

# Worcestershire Parents' Voice Newsletter



Issue 4: September 2011

## Thank you for having your say ...

Welcome to this special edition of our newsletter.

Parents' Voice was set up to represent parents across Worcestershire. We do this by seeking feedback about things that are important to parents. We use this feedback in a variety of ways; for example, supporting the work of Parents' Voice when we attend Children's Trust meetings with Worcestershire County Council. Therefore, it is crucial that we know what is important to you so that we can give a voice to as many parents as possible!

We sent out a questionnaire for you to complete over the summer and we are feeding back the information you shared with us in this edition of our newsletter. Congratulations to the four lucky winners of our prize draw, details on the next page.

We were delighted to gain some new members and welcome them to our group.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. Keep up to date with what's happening on our [website](#).

And thank you again for having your say!

**Clair de Groot – Parents' Voice Chair**

## Keep in touch ...

Keep in touch with us via [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) ... please take a look at our new Page on Facebook – and don't leave before 'liking' us.

## Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the Parents' Voice Questionnaire in the summer of 2011. There were some interesting and some 'not surprising' responses. It was great to see responses from across all of Worcestershire.

### **How we will use the information**

There are various ways we will use the information you shared with us, here are just a few:

#### **Children's Trust Board**

Parents' Voice has a place on the Children's Trust Board and our parent representative is able to feed directly into this group. The issues shared with us via our questionnaire provide us with incredibly valuable information and we will feed this to the Board, which is responsible for the Children and Young People's Plan.

#### **Positive Activities Consultation**

There have been several consultations held in Worcestershire recently, one of which was for Positive Activities (Youth Services). The extensive feedback received relating to activities for your children has been fed into this consultation, ending on 30 September 2011.

#### **Planning for the future**

As a group we represent views of parents across Worcestershire. Your feedback gives us a greater voice and gives us the opportunity to feedback to those people who make decisions and who can make a difference. Your input helps us plan how we move forward as a group and gives a steer on what our priorities need to be.

# Worcestershire Parents' Voice

## Your priorities?

From the responses to our questionnaire it was clear to see that education and health were top of your list of key priorities, with finances and happiness following closely. We have created a pictorial view of all of your priorities, which you can see opposite (the bigger the word the more times it was mentioned):



## Some issues that bothered you

### **'Patchy' services**

You showed some concern about 'patchy' services across Worcestershire. The County Council is developing local commissioning partnerships in each of the six districts and their job will be to develop services locally and spend money on what local children, young people and their families need. Parents' Voice will be looking for parents who will be able to represent parents' views on these six groups. We hope to have parent representatives on all six of the Local Commissioning Partnerships.

### **Transitions for children to adult services**

Ofsted has identified that transitions in Worcestershire are not good enough and some responses to our questionnaire agreed with this. Parents' Participation Development Group, of which Parents' Voice is a member, has worked with Worcestershire County Council to develop training for professionals and parents to improve transitions.

### **Activities for children and young people with disabilities**

This is an area that some respondents were concerned about. We work closely with Worcestershire Parent and Carers' Council and they sit on the Disability Sub Group. They help to commission short breaks (activities) for children and young people with disabilities. All relevant feedback from our questionnaire will be fed into these groups.

## Your priorities for Parents' Voice

The feedback received was incredibly useful and allows us to consider what you feel is important for Parents' Voice and helps us know how you wish to be represented in the future. We will use this information in the coming months as we move forward in our planning. What was comforting to hear was that you want us to be involved in consultations and ensure that they are shared with you and this is what we will endeavour to do. After all, this is what lies at the heart of Parents' Voice.

### **Outside our remit!**

Of course, Parents' Voice does not have the ability to influence or fix all the things you would like fixed.

**And finally ...** We are here to represent the views of parents in Worcestershire and rest assured we will do that at every available opportunity.

## **Congratulations ...**

Our four lucky prize winners, who each received £25 worth of shopping vouchers, are:

Rachel B, Sarah D, Yvette W, and Sheila K.

Well done to you all!