

October 2012

Request for Local Practice Examples: raising attainment through parental/carer involvement in schools

Raising the educational attainment of children and young people by improving communication with and increasing the engagement and involvement of parents and carers.

Context

The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) and the Sheffield City Wide Learning Body (CWLB) are seeking to identify innovative and proven practice that will improve the educational attainment of children and young people throughout their school years. We know there is some excellent work in progress in some of our schools and we want to be able to share these more widely across all schools in Sheffield City.

Evidence shows that parents and carers can have an important impact on their children's education by providing support and encouragement and working in partnership with the school. In particular, we want to identify good examples of how schools have developed effective methods of engaging and communicating with parents, which has led to their children improving their achievement and attainment in school.

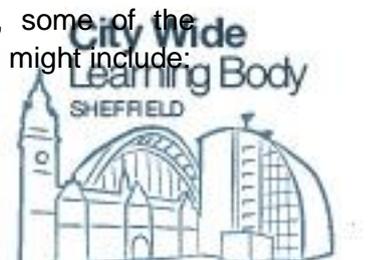
Effective Practice Examples

The two key aspects around which we are seeking effective practice are:

- effective communications between schools, parents and young people, by this we mean both the provision of information to parents and how parents' views are captured and listened to;
- engagement between schools, parents and young people (both the level and quality), by this we mean both how parents are involved and integrated into school life and how parents are engaged as partners in learning.

We know there is evidence to suggest that the above two issues can lead to improved educational attainment in young people. As examples, some of the elements that might lead to improved communication and engagement might include:

- Successful strategies used by schools to:



- provide information to parents in innovative ways
 - engage with parents via the web or through social media
 - listen to parent views
 - encourage parents to be active in their children's learning
 - improve complaints procedures.
- Work done by schools to improve signs, receptions and contact points for parents in schools.
 - School activities that are proven to engage parents actively in school life.
 - The role of the school governing body in engaging parents.
 - The leadership and shared vision of the headteacher and how this is embedded within practice through the school.
 - Whole-school strategies that embed a parent-friendly culture within the school.
 - The contribution of out of school-hours activities, e.g. adult literacy classes, towards encouraging parents into school and into work
 - How the needs of children/young people and parents who use sign or other communication systems to communicate are appreciated and how all forms of communication are valued.

How do I submit a practice example?

Either by:

- Completing the online submission form on the C4EO website; (the forms are slightly different for *emerging* and *validated* practice)
- Or downloading a submission form from the C4EO website and emailing it to C4EOteam@nfer.ac.uk.

Validated local practice submission form:

http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/files/vlpform_jul2010.doc where you have evidence that a difference has been made to the children and you can clearly make a link between parent engagement/involvement and improvement in the child's achievements.

Emerging local practice submission form:

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/general/emergingpracticeexamples.aspx> where the school has made some major changes to encourage parent engagement and involvement in their child's learning but it is still too early to have collected clear evidence or data regarding the difference this has made to the children and young people.

The forms are designed to enable you to describe your practice and tell us why you believe it is successful.

Guidance on completing your submission is also available on the above web pages but, if you have any queries or need support completing the form, please do not hesitate to contact the C4EO Team at NFER on 01753 637178 or C4EOteam@nfer.ac.uk. If you are not sure whether your practice example would best fit the *emerging* or *validated* local practice categories, we would urge you to contact us before completing a submission form.

Please submit your examples by the extended deadline **3rd December 2012**.

Many thanks for your support.

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