

Dads and Working Parents 23th January 2016



A Better Together session was held specifically for dads and working parents at Lidget Green on Saturday 23th January. At this session 12 dads and 4 working mums attended.

Following an introduction from Anne-Marie Merifield (Executive Headteacher at St Edmund's), there were two workshops, one focussing on Child Safety and one focussing on Communication.

Child Safety

You said:	Our response:	What we actually did:
<i>Our children feel safe when they are with friends or family.</i>	Continue to have events and activities that include children and families	Made sure children's centres remained safe spaces for children and families.
<i>Our children feel safe when they are in a familiar environment.</i>	Ensure the surroundings are homely, and that children come often enough to get used to the centre.	Increased the number of times families attended the centre.
<i>Our children feel safe when they are at home.</i>	Continue our programme of home visiting, Play in the Home and Bookstart Corner.	Increased our programme of activities delivered in the home.
<i>Our children feel safe when they are with people they know and have positive relationships with.</i>	Build positive relationships with the children through interaction, encouragement, praise, engagement and warmth. Where possible have the same staff members to cover sessions to allow the children to develop an element of familiarity.	Tried to keep staff based at the same centres, with regular people providing cover when needed.
<i>Our children feel safe when they have a special toy or blanket.</i>	Allow children where possible to bring in their special toy or comforter.	Ensured parents felt comfortable enough to bring a special toy in.

You said:	Our response:	What we actually did:
<i>Our children feel safe when they are with their dad</i>	Deliver sessions and events that are targeted at dad and male carers.	We have had a monthly dads Club session. In addition, our two Dads Workers attend one Stay and Play session a week at each centre.
<i>Families find it difficult to provide a safe environment when they are struggling with economic or money problems.</i>	Refer families for financial advice sessions and ensure families are receiving the benefits or support they are entitled to.	Advice appointments open to all families.
<i>Families find it difficult to provide a safe environment when they are struggling with substance abuse.</i>	Refer families for support in managing, reducing or eliminating the substance misuse and support the family in the aftermath of substance misuse.	Family Support Workers have worked with families affected by substance misuse, and referred onto other agencies when appropriate.
<i>Families find it difficult to provide a safe environment when they are struggling with domestic abuse.</i>	Provide support for the victim of domestic abuse and refer the victim and perpetrator for specialist support.	We have made strong links with Women's Aid, Staying Put and related organisations. We have produced a leaflet about domestic abuse for staff to use with families.
<i>Families find it difficult to provide a safe environment when they are struggling with parenting skills.</i>	Continue to run support sessions that help parents develop the skills needed to ensure their children live in a safe home environment such as Home Safety.	Home Safety checks offered to all families at 4 months. Home Safety Week in all centres.
<i>Families find it difficult to provide a safe environment when they are struggling with support.</i>	Continue to provide support that best meets the needs of each individual person.	Family Support Workers have continued to be sensitive to the individual needs of families.
<i>Parents would like to have to develop more life skills</i>	Develop sessions that aid parents and children in developing life skills such as swimming and cooking.	Planning to develop parent led sessions that will include cook and eat.
<i>Parents would like to have access to parenting courses that will help us in keeping our young children safe from violent games/TV/Facebook, and that will help us to develop skills needed to support our children such as ICT awareness programmes.</i>	Continue to provide parenting courses that can be accessed across the cluster. In addition to develop an Internet safety course that can also be accessed across the cluster and to have the session available on Saturdays so working mum and dad can access.	We haven't yet developed an internet safety course.
<i>We would like to be more aware of support available.</i>	Continue to ensure support information is up to date and accessible through displays and interventions.	Displays and leaflets have all been kept up to date.
<i>We would like to be more aware of how dads can be involved.</i>	Develop support information packages which targeted at dads' and promoting services through poster and outreach visits.	Displays, leaflets and posters in all centres.
<i>We would like support with communication skills.</i>	Continue to provide sessions and activities that encourage communication amongst parents, children and carers.	English and ESOL classes provided as part of our adult education programme.

You said:	Our response:	What we actually did:
<i>We would like information to focus on needs and support (less detail, informal).</i>	Develop easy to read information that is straight to the point and provides general information based on the needs of the parents.	Leaflets have been made clearer where possible.
<i>We would like more and a variety of dads' activities.</i>	Develop dads' activities that are varied and inclusive.	Dads programme has included a different activity every month, including an overnight sleepover, pizza making, sports etc.
<i>We would like more dads to access the centres.</i>	Promote the dads' worker role and the support they can provide.	The number of dads and male carers accessing the centres in the last 12 months has risen from 416 in Sept 2015 to 654 Sept 2016.
<i>We think it would be good to have a sports personality involved.</i>	Invite a sports personality to attend sessions.	This has not yet been possible.

Communication

You said:	We will:	We did:
<i>We would like letters in our languages (Urdu and EU).</i>	Continue to have letters and other written information available in different languages to meet the needs of the cluster reach area.	Timetables, leaflet and website now available in Urdu and Slovakian.
<i>We would like text available in braille</i>	Have braille text available when required	This has not been possible. We need to identify if we have parents who would need this adaptation.
<i>We would like a bilingual worker to help us in gaining and passing on information.</i>	Bilingual staff are available at most centres. We will put up posters telling you which staff they are, and make sure that the whole staff team know when to signpost parents to a bilingual worker.	Staff and volunteers have been made aware of which staff speak which languages. We also have a printed list of staff who speak Urdu/Punjabi and other South Asian languages.
<i>We would like to have opportunities to support each other inside and outside of school</i>	Continue to provide opportunities to parents to volunteer and support other parents in the local community.	We need to develop this are of our work.
<i>It would be good if Dads could build networks with each other.</i>	Develop and provide sessions that offers dads the opportunities to develop networks and friends. We will set up a Facebook page especially for dads.	Facebook page set up.
<i>We would like to have access to information through phone calls and letters.</i>	Continue to distribute letters, send text messages, emails and display posters across the cluster to ensure that all parents are able to access information. Use Facebook to pass on information.	Staff using their work phones to send texts to parents.

You said:	We will:	We did:
<i>We would like to be listened to by all professionals.</i>	Continue to maintain safe and positive learning environments where professionals greet parents with dignity and respect.	Used staff training opportunities to ensure all staff aware of the importance of being respectful to parents.
<i>We would like to receive compassion and empathy from staff and treat others how they would want to be treated. We would like to have an opportunity to build a relationship based on respect with staff and for staff to develop positive relationship with parents and children.</i>	Discuss with management and develop strategies to alleviate the issue.	Any issues regarding individual staff members have been addressed.
<i>We would like events outside of working hours – weekends/late afternoon.</i>	We will look into this for the Autumn timetable.	Family Saturdays introduced into the 2016 – 2017 programme.
<i>We would like to have access to the latest newsletter as some parents have not received a newsletter in some time.</i>	Ensure newsletters are available across the cluster and to ensure cluster staff member promote them and hand them out where ever possible. Make sure that the cluster newsletter is on the website.	Due to funding we have only produced 2 leaflets, Information is regularly shared on our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/West-Bradford-Childrens-Centre-Cluster-199350400410349/
<i>We would like a basic IT course on how to use new technology including the app and website. We would like to know more about Internet safety (eg putting security on emails and parental guidance), computer games console safety (timer caps and game rating).</i>	We will look into providing this at a future date.	This has not yet been possible.
<i>We would like sports sessions, English classes , art classes, nature walks, more Henry and more physical activities</i>	We will include these suggestions in our programme.	We are planning parent led sessions which will have more flexibility to meet the needs of individual parents.