

**Impact Assessment of: Towards a Family Support and Parenting Strategy'**

**Service/ Directorate: Children's Services**

**Date Completed: 12 September 2007**

**Lead Officer: Barbara Newton- Partnerships and participation strategic leader**

**Members of the assessment team:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role on assessment team e.g. service user, manager of service</b>
Barbara Newton	Children's Services	Strategic Leader of DCSU Service
Liz Jefferies		
Meryl Paige		
Kate Brown		
Pat Case		
Jackie Cassidy		

**Brief description of policy/ service:**

The 'Towards a Family Support and Parenting Strategy' is for the benefit of parents and families; for service providers and for commissioners of new services. It has been developed in line with national requirements and local initiatives. It accepts parenting as part of the overall provision for family support.

At present, family support and parenting services in Leeds are delivered in a variety of ways across the city, by a range of providers from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. Provision varies in different geographical areas, resulting in inequality of access to services. In addition, although universal services are available to all, there are widespread gaps in services in relation to other services, provided for those with more complex needs.

We intend that the Family Support and Parenting Strategy will address these difficulties.

**Brief account of how the impact assessment was carried out:**

Consultation has been carried out pre- and post -strategy. Consultation has involved

parents/carers from the following groups; BME, Homeless Parents, Teenage Parents, Fathers, Lone Parents, NEET. This has been conducted through a series of events including face to face at Breeze events, through children's centres, schools and other community projects. Efforts have been made by the steering group to access some of the groups who have not been consulted but have not managed to achieve this. Consultation has also been carried out with professionals from Public and VCF sector.

**Brief description of any adverse affects found:**

There were no adverse affects found.

**Summary of Actions arising from Assessment**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Develop a plain English summary of the strategy. 'What it means for you as a parent/carer in Leeds'		
Consider how the publication will be made available		
Make links with Adult Services to deliver strategy		
Training to be provided for all staff responsible for dissemination of the strategy.		
A statement within the strategy relating to Equality, Diversity & Community Cohesion and how this will be addressed throughout the implementation of the strategy.		
Gather 'base line' understanding of the strategy at the launch in November		
Look at further opportunities to involve those groups which have not had involvement. Establish what the barriers are in accessing those groups and look to alternatives.		
Look at consulting with those groups which have not been consulted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LGBT</li> <li>- Travellers/Roma</li> <li>- Asylum/Refugee</li> <li>- Adoptive Parents</li> <li>- Parents with Disability</li> </ul>		

Where this cannot be achieved the board may want to consider reference to other consultation which may have been done.		
Reconsider the wording within the strategy to accurately reflect the consultation process.		

**Contacts for further information:**

Barbara Newton- Partnerships and participation strategic leader  
 Tel: 0113 39 50247  
 Email: [Barbara.newton@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.newton@leeds.gov.uk)

**Date published on Council Website:**

6 November 2008