



parents forum

The Parents Forum so far...

Lets celebrate...being parents

The **Parents Forum** was launched in **July 2003** at an event for parents and their children.

The event **celebrated the important role that parents play** in their children's play and fun learning experiences. It brought together parents and professionals from all over the borough.

The aims of Parents Forum

- ✓ **Listen to the voice of Kingston's Parents**
- ✓ For parents views to impact onto Borough Services
- ✓ To provide an opportunity for parents to meet as a group
- ✓ To have consultations with Parents Forum members (one every term)
- ✓ To create a database of parents/carers wishing to be involved with the Parents Forum

What you've told us so far?

Children's Bill (Autumn 2003)

The Parents Forum participated in the consultation on the Green Paper leading to the Children's Bill. The Forum's response was submitted to the Department for Education and Skills.

Leisure and Play Consultation (Spring 2004)

The Parents Forum was asked to provide parents views on **Leisure and Play** services provided in the Borough, how they use them & improvements they would like to see.

This consultation was carried out at 6 leisure centres throughout Kingston, with the main event at the **Megabowl**.

117 parents and approx.
40 children and young people
participated in the consultation.



This consultation formed a report, which was sent to the Director of Leisure and was included in the Leisure and Play reviews that were underway in Kingston.

One of the requests by families was to have an event at **Chessington World of Adventures!**

What Dads Want! (Summer 2004)

The **What Dads Want** consultation was carried out in June to celebrate **Fathers Day** on the 20th June and as part of Kingston's events during **National Surestart month**.

We asked fathers what they thought about services for families and whether they thought groups were father friendly.

Time for Families (Autumn 2004)

In October 2004 the Parents Forum held an event at Chessington World of Adventures.



The theme was **Time for Families** and focussed on how families spend their time and also celebrated and supported National Parents Week 2004.

We found that many parents found it...

“Useful to think more about what we do as a family and how much time we spend together”

This event was very popular with families.... it led to **150 new members** joining the Parents Forum, which means that we now have **275 members in total!**



Organising and Funding

The Parents Forum is funded by the **Children's Fund** and organised by a group known as **the Parents Forum Working Group**. It has representatives from:

- The Royal Borough of Kingston
- Kingston Welcare
- Kingston Primary Care Trust
- The Community Church