

PARENTS PARTICIPATION



FORUM

WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES
OF ALL DISABLED/SEN CHILDREN
IN TORBAY

Parent Participation Forum School Transport Event Report

Riviera International Centre, Torquay

23.03.12



SCHOOL TRANSPORT EVENT, RIVIERA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, TORQUAY

Friday 23rd March, 2012

BACKGROUND

The PPF had produced a report on School Transport in June 2011 and were keen to progress the suggestions and recommendations made in that report

The PPF had been invited to contribute to the Escort Training programme being developed as a result of their recommendation. However, the programme had been put together without PPF involvement and members wanted the opportunity to find out what the training entailed

Feedback from the “Voice Your Views” Event held in February 2012, showed that “School Transport for Children with Special Educational Needs” was a concern for many parent/carers

AIMS OF THE EVENT

Consequently, the PPF Steering Group organised the event to :

- Provide parent/carers with an opportunity to meet the team who work together to provide transport for their child’s home to school journey
- Learn about the training being given to Escorts
- To have an informal talk about the different elements of this service
- To give parent/carers an opportunity to voice their views and perhaps make suggestions for an improved transport service for our children

AUDIENCE

The event was open to all parent/carers of children with a special educational need or disability, not just PPF members, and all professionals who work with families who use school transport

GUEST SPEAKERS

SCHOOL TRANSPORT TEAM

Matt Redwood (Head of School Commissioning, Torbay Council) and his team were invited to outline the service and answer parents' questions and concerns

CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICE – OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Louise Smith (Children's Occupational Therapy Team Leader) was invited to speak about "Seating and Safety"

CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICE – DAY CARE SERVICES

Ste Hogan (Torbay Inclusion Coordinator , Social and Leisure 5-17) was invited to talk about the training Escorts receive

TORBAY EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

Derek Smith (Principal Educational Psychologist) was invited to speak on "Happy Journey, Happy Day" to explain how parent/carers, escorts and drivers can ensure that children have a happy and safe journey to and from school

INVITATIONS TO PARENT/CARERS

Invitations were sent to all PPF members and to support groups (AsrUS, Play Torbay, Torplay, Downsouth etc) for forwarding to their members, and Steering Group members forwarded invitations to all their contacts.

Printed copies of the invitation were sent to Mayfield, Combe Pafford and Torbay special schools to be sent home in the children's school bags

Flyers and invitations were e-mailed to all SENCO's and other relevant professionals in the Bay, asking them to print off and distribute invitations to appropriate children to take home in their school bags

The PPF also requested School Transport Dept to mailshot all Torbay parents/carers of children with an additional need, currently accessing the transport service.

INVITATIONS TO PROFESSIONALS

In addition to the professionals listed above, all members of the Children's Integrated Service were invited, as well as the Children's Disability Champion, local councillors, Special Educational Needs Team, and Torbay Care Trust.

FORMAT OF THE EVENT

Each guest speaker had a slot to introduce their service¹

There was also a 'cocktail party' session where parents were invited to write comments and questions on Post-it notes, and stick these onto flip charts, by category. Matt Redwood then addressed as many of these comments as time allowed; the rest were answered after the event. A transcript of the Post-its and Matt's responses is below.

For the complete agenda for the event, see Appendix 1

The PPF also took the opportunity to recruit new members both to PPF and to DeCiDe

THE NUMBERS

ATTENDANCE

Guest Speakers	4
Parent/Carers	18
Councillors	2

RECRUITMENT

New PPF members enrolled	3
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EVALUATION OF THE EVENT

Parents were asked to complete an evaluation form - see attachment for an analysis of the results

WHAT NEXT ?

The PPF will invite Matt Redwood to the June Steering Group meeting to review progress

The next PPF event will be held in October 2012, and will incorporate themes suggested by parent/carers. We will liaise with the guest speakers re the content of their presentation to make sure it is in line with our aims for the day. We will make it clear to professionals that we expect them to attend the whole event

¹ Copies of the Occupational Therapy and Escort Training presentations are available from pm4ppf@hotmail.com

We will continue to try and reach parents/carers with children in mainstream schools and be more robust in seeking help from relevant professionals to market our events to their clients. We will expand the range of promotional materials we use

We will have a 'defined introduction' session at our next event

We will undertake a thorough review of our marketing policy and feedback form

We will continue to build on our remit to facilitate consultation and dialogue between parents/carers and professionals in the Local Authority and Primary Care Trust

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The PPF would like to thank all parents and those in a professional role who attended the event. We hope that this event and report will have a positive impact on developing good quality, relevant services for children and young people with special needs, and their families, and build on the close working relationship developing between the PPF and the Local Authority and Torbay Care Trust

STATISTICS/REPORT FROM PARENT/CARER FEEDBACK

See attached file



PPF EVENT

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

English Riviera Centre 23rd March 2012

Agenda

9.00 am	Registration and Coffee	
9.30 am	Welcome and Housekeeping	
9.35 am	PPF Introduction	Julia Melluish, PPF Chair
9.45 am	School Transport	Matt Redwood, Head of School Commissioning, Torbay Council
10.30 am	'Voice your Views'	On a post it!
10.50 am	Break	Coffee and Cakes
11.15 am	Escort Training	Sue Thompson, Day Care Services Manager
11.30 am	Happy Journey – Happy Day	Derek Smith, Educational Psychologist
11.45 am	Responses to "Your Views"	
	And any other Q&A's	Matt Redwood and Tony Hele
12.00 pm	Seating and Safety	Louise Smith, Children's Occupational Therapy Team Leader
12.15 pm	Event Feedback Forms Completed	
12.25 pm	Thank you and Close	