

Starting School – Transition Workshop (Enfield Local Authority)

Event 1: Children's Area Partnership 1 (CAP 1)
Thursday, 14th February 2008
Forty Hall, Enfield

Background:

Glinys Hilborne and her colleagues at Enfield local authority had decided to run the first half day 'Transition Workshop' at Forty Hall, in Enfield Town. The location was easily accessible for everybody, the room lay out was great for the event, which was focusing on partnership work and the idea of the 'market place'.

Planning:

The Enfield team has work very hard on introducing the Starting School Project within its local authority, not being part of the 20 demonstration authority Enfield has been very successful in cooperating this project with the PSA (Parents Support Advisor) programme. As a result they have set up four sessions of Transition Workshops, divided into catchment areas. Several schools and partners had been asked to participate in the event and in the deliverance of the workshop.

The Event:

School representatives were asked to attend from 9 o'clock until 1 o'clock, including lunch. The agenda included welcome and introductions, where Enfield used amended PowerPoint slides provided by the FPI to introduce the idea and content of the Starting School Project followed by a three case studies presented by schools in the area. Together with the PowerPoint presentation, delegates received a useful information pack with hard copies of the presentations and the agenda. The presentations highlighted all the good practice already taking place and foremost it invited to a direct sharing of information which was further supported by several exercises, introduced by LEAP using 'London Challenge & 5 bridges' tables.

At the end of the presentations there was 30 minutes before lunch when the delegates were encourage to network whilst having a look around the market place to meet with all the different organisations working in Enfield, such as LEAP, Health Services, Metropolitan Police, Parent Line Plus, the library services, Youth Offending Team, Parent Support Service, Informed Families and many more.

Outcome:

It becomes evident that there is plenty of good practice in Enfield ant that Glinys and her team had spent a good deal of time to make sure this workshop was useful for everybody and that it actually 'kick started' the development of Starting School sessions for Parents. This was achieved and the delegates shared useful

information such as learning how different schools introduced transition to their parents for example one primary school used a secondary school's newsletter for guided reading. Further we felt that introducing a large number of organisations working with parents at the market place gave the school representatives the opportunity to network and to start planning for their session at their school. This was also an excellent opportunity for representatives of schools to gain insight into the project, reflect on their own process and share strategies and ideas.