

## CIC Report for 2016-17

### **General Description of the Company's activities and impact**

April 2016 – March 2017

**The Parental Engagement Network aims to provide training, information, resources, research, projects, consultancy and support to enable schools and Early Years settings to better engage parents and the community.**

Over this year PEN has received £60,000 as part of a three-year grant awarded last year from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Sutton Trust for 2016-7. We have used this grant to continue our work as part of the Engaging Parents Effectively project to engage disadvantaged families in the early years. Part of this work has now been evaluated by the Oxford University education team (see report here: [https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/PEN-Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/PEN-Report_FINAL.pdf))

We also received a £20,000 grant from Suffolk Community Foundation to deliver parental engagement training and resources to 15 primary and 3 secondary schools from across Suffolk, between February 2017 and February 2018.

As part of PEN's work we have:

#### **Resources**

- Produced a range of templates including a new leaflet on applying for a school place
- Continued developing tip sheets for parents, "Explore!" activities and FUN maths activities for families as part of the Engaging Parents Effectively Early Years project (Esmée Fairbairn and Sutton Trust funded). Twenty four schools helped to develop and implement the resources and strategies from April 2016 – March 2017.
- Developed three new tip sheets for health and wellbeing
- Adapted the Moving Up materials for use by primary schools
- Updates and adapted our "Developing a volunteer programme" course for delivery via webinar

#### **Information**

- Produced three termly update newsletters for schools giving current information, news and opportunities and links to further information on the internet.
- Given schools a range of information through 6 network meetings held in Manchester
- Given headteachers and senior leaders information through two headteachers' briefings held in Manchester
- Collated information for parents about free and cheap things to do in Manchester over school holidays
- Held a dissemination event in November 2016 for schools and settings about the preliminary findings of the Engaging Parents Effectively Early Years project (Esmée Fairbairn and Sutton Trust funded).

#### **Training**

We ran:

- 19 training sessions for 58 schools on the Engaging Parents Effectively Early Years project (Esmée Fairbairn and Sutton Trust funded)
- A trial webinar on Developing a volunteer programme for 4 schools
- A session with Green End Primary school on their outstanding practice developing the PSA role (7 attended)
- A training session on Managing Conflict (6 attended)
- 2 courses on the Mouse Club Transition Project for 11 schools
- 3 Moving Up courses in Manchester and Derbyshire for 13 secondary schools
- A training session in North Wales on engaging disadvantaged families and school readiness (6 attended)

#### **Support for members**

36 schools were members of PEN for 2016-17 which enabled them to access a range of networks, briefings, support, training and resources.

Topics for network meetings included universal credit, art galleries, use of volunteers, cooking, mental health issues, applying for reception places, sleep, working with EAL families, building parents' self-esteem.

- 49 attended the network meetings

PEN also ran other sessions for members

- 3 free support sessions for Family Support Workers for 12 schools
- a free support session for Parental Engagement Coordinators (6 attended)

#### **B. The Parental Engagement Network aims to work with other agencies to provide information, training and resources for parents**

- The deputy head at Martenscroft Nursery School & Sure Start Children's Centre (a National Teaching School) has been involved in the steering group for the Engaging Parents Effectively Early Years project
- We worked closely with Playbags Ltd which provides high quality materials to enable parents to support their children in developing their language, phonics and reading skills
- We attended four meetings liaising with four other national projects funded by the Parental Engagement Fund
- Talk English presented their work to a network meeting
- Self Help Services presented their work to a network meeting
- We facilitated Vicky Board from the Dental Health Team to train school staff to run workshops for parents on oral health

#### **C. The Parental Engagement Network aims to develop communication about parental engagement**

- PEN chaired a conference in Manchester organised by Optimus on parental engagement and ran two workshops accessed by 22 schools
- We met with PTA UK about the potential to work together and raise awareness of parental engagement.
- PEN further developed its website [www.penetwork.co.uk](http://www.penetwork.co.uk)