



parents forum

2006/07 Summary

Members

We currently have 700 parents listed as members of the Parents Forum.

The 'Parents Forum' was launched in 2003 to give Kingston's parents a voice.

This is a summary of what we achieved together from April 2006 to April 2007.

The Aims of the 'Parents Forum'

- To 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

The Surviving Summer Conference - June 2006

The Surviving Summer Conference was held on the 28th June 2006, at the Kings Centre. Parents and carers were given tips and ideas for days out with the family over the summer. The conference also allowed the Parents Forum working group and its members to hear from parents of disabled children on their experiences of days out with the family.

parents
forum
*Surviving
Summer
Conference*

Wednesday 28th June 2006
9:30_{am} to 2:15_{pm}
King's Centre, Coppard Gardens
Chessington



Chessington World of Adventures – October 2006

This event was held during National Parents Week and focussed on what it is like to be a parent in Kingston. It also provided an opportunity for families to enjoy a day out at Chessington World of Adventures. The feedback from this event was given to the Children's Information Service (CIS), Advancing Services for Kingston Kids (ASKK), the Supporting Families Service and the National Family and Parenting Institute to help make suggestions as to what can be done to improve services for parents and families in the borough.



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Home to School Transport – November 2006

86 Parents Forum members responded to a questionnaire on home to school transport. Most parents felt that children attending a primary school should have a journey time of no longer than 20-40 minutes, and that children attending a secondary school should have a journey time of no longer than 30-45 minutes. Parents felt that children should be travelling to their nearest school, but that there were not always places.

Parents also felt that there should be additional allowance for children attending mainstream school, to access SEN provision.

Several respondents suggested that Travelcards should be made available for low income families.

Treasure Island event at Ravens Ait – February 2007

“Children got their sea legs on Raven’s Ait Parents Forum Treasure Island Day on 21st February 2007.

Children dared to walk the plank, tried the surfboard simulator and met the parrot from Chessington World of Adventures while their parents gave their thoughts on being a parent in the borough” (Surrey Comet)

The Treasure Island event was a great family activity day which allowed children to get their face painted, make pirate hats, walk the plank, pan for gold and much more. It was also an opportunity for parents to share their views of what information, advice and support is needed for parents in Kingston. Parents’ views will help to inform Kingston’s new Parenting Strategy.



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
The Primary Care Trust

Kingston WelCare

EnhanceAble
The Community Church

Join us...

To become a member of the Parents Forum please call 020 8547 6582. We look forward to consulting with you at our events over the next year.