

Children and Families Team Parent Consultation Group



**We need advice from parents and
carers of children and young people
with an illness or disability**

Can you help?

Who are we?

We are researchers from the Children and Families Team at the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of York.

What is our research about?

We are interested in children and young people with an illness or disability and their families. Our research is mainly about their experiences of a wide range of services including social services, health services, education, housing and leisure.

What is the aim of our research?

We hope that by sharing the findings of our research with people that provide services for disabled and ill children, and with local leaders and national policymakers, we can help to improve those services.

Why do you want me to help?

We want to make sure that the research we do covers issues that are important to children and young people and their families, and that it is carried out in a family-friendly way. In order to do this we meet regularly with a group of parents of children with an illness or disability, to get their advice on all aspects of our research. (We also meet separately with a group of young people to get their views on our research).

What would it involve?

The parent group meets two or three times a year in SPRU at the University of York. Not all parents are able to make it to every meeting and this is fine. If you decide to come to a meeting, it doesn't mean you have to be an on-going part of the group. You can opt in or out whenever you want.

Meetings take place on a weekday from 11am until 1pm and are followed by a buffet lunch. Current members prefer to meet at this time because it fits around the school day and does not take up family time in the evening or at weekends. However, we regularly check with parents which day and time they would prefer to meet.

We value your time and will give you a gift voucher for attending meetings. We will also pay any travelling or child care expenses you may have so that you can come to meetings. If you need any special help to attend or take part in the meeting we will make sure that we provide this.

What will you bring to and gain from being part of the group?

By joining the group you will be bringing us your expertise as a parent of a child with an illness or disability. If you have experience of a particular area we are studying, you may be invited to join the advisory group for that project. You will find out more about research and have an opportunity to have your say about current and future research projects. You will also have the chance to share experiences and debate issues of concern with other parents and


experienced researchers. As one member puts it:


“I have been a member of this group for several years. I have always felt that my contributions have been valued and put to use in the research that SPRU undertakes. It is also a good way to meet other parents and extend your own network. The lunch provided is second to none!!”


What to do next..?

We are always looking for new members to join the parents group. If you are interested in taking part or would like to find out more, please get in touch with Lucy Stuttard or Nicola Moran. This will not commit you to joining the group!

Lucy and Nicola can be contacted at:

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You can also find out more by visiting the SPRU website at <http://www.york.ac.uk/spru/> where you can follow the links to the Parent Consultation Group webpage.