

Worcestershire Parents' Voice Newsletter



Issue 3: August 2011

Have your say ...

I was delighted to have been elected Chair of Parents' Voice at our AGM in March along with my colleagues on the committee; Sue, Hazel, Emma, Marcus, Rachel and Wendy. Emma had previously been Chair and we are all grateful for the work she has done over the years. Unfortunately Wendy stood down recently from the committee and I am sure you will join me and the committee in wishing her well for the future.

As you will know, Parents' Voice was set up to represent parents across Worcestershire. We do this by seeking feedback about things that are important to parents. We use this feedback in a variety of ways; for example, supporting the work of Parents' Voice when we attend Children's Trust meetings with Worcestershire County Council. Therefore, it is crucial that we know what is important to you so that we can give a voice to as many parents as possible! Please take time to complete our current questionnaire – details opposite. You could even win £25 worth of shopping vouchers if your name is picked in our draw.

As well as our questionnaire, there are some very important consultations out at present. Hopefully you will have already received details of them all but as a reminder they are all detailed in this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we all wish you a wonderful summer – do look out for the activities organised by the 'Something For Me' group, details of which you will find on our [website](#).

And remember ... do have your say!

Clair de Groot, Parents' Voice Chair

Will you be a winner?

You could win £25 worth of shopping vouchers!

Just complete the Parents' Voice 2011 questionnaire by Wednesday 10 August 2011 and you might be one of our lucky winners!

Parents' Voice was set up to represent parents across Worcestershire. We do this by seeking feedback about things that are important to parents. It is crucial that we know what is important to you so that we can give a voice to as many parents as possible!

If you're not already a member of Parents' Voice you can sign up while completing the questionnaire (there is no cost involved and no obligation to become a member - we would love it if you do join us).

Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and if you do so **by Wednesday 10 August 2011** you could win **£25 worth of shopping vouchers** in our prize draw.

[Click here to access the Parents' Voice Worcestershire Questionnaire](#)

We will be sharing feedback from this questionnaire on the [Parents' Voice website](#) in September, so do look out for it!

Many thanks for your time, it is very much appreciated.

Keep in touch ...

Keep in touch with us via [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) ... please take a look at our new Page on Facebook – and don't leave before 'liking' us.

Positive Activities Consultation

Worcestershire County Council is in the process of changing how positive activities for young people are delivered in Worcestershire. You might know of positive activities as the youth service.

Parents' Voice thinks it is really important that parents have a say about what young people have to do in their free time. As a group we have put together some guidance on what the consultation is asking.

Please take the time to complete the consultation as this is really important. The consultation will close on Friday 30 September 2011.

Click on the link below

And choose the tab called 'consultations'
And then 'current consultations'

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Completing the 'haveyoursay' Positive Activities form

Remember the form is for many groups of people. ('Young people' for this form are 13-19). Write it your way, but here are some thoughts we had that you may find helpful:

'Positive Activities' refers to any 'good' things to do. See the Consultation and Background Information pages: 'Anything that has a positive/good effect on health, family life, school, etc'.

Only put the first part of your postcode – it's not so confidential if you put it all.

Q1: "The County Council will not provide the services..."—so these will change, or stop altogether. **A=** groups get money from the Council, so council chooses. **B=** a 'middle man' group could have good idea of area and needs, and be able to judge well which groups should get money. **C=** If you have a good idea, be clear explaining it.

Q2: Offer your ideas, if you have any. If you opt for B in question 2, you may wish to comment on what you think is 'fair': – equal for all youth (not considering ability, disability, finances or family or social background), or as suggested in question 3, having most spent 'on young people who need it most'?

Q3: Add other examples if you have some.

Q4: Remember- Activities with a positive effect... (see the examples with the form, mentioned earlier).

Q5: Some groups may need help with training in safety, and other things. Should they get Council help if they are not a 'council' group? Give some clear ideas if you have any.

Q6: If your Youth Centre closes how could the building be used? What or who could share the building? If you have a strong view – give it!

Q7: As with question 6, make your ideas and feelings known ... not just 'I think...' but something like: 'I strongly believe', 'It is my firm opinion that...' '... must happen/must be considered...'

CAMHS Consultation

Child and Adolescents Mental Health Services Consultation (CAMHS)

Mental health is everybody's business. Support for children and young people to develop good emotional and mental health is provided by families, early years settings, schools and colleges as well as a range of early interventions, targeted and specialist services.

CAMHS want to know what you think about how good the support is for children, young people and families.

What is working well, or not so well, and where are the gaps?

They hope you will feel able to respond to this consultation, which ends on Tuesday 20 September 2011.

The survey responses will contribute to a needs assessment which will help them plan improvements to the way children and young people in Worcestershire are supported to have good emotional wellbeing and mental health.

[Click here to access the CAMHS consultation](#)