

What is Parent Participation?

Parent Participation is when parent carers and professionals work together, recognising each other's knowledge, to make informed decisions about services that make the best use of resources.

- We work with all key areas - across Health, Social Care and Education - with health and LA partners, and also the voluntary sector partners.
- We work with service leads to share collective views.
- We work with commissioners to develop and design services, pathways and processes to improve outcomes for our children and young people.
- We shape and support improvement to practices and services focussing on person centred processes where possible.
- We influence policy and strategic direction.

This means that services can better meet the needs of families with children & young people with disabilities and additional needs so resources are not wasted on services which parents and families do not take up.

Effective parent participation happens when parents have conversations with and work alongside professionals, to co design, develop and improve services.

Working with parents and carers helps professionals to understand what needs to happen to develop services that meet families' needs and also helps parents and carers understand the complexity involved and the challenges faced by the professionals who have to bring about that change. Working together and sharing knowledge enables parents and professionals to find solutions that work.

WFPF strongly believes, along with other forums across England, that in order to have effective partnership working with the best outcomes you need the following:

Good Information

Honest Consultation

Effective Participation

Co-production.

Where possible we work at Co-production and Participation based on the ladder below:



