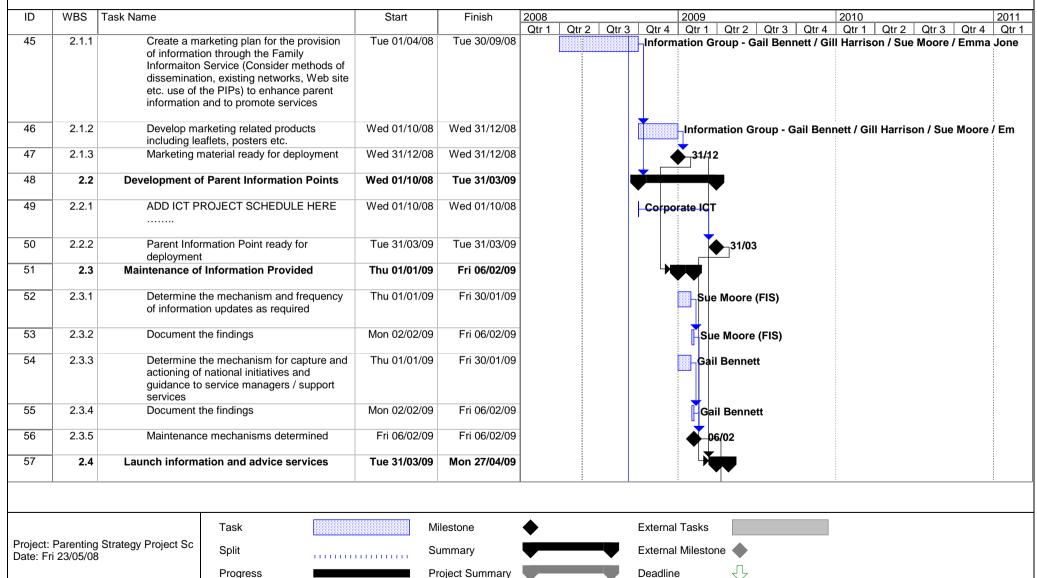






Fri 23/05/08

# Parenting Strategy Action Plan Schedule of Activities 2008-2011



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