



Chair & Secretary's Report April 2014

Previous AGM held Thurs 25th April 2013

KEY AREA	ACTIVITY/DETAIL	COMMENTS
Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazel Hyman – Chair • Sue Onions – Secretary • Marcus Seale – Treasurer • Tracy Brind – Publicity • Michele Davies (Parent Engagement Advisor; she has helped to advise and lead the group this year – see below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All committee members are willing to remain in post. • Many thanks from the Chair to all of the team!
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership has grown over the last year, although the greatest increase is in terms of Twitter followers (see below, Social Media). • March 2013: 106 individuals and 41 group members; March 2014: 142 individual members and 41 group representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the number remains static, the group membership has changed slightly (one group representative left, another group joined). • Individual membership has increased by 34% over the last year. • Sue has simplified the website membership form.
Surveys carried out by PV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-bullying questionnaire continued from last year – details of the survey were sent out and publicised via various sources including libraries, County Hall, shops, social media and the press. • The Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB) were rolling out their own survey through schools and contacted Parents' Voice. Sue reminded them about the need for Home Educated families to be included because some children are home educated due to bullying. • A new survey has been developed to explore what parents expect/would like from Parents' Voice; this should open in May 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michele designed a poster which was printed and taken for display in a number of places including shops and some Children's Centres; it was also sent by email to some parish councils/village halls and all libraries and Children's Centres which could not easily be visited by any of the committee. • Sue and Tracy compiled a full report and a summary which were both published at the start of Anti-Bullying Week in Nov 2013. • Both reports were uploaded to the "Have Your Say" page of the website. • Tracy sent the summary report to all media contacts. • The summary report was sent to all

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		<p>members of the Children’s Trust Board; it was discussed at a CTB meeting alongside the WSCB children’s survey results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many favourable and supportive comments were received about the report, in person and via email and social media; the survey appeared to generate interest and support. • We discussed the possibility of a possible parent workshop, which the group is looking into. • The WSCB survey was altered to accommodate home educated children.
<p>Consultations with PV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart Watkins (Children’s Social Care) consulted Parents’ Voice via Michele and came to speak to the group (see below). 	
<p>Public consultations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board conducted bullying survey for children and young people. • Shortened links have been set up to relevant local and national consultations; details of these consultations have been publicised via email, Twitter and Facebook. • Details of consultations and the links have been uploaded regularly to the website. • Some consultations were publicised using their own links: these include Urgent Care and Viewpoint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above for alterations made to WSC survey. • Local consultations include the Transport Survey (Bus Service Review), Urgent Care, Viewpoint (including the Children and Young People Plan) and Future Lives. • National consultations include Revised Standards for Food in Schools, Fairer Schools Funding, Home to School Transport, Child Poverty Strategy, Childminder Agencies, Revision to the SEN and Disability Code of Practice and Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions. • Comments made on Facebook and Twitter indicate that several parents were prompted to take part in these surveys because of the information we sent out.

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Children's Trust Board Children's Centres Early Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTB has been a regular item on Agenda. By the end of last year, the CTB had reduced in size. Sue still attends meetings. • Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP): Michele consulted the group about the priorities. • Sue contacted a Children's Centre manager with regard to promotion of the bullying survey and Parents' Voice. • We have shared many Early Help statuses on Facebook and have attempted to make parents aware of the service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children's Trust Board is now the Children's Trust Executive Board and includes representatives from Local Children's Trusts. • Members gave many comments about the CYPP priorities. Michele fed these back to the team producing the new CYPP.
Publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Facebook page was mentioned as difficult to find by a new member. • A Rainbow Hill event was attended by Sue, Hazel & Michele. • Tracy notified local papers re bullying survey and the group. • Sue was interviewed for local radio on a couple of occasions (during and after the bullying survey, and also at Christmas). • Tracy spoke to Jamie Ross of the Worcester News who could be a useful contact . • Stephanie Preece of Worcester News offered a possible column. • Business cards and postcards designed, printed and being distributed. • A stall at County Hall event (parish and district councils) was manned by Michele and Sue, many thanks. • Dines Green Children's Centre showed interest. • In September Sue hosted a stall at a Children and Baby Fair in Worcester. • Tracy attended an event at Upton, talked to parents and gave out our cards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems there are now some American groups which are listed above our own when searching on Facebook. • Rainbow Hill: a few people joined as members and a number of cards and leaflets were given out. • Hazel, Michele and Tracy drafted possible column pieces but these were not published. • An article about Parents' Voice and the Bullying Survey was published in the Worcester News. • County Hall event: some contacts were made and the bullying survey was publicised. • Our leaflets were included in 100 goody bags given out at the Children and Baby Fair; many other parents picked up cards from the stall. • During the summer, Sue and Tracy were successful in getting almost 20 people to join Parents' Voice.
Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Social Media increased, thanks to Sue. • March 2013: 239 Twitter followers; July 2013: 433; March 2014: 1,025 • April 2013: 24 Facebook "likes"; April 2014: 72 Facebook "likes" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of WorcestershireHour on Twitter, the group has been offered some marketing training, which is being arranged at the time of writing this report. • Twitter followers have increased more than 300% over the year. • A number of district and county councillors now follow Parents' Voice; MPs following us

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		<p>include Robin Walker (Worcester) and Karen Lumley (Redditch) who have both retweeted some of our posts and interacted with us; the current West Midlands MEP (Nikki Sinclair) has also interacted with us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The county's local "hours" have been good for publicising Parents' Voice and gaining local followers.
Information to members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The website is updated frequently – thanks to Member Sue. • In November, we redrafted our Mission Statement. • Emails are sent out regularly regarding items affecting families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The website is to have further updates. • See final page of this report for the Mission Statement. • The Mission Statement can be downloaded from the "<i>Visions values and aims</i>" section of the "What is Parents' Voice" website page.
Visitors to Parents' Voice meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart Watkins – Children's Social Care. Information and discussion on changes, including parental responsibility re finances. • Helen Perry and her colleague Amanda from NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. In September they came to ask for views on a proposed redesign of Urgent Care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our comments were noted. Although Stuart was unable to attend another meeting, Michele was able to show us a revised document and more comments were fed back • The group pointed out some variance in the NHS system: lack of 24 hours Mental Health access for Children and young People (CAMHS); some people attending GP rather than hospital citing access to parking as a reason; rural areas tending to use GPs as hospital is so far away.
Parent Engagement Advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been indebted to Michele Davies as Parent Engagement Advisor who has alerted us to a number of consultations and changes within the County. She has been a great help guiding us through these, and offering her advice. Her job role is to change over the coming year, but we are pleased that we shall still benefit from her expertise as a parent member of Parents Voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports and discussions have included: under-age drinking; 'neknominations'; obesity in children; bullying; revisions to the Children and Young People's Plan; Early Help; SEN Code of Practice.