

Bracknell Forest Parent Partnership



Providing impartial information and support for Bracknell Forest parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs.

Impartiality Policy

Introduction

The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001) states that Parent Partnership Services (PPS) must ensure that parents are provided with “accurate, neutral information on their rights, roles and responsibilities within the SEN process, and on a wide range of options that are available for their children’s education”.

Bracknell Forest Parent Partnership Service is an in house service which is funded by Bracknell Forest council. It operates at arms length from the Local Authority (LA) as an impartial and confidential service for parents and carers of children with special educational needs.

BFPPS aims to enable parents and carers to become effective partners in their child's education by providing impartial information and support to allow them to make informed decisions and feel more confident in expressing their views.

Impartiality means that:

- Parents are informed of factual information and advice based on guidance and legislation. PPS will not offer an opinion but allow parents to discuss what options are available to them.
- PPS staff encourages negotiation and disagreement resolution. They do not take sides, they have no vested interest and do not play a part in any decision making processes. They do not advocate on the behalf of parents but help them to participate.
- PPS staff will always respect parents’ decisions without making judgments.

To ensure impartiality PPS will:

- Ensure that the PPS logo is visible on all service leaflets and communication.
- Continue to be line managed by the Performance and Governance team who do not work directly with families.
- Continues to maintain relationships with local voluntary groups and the Family Resource Centre to ensure that information that is held is accurate and relevant.

- The service will also refer parents to national organisations including, Advisory Centre of Education (ACE); Contact a Family, IPSEA (tribunal support service), Equality and Human Rights Commission (advice on disability discrimination) and other national societies that specialise in a specific disability.
- Continue to ensure that PPS staff access independent training to ensure that their knowledge and skills are updated.

Ensuring Effectiveness of this Policy

To ensure our impartiality policy is effective we will ensure:

- At the first point of contact parents are made aware of the PPS impartial stance and the content of the Impartiality policy. PPS staff record on parent's case notes that they have made parents aware of the policy.
- All PPS staff receives a copy of the policy and it is explained to them.
- The policy is shared with LA's, education settings and other agencies so that they are aware that it exists.
- The policy is reviewed annually by the service and the Management Steering Group and amendments agreed.

Administration

Date written: 1st November 2010

Review Date: 1st November 2011

Signature:

Name: Mandy Salter

Position: Parent Partnership Officer

Date: 25th November 2010

Signature:

Sandra Davies

Head of Performance & Governance

25th November 2010

