



PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Small steps to improve how professionals engage with parents whose children have been affected by violence and exploitation.

Information and support can be found at:

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/services/caerphilly-confident-parents-stronger-families>

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/search?search=parentsµsite=>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/search/?query=parents>

<https://www.nwgnetwork.org/for-parents/>

<http://www.bespaceaware.co.uk/>

<https://paceuk.info/>



Dont's

Do's

Barriers

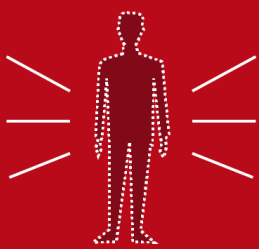
Best Practise

Do not use acronyms or abbreviations.

This confuses parents and Children/Young People, they do not understand professional language and this then creates barriers to effective communication.

In meetings with parents check that they understand what is being said or what they are agreeing to, quite often they don't and don't feel confident to speak up.

Check Understanding



Do not place judgement onto parents

Parents may feel judged or blamed whilst in meetings with professionals. Professionals should treat parents with due respect and treat them equally. Be relatable and respectful.



Acknowledge their parenting role as a 'professional' in their child. They know their child well, they have raised them and know their history better than anyone else around the table.



Call parents by their first name



Don't assume anything

It is important to be open minded when working with parents, ask questions and always keep the parent involved and updated with any outcomes or changes in regards to their child. Think about the bigger picture and be aware of potential risks.

It is very important to listen to parents worries, fears and dark thoughts. Build a trusting relationship with the parent. This creates the space for them to be truly open and honest with services.



Listen to what parents have to say



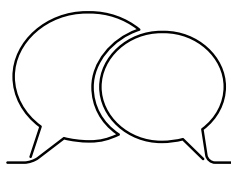
Do not use negative body language

Body language and facial expression is very important. Parents may not have the same views as professionals so body language can impact on the relationship a lot. Be conscious of your body language, Be aware.

Treat parents like human beings, empower them to feel confident and equal. It is important you show that you understand, care and are there to help. Be sincere. Make parents feel important. Identify personally with them to make them feel supported.



Show Empathy and Compassion



As well as all of the advice given above it is extremely important to be culturally aware. Try to gain a cultural understanding as well as understanding differences within cultures. Don't make assumptions about parents, as there are multiple cultures and beliefs that individuals may have. Overcome language barriers by using interpreters if needed and treat parents as someone you're trying to help. Your language should be of a supportive nature rather than using language to obtain information.



Luton

V VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION REDUCTION UNIT



FACES Family And Children's Early-help Services

Central Bedfordshire



Public Health England

BEDFORDSHIRE AGAINST VIOLENCE & EXPLOITATION

YouTurn Restore, Reform & Reintegrate